

### Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break and that you stayed safe and healthy and enjoyed the festivities. The school term obviously started without me, but the team did a great job welcoming the children back and settling them into the new term. There is a calm, purposeful learning atmosphere in all of the classes and the children are enjoying their new learning and being with their friends. Obviously, COVID restrictions are still in place but from Monday these change slightly in that if your child has two negative LFDs, they can return to school on day 6. We have had a few staff isolating with COVID since the start of term and all of them are taking the full ten days isolation, including myself, as they are still testing positive right up until day 10 so it will be interesting to see whether this changes in the future. We have had very few cases in school since the beginning of term and we are managing without the positive staff and so we hope that this trend continues and we do not have to return to any form of remote learning. This term, we have planned for some parental activities but we obviously have to take current guidance into account and so for the time being we are not inviting you into schools. We are hopeful that this will change after half term. Enjoy the weekend.

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

#### **Staffing Updates:**

Miss Georgia Russell started with us at the beginning of term, she is now teaching Caterpillar Class and has settled in very well and the children are enjoying being taught by her.

Mrs Nicole Murray, our part time Teaching Assistant in Reception, has decided to leave us at the end of the month to return to admin work. We will be sad to see her go but thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well for future endeavours.

We are currently advertising for a full time Teaching Assistant and a Receptionist. If you are interested or you know someone who may be interested in either post, please direct them to our website for further information.

#### **Attendance:**

Attendance at school is mandatory and it is vitally important for the children's learning and wellbeing to be at school. This has obviously been made more difficult with COVID but if your child is well, without COVID symptoms or a sick bug, they should be in school. A child with a cold should be in school and if we are concerned about your child, we will always contact you. We expect the children's attendance to be at least 96% and any child who fall below this, causes us concern. If your child's attendance falls below 96%, your child's class teacher will have a conversation with you about this. If your child's attendance falls below 94%, you will be invited to a meeting with Mrs Surtees to discuss this further and the school will support you to ensure that your child's attendance improves. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, this is classed as persistent absence and outside agencies may need to get involved to support the family which may result in a penalty notice. Please ensure you send your child to school every day, do not take them out for any reason and arrive before the gates close at 0835.

### **Maths Curriculum Evening:**

On the diary dates that was sent out at the beginning of term, you will notice that we had planned to hold a maths curriculum evening on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Due to the current guidance, we are unable to hold this event in school and so unfortunately, it is cancelled.

Miss Overson, our Maths Lead, is talking to the teachers, and we are hoping to produce some videos to show the teaching of Power Maths across the school which we will send out to you as soon as we are able. If you do have any questions about Power Maths, please email them to office and Miss Overson will be happy to answer them.

### **After School Club:**

Just a reminder that our after school closes at 1630 each Friday. All other days, it is open until 1800.

## **School Term Dates 2021/2022**

### **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 <sup>th</sup> 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**