

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

We are now in December and the children are getting very excited and looking forward to spending time with their family and friends as well as receiving presents. There are many twinkling fairy lights around the school which is a welcome relief in what has been a difficult week. As you are all aware, we do have cases of COVID within the school and the number of cases in Cricket Class has been classed as an outbreak and the class has been isolating from the rest of the school. Although the cases in Cricket Class are higher than we would like, the isolation of the class, does seem to have contained it. There are other cases across the school but they are individual cases and we have not had any further outbreaks. I have been in constant contact with the local authority and our Trust and we are doing all that we can do to stop the spread of COVID. Many of you may think I should have closed Cricket Class and move to remote learning but unfortunately, the DfE doesn't allow for this and they insist that the class stays open. So we continue to fog (a special chemical which leaves a barrier against COVID) any classroom with cases of COVID, the children regularly sanitise their hand, the rooms are ventilated, all of the staff are wearing masks, assemblies are virtual and we are socially distancing. We are trying desperately to keep everyone safe and well. A big thank you to everyone who wears a mask at the beginning and end of the day, this also helps in our fight against COVID. I wish you all a safe and relaxing weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School...

Staffing Updates:

Mrs Janet Duffin is returning to our school on Monday to re-join the Little Elvers team. The children are very familiar and like Mrs Duffin and we are glad she has decided to return to our school. Mrs Duffin will be working Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Unfortunately, Mrs Snell, in the office, has decided to leave us after a very short time due to family circumstances and she will be going at Christmas. We are currently advertising for a full time Receptionist and so if you know of anyone who is interested, please point them in the direction of our website.

Parents' Forum:

Parents' Forum is taking place on Friday 10th December at 0915 and everyone is welcome. Mrs Surtees, Mr Lloyd and Mrs Fielding and will be discussing the term as well as answering any questions you may have about our school. A zoom link was sent out yesterday so please do join us.

Flu Vaccinations Catch Up session:

This will take place on Thursday 16th December and it is for the children who did not have their flu vaccination in November. Please note that that the medical professionals will make one attempt to administer the vaccination but if a child is too distressed, they will not continue.

Run to the North Pole:

Our children are currently running to the North Pole. Altogether they have currently managed 2058 miles, which is great but we have a way to go. A big thank you if you have sponsored your child but there is still time, if you haven't managed to yet please click on the following link:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/isleofely-primaryschoolpta?utm_term=ewjeYJDMg . We are hopeful we will succeed in reaching the North Pole and if we do, we may even meet a special visitor.

Love in a bag:

Public invited to support charitable appeal to help victims of violence

The police force is inviting residents in Ely and the surrounding areas to support an appeal that aims to show some love and kindness to survivors of serious crimes when they need it most.

The Love in a Bag campaign is being launched in East Cambs in support of White Ribbon Day, which calls to end violence against women and girls, and the 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence that follow.

The concept is simple: fill a pre-loved handbag, overnight bag, rucksack, shopper or even a carrier bag with toiletries, other little essentials or even a few luxuries, pop in a note and share some love with someone in crisis.

The bags will be donated to people escaping violence and abuse, trafficking and exploitation and survivors of serious sexual offences. Detectives at Cambridgeshire Constabulary will give people the bags while they are being moved into emergency accommodation.

Love in a Bag Cambridgeshire was set up earlier this year by Ely mum Sophie Bell, following the success of Love in a Bag projects in Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire. Thanks to the support of Ely residents, the project has already donated around 50 bags to local refuges and the police.

DI Dave Savill, who leads on the domestic abuse priority at Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said: "These bags will be a lifeline to people needing to leave their homes in an emergency, or if they need to go to hospital.

"We are really grateful to the public for their support so far and thank everyone for showing some love and kindness to people who feel vulnerable and afraid during one of the most difficult times in their lives."

If you would like to contribute, please fill a pre-loved handbag, rucksack or overnight bag with the following items:

Shampoo and conditioner, toothbrush and toothpaste, soap or shower gel, deodorant, sanitary products

Optional extras:

Perfume, Cosmetics, Dry shampoo, Baby wipes or face wipes, Tissues, Hair brush and comb, Hair accessories, Moisturiser and body lotion, Hand cream, Stationery, Book, Socks, Handwritten note or card

The project cannot accept scissors, tweezers, razors or other sharps, food or perishables.

