**Head Teacher’s Comment – from Bryony Surtees**

This week has been a shorter week following the Queen’s funeral on Monday but the children have still packed a lot in and enjoyed all of their new learning. The new break allocations are working well and it is lovely to see the new children from Reception playing with the older children at lunchtime and taking part in the variety of activities that we have on offer. We have three school rules which are **Safe**, **Ready** and **Respect** and we regularly talk to the children about what being safe, ready and respectful looks like at our school and the children are very familiar with the rules and follow them well. Obviously, they are children and are continually learning, including how to behave, and sometimes rules are broken and so we use talk time sheets to facilitate a restorative conversation with the child so they can learn from their behaviour and repair any harm if needed. The child will then receive either an educational consequence or a protective consequence. If a child receives five talk time sheets, the teachers will be in touch with parents. Luckily, this is a rare occurrence but we do ask that you are familiar with behaviour policy, which can be found on our website, and to support us with reinforcing our rules at home too – thank you. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

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

**Staffing Update:**

We have welcomed Mrs Julita Kouassi who has joined us as a teaching assistant working in Butterfly Class.

**Congratulations:**

Congratulations to Bethan I, Scorpion Class, who achieved third place in the recent regional gymnastics competition for her floor routine. It is a fantastic achievement and we are all very proud of her. Well done Bethan.

**One way system:**

A big thank you to the vast majority of parents who have followed our one way system over the past couple of weeks. I know it isn’t popular with everyone but it does work and allows the flow of people to move safely around the school and doesn’t create a bottle neck at the School Road gate. There has been a small number of parents who have argued with us, ignored us and sworn at us as we have tried to enforce the system. We respectfully ask that you continue to follow the one way system and be mindful of how you communicate with the staff as they are not here to be abused.

**Harvest Festival:**

Next Friday we are holding our annual Harvest Festival. Mr Graham Bliss, will be carrying out the service as the whole school come together to celebrate Harvest. We will, as usual, be asking for dried food donations for the Ely Food Bank. They are currently short on the following items:

Tinned fruit, tinned meat, coffee, rice, custard, rice pudding, UHT milk, squash and juice, toilet rolls (Packs of 4), men’s deodorant and shower gel, laundry products, cleaning products and tinned tomatoes.

**School kit and sponsorship:**

We are extremely pleased to announce that Stewart & Wisbey Ltd, parent of a child in Bumblebee class have kindly offered to sponsor our new PE school kit. A massive thank you to Stewart & Wisbey and we look forward receiving the kit and seeing the children wearing it in their first competition.

**Diary Dates:**

The dates for the whole year have now been sent out, please do pop the dates in your diary and further information about each event which be available nearer the time. You will also find all of these dates on the calendar page of our school website: <https://isleofelyprimary.org/calendar> which is under the school life tab.

**Parent Share Session – Reading:**

Parents are invited into school to take part in a reading share session with their children during the week of 10th October – Monday 10th for Reception, Tuesday 11th for Key Stage 1 and Wednesday 12th October for Key Stage 2. If your child is in Reception or Key Stage One, you will take part in a phonics sessions whilst Key Stage 2 parents will enjoy a VIPER lesson. They start at 0830 for half an hour. Please wait in the playground whilst the registers are done and members of staff will come and get you.

Little Elvers’ share session will take place on Monday 10th Oct at 1445.

**Open Sessions for Reception 2023:**

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2023, we are holding several opening sessions to showcase our school during October and November. These sessions begin the week beginning 10th October. Please book into a session via the school office.

**Arts week update:**

At the end of the last school year, our school was happy to host Babylon Arts, Ely Museum, Ely Cathedral and The Stained Glass Museum in a cultural pop-up event after school. This took place at the start of our Arts Week!The pop-up event was organised by Babylon Arts and supported by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and East Cambridgeshire District Council.

It was a great event which generated excitement about the arts opportunities on our doorstep!

In order to obtain funding to run similar events in the future, Babylon Arts require feedback to provide evidence of the need for events such as this.  If you attended the cultural pop-up event, please complete [**this short survey**](https://form.jotform.com/222473224752049) to help! (Please click on the link!)

All parents who provide feedback on the survey will be entered into a draw, with the chance to win one of three available £15 Amazon vouchers!

Please respond to the survey by Monday 26th September.

**School Term Dates 2022/2023**

**Autumn Term 2022:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Thursday 1 September 2022 |
| Half term | Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022 |
| Ends | Friday 16 December 2022 |
| Christmas holiday | Saturday 17 December 2022 to Monday 2 January 2023 |

**Spring Term 2023:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Tuesday 3 January 2023 |
| Half term | Monday 13 February 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023 |
| Ends | Friday 31 March 2023 |
| Spring (Easter) holiday | Saturday 1 April 2023 to Sunday 16 April 2023 |

**Summer Term 2023:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 17 April 2023 |
| Half term | Monday 29 May 2023  to Friday 2 June 2023 |
| Ends | Friday 21 July 2023 |
| Summer holiday | Saturday 22 July 2023 to Thursday 31 August 2023 |

**PD Days – the school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff -** Thursday 1st September 2022, Friday 2nd September, Monday 31st October, Tuesday 3rd January 2023 and Friday 26th May 2023