

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

This half term has sped by and our year is almost complete. Reflecting upon this half term, I am so proud of our school community, especially following an Active Learning Trust behaviour review at the beginning of this month. Our trust leaders heard how supportive parents are of our approaches to student behaviour, paying particular emphasis on the school's high expectations & strong communication. They saw that break and lunchtimes were well-organised and supervised with a range of activities available and they were impressed by the inspiring range of pupils spoken to and the extensive leadership opportunities available to them. They felt that our students have a deep understanding of our behaviour systems and show a strong sense of belonging to our school. Enjoy the half term break and we welcome the children back to school on Monday 2nd June.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing updates:

Many of our children have been taught by Mrs Beth Wilshin and Miss Ellen Betts this year, and I am pleased to announce that they will be staying with us next year as class teachers.

Congratulations to Mrs Bettison who is expecting her first child in September.

Congratulations to Miss Overson and Mrs Ashman who have welcomed their second babies. Mrs Ashman had a daughter, Margot, whilst Miss Overson now has two sons.

Yellow House Charity Day:

Blue House Charity day was a lovely day and the children thoroughly enjoyed dressing in yellow and red. A big thank you to Ava and Henry for organising the day and to you all for the kind donations to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, we raised £344. If you haven't donated yet, please click on the link below:

[Isle of Ely Primary School is fundraisings for East Anglian Air Ambulance](#)

Housepoints:

Yellow House enjoyed watching a cartoon with popcorn recently for winning the house points last half term. Big congratulations to **Blue** House for winning this half term. Children in Blue House will receive their reward after half term.

Blue: 4936

Yellow: 4793

Red: 4695

Green: 4555

Arts week:

Arts week has been amazing this year and so successful. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a variety of workshops from African drumming and mask making to singing and Irish dancing. The children have also taken part in workshops at lunchtime and many children have learnt how to crochet while other children have enjoyed listening and dancing to the music or chalking all over the playground. A big thank you to Mrs Maricruz Prieto for organising the week and to everyone who took a workshop.

Trips and visits:

We continue to enrich the children's experience with trips and visits and add to their cultural capital. All of the year groups have experienced more trips this year than previously and we are very grateful to you all for your support with these. Year 5 had two amazing trips this half term, to Silverstone and the space museum, whilst Year 6 caught the train to Norwich and enjoyed the performance of The Pig Heart Boy. Many of our children have visited the Cathedral this year and this half term it was Year 3's turn. Next half term, there are more trips planned:

Reception	South Angle Farm (3 rd June)
Year 1	Wicken Fen (2 nd July)
Year 2	Visiting G's (10 th July)
Year 3	Roller Skating (11 th July)
Year 4	Inside Out (7-11 th July)
Year 5	Visit to Newmarket Racecourse (11 th July)
Year 6	Grafham Water residential (2-4 th July)

SATs:

Well done to all of our Year 6 children who took their SAT tests last week. They were calm, resilient and determined and the week flew by smoothly. All of the children tried their best and whilst they are relieved they are over, they should all be very proud of themselves.

Next Year Classes:

As we are now nearly at the end of the year, many of you are beginning to think about next year's classes. In the past, we have often mixed the classes as they move into their new year group but we have had a rethink this year and have decided that we are unlikely to mix most classes although one or two year groups may have a mix up. We have found that mixing the classes makes transition tricky and that it takes time for the children to settle into their new classes as well as getting to know their new teachers. We feel that the beginning of the year will be more settled if the children move up in their current classes – that means the children only have to get used to a new teacher. We will inform you shortly if your year group is to receive a mix up.

Summer Term Events:

As we enter the last half term of this year, there is still much to look forward to. Please note the dates below in your diaries.

Fri 20th June – World music day

Sat 28th June – Isle Fest

Wed 2nd July – transition day

Mon 14th July – Sports day

Tues 22nd July – non uniform day & break up

Ely Junior Parkrun:

This is a 2 kilometre fun run that takes place at Ely county Park every Sunday at 9am. It's free but you do need to register before your first event and take your barcode along to get your time logged. More information, including how to register, can be found at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/elycountry-juniors/>. Mrs Harrison would love to see some more children from the Isle of Ely.

Isle Fest:

The Isle of Ely PTA invites you to save the date for this year's **Isle Fest**, a summer festival being held right here at our school! The festival will feature entertainment for the entire family, carnival games, food, music and much more.

Date: Saturday, June 28, 2025

Time: 11:30am-12pm SEND children/families ~ 12pm-3:30pm everyone

Location: Isle of Ely Primary School Playground

Cost: Adults £3, Children £2 (There will be additional items available for purchase)

The PTA is still looking for sponsors for the event. If you know of a business that would be interested in supporting the school, please reach out to our PTA team at pta@isleofelyprimary.org.

More details will be coming soon. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you in June!

PTA Discos:

The PTA have kindly organised summer term discos for Years 1 – 6 on Wednesday 25th June. Further details will follow.

Mobile Phones:

Recently, a parent has approached the school with regards to concerns about children having mobile phones at primary school and the impact this has on their mental health and wellbeing. There is now a campaign about a Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> The aim of the campaign is to encourage parents to act in solidarity and delay giving their children smartphones and access to social media until 14.

There is a great deal going on at national level, but this is likely to take time. Within communities across the country including elsewhere in the county parents are working at a grassroots level to try to help their children and each other now. In the past few weeks parents have been joining a Whatsapp group in Ely exploring this topic, the Isle of Ely Primary group now has over 40 members and we understand that 19 Isle of Ely parents have gone on to sign the SFC Parent Pact (pledging to delay giving their children smartphones until at least age 14). The Isle of Ely curriculum already does so much to support our parents and children to make safe choices when using technology and the internet but is there more we could do? We are conscious that this can be a controversial subject and that everyone wants to do what's best for their children. You may already know your stance and we're certainly not trying to overrule personal decisions. Therefore, we ask that you fill in the survey below as we would like to hear your views:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sjVTvSU_-EG2K3MIU2WGPYX_6iWsdR1HhaLOgpopV0ZUOTk3NUo2RlhQQIJSVERLSZIV0xERThLWi4u

The survey should only take 5 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous. If you wish to do so, please complete the survey by Friday 6th June and we will publish the findings afterwards.

Term Dates:

Summer Term 2025:

Starts: Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Half Term Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

Ends: Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Summer holidays Wednesday 23rd July 2025 to Friday 29th August 2025

PD Day (school closed to children):

Friday 23rd May 2025

Autumn Term 2025:

Starts Monday 1st September 2025

Half Term Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025

Ends Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas holidays Saturday 20th December to Sunday 4th January

PD Days (school closed to children):

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025