All items included in bags must be brand new and in sealed packaging for health and hygiene reasons.

Drop-offs can be made at The Isle of Ely School, School Road, Ely, during school hours until 3pm on Friday 17 December. Any donations received after this time will still be given to someone in crisis.

COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers from 16th August 2021

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a child/young person please follow the flow chart below

SUSPECTED case if child/young person has COVID-19 symptoms

Key symptoms:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Additional symptoms that may be early warning signs of COVID-19 in children include upset stomach, headache, sore throat, unusual fatigue.

Book a **PCR test** as soon as possible online via the website www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. Alternatively a PCR test can be ordered by phone on **NHS 119** for those without the internet.

Ensure child/young person isolates at home till the test result.
***Who else needs to isolate?**
The rest of the household does not need to isolate if they are :

- Under 18 and 6 months *and/or*
- Double vaccinated *and/or*
- Part of a COVID Vaccine trial *and/or*
- Exempt for other reasons

If none of the above apply then the household contacts **must** isolate till the test result.

Result of test
(notify setting as soon as possible).

NEGATIVE

POSITIVE

Young person can return to setting once well.
Any household contacts can stop isolating*.

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive PCR Test

Positive PCR Result

Inform the setting of positive PCR. Young person must self- isolate for 10 days.

The rest of the household does not need to isolate if they are:

- Under 18 and 6 months *and/or*
- Double vaccinated *and/or*
- Part of a COVID Vaccine trial *and/or*
- Exempt for other reasons

If none of the above apply then the household contacts **must** isolate for **10 days**.

Ensure young person isolates at home for **10 days**, along with any members of their household who are **over 18 yrs & 6 months and have not had 2x COVID vaccines.***

For **symptomatic** cases the day the symptoms began is DAY ZERO.

You need to add 10 further days after DAY ZERO.

For **asymptomatic** cases the date of the test is DAY ZERO.

You need to add 10 further days after DAY ZERO.

Isolation ends the day after day 10 – the young person can return to the setting, **if well**, and any eligible household members * can stop isolating. If the child/young person has diarrhoea or are being sick, they should continue to isolate until 48hrs after symptoms – as per usual sickness protocol.

If anyone else in the household becomes unwell and tests positive for Covid-19 they will need to restart/start their 10 day isolation. The rest of the family who have been isolating*, do not need to extend their isolations after completing the 10 days.

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive LFD Test

Positive LFD Result

Inform setting of positive LFD

Take a PCR test **WITHIN 2 DAYS** of positive LFD - Online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or 119.

Young person and eligible close contacts* must self-isolate whilst waiting for the result.

Negative PCR Result

Young person and eligible close contacts* can stop isolation and can return to the setting. Restart twice weekly LFD home testing in secondary aged pupils.

- We continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear face covering in crowded, public indoor areas.
- Face covering are to be worn on transport to and from educational settings.
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available after 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 you are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test result, unless you develop new symptoms.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms. If you have symptoms book a PCR test.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy. They should not be used in children under 12 years (unless in secondary school).
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have been identified as a close contact * of a positive case, a negative LFD test does not mean you can stop isolating unless part of a workplace scheme.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test.

School Term Dates 2021/2022

Autumn term

Starts	Wednesday 1st September 2021
Half term	Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021
Ends	Friday 17th December 2021
Christmas holiday	Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022

Spring term

Starts	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Half term	Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February
Ends	Friday 1st April 2022
Spring (Easter) holiday	Monday 4th April - Monday 18th April 2022

Summer Term

Starts	Tuesday 19th April 2022
Half term	Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
Ends	Friday 22nd July 2022
Bank Holiday (School Closed)	Monday 2nd May 2022 & Monday 6 th June

PD days - The school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff
1st September 2021, 22nd October 2021, 4th January 2022, 19th April 2022, 27th May 2022