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

We are now at the end of our first half term and it has been a hugely successful first half term. The children’s resilience and stamina have been incredible and they have adjusted well to the covid safety procedures and working within their bubbles. All of the classes are settled and enjoying being with their friends and the grown-ups. This half term we introduced our ambitious core knowledge curriculum and all of our subjects are now taught discretely with a big emphasis on vocabulary. The children’s knowledge and vocabulary has developed greatly over the half term and they are knowing and remembering much more as well as developing a love of reading. I met with all of the teachers this week and all of them were very pleased and proud of the progress the children had made and how enthusiastic the children have been. Standing on the gate each morning, I am pleased to see the children rush into school and most children are keen and eager to get into class so it’s nice to know that the enthusiasm is continued throughout the day. Thank you for all of your support this half term and I look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd November. Enjoy half term.

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

**House Points:**

As part of our new behaviour policy the children have all been put into a House, Red, Blue, Green, Yellow and throughout the half term all of the children have been earning house points for their following our school rules of safe, ready, respect or for producing great work. All of the houses earned over 550 points which is fantastic. Today, we announced the first half term winners. Red House won the House Cup with 682 house points and have been rewarded with a non-uniform day on Monday 2nd November. If your child is in Red house, we would like them to come into school wearing something red on the Monday after half term to celebrate their win. The house captains, Lily and Kalden were delighted to be awarded with the house cup and look forward to trying to retain the cup next half term but they will be in for some stiff competition from blue, green and yellow house.

**Half term:**

We break up for our half term break today and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd November.

We know that lots of you may have holidays booked already in half term. The current list of countries that have travel corridors with the UK and where an isolation period is not needed on their return can be [found here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors). If a pupil returns from one of the destinations not on this list, they will be required to isolate for 14 days and not attend school – please inform us if this is the case.

**Parents’ Forum:**

Thank you to all of our parents who attended our parents’ forums with Mrs Fielding. It was well attended and a good discussion took place about our new behaviour policy. A video of the forum will be uploaded onto our website shortly. The next parents’ forum will take place on Friday 4th December.

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

**Parent Governor Elections:**

Thank you to the three parents, Sam Brooke, Nick Clay and Matt Rooke who nominated themselves to stand for parent governor. You all will have received a voting form via email, please vote by Wednesday 4th November at 1500 and we will announce the winner on Thursday 5th November.

**Parent Share Sessions:**

Normally, we hold half termly parent share sessions but under current guidelines, we are unable to invite parents into school. Therefore, the week after half term, the teachers will be videoing themselves teaching phonics or reading and these will be emailed to you as well as well as being uploaded to the website. This will enable you to see how we are teaching reading. If after watching the videos, you have any questions, please email them into the office.

**Ely’s Window Wanderland!**

Window Wanderland is a fun family-friendly event where communities create illuminated displays in windows. You can use the street-facing windows of your home, business, school, nursery, car, shop, or even your door, or front garden. A map showing the locations of illuminated window displays is then created to form an after-dark walking trail and community event, transforming local streets into galleries. For further information, please click on the following link:

<https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/ely-cambs-2020/>

**Remote Learning Policy:**

If the school has to partially or fully close, or if a child/ren has to isolate, it is important that the children’s education continues. We have put together a remote learning policy which clarifies how we will deliver your child’s learning in such circumstances. Please read the policy which can be found on our website.

If your child has to isolate whilst waiting for the results of a Covid test, the teachers will upload the day’s work/learning onto the class TEAMS account so that your child can do the same work as their class mates. You will find the work under the assignment tab.

**Parking:**

We are still receiving a lot of complaints about the parking around the school. I would urge you to park safely and to be respectful and considerate of our neighbours as well as each other. We would also encourage you all to walk to school where possible to reduce the congestion and to be healthy.

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

**Coronavirus:**

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

Wash hands, keep washing your hands regularly

Cover face, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

Make space, stay at least 2 metres apart

**Covid Symptoms:**

If your child displays **any** of the following symptoms, we will send them home and ask you to get them tested for Covid. Similarly, if your child has any of the following symptoms before school, please do not send them in and organise a test.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

* **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) NHS guidance states that a high temperature is 38C+
* **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
* **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

For all other illnesses, e.g. cold, sore throat, blocked nose, you should send your child to school if you normally would.

**Face coverings:**

Staff and children in school are not expected to wear a face covering during the day. However, if you are visiting school to meet with a member of staff or to talk to the office, we would like you to wear a face covering as is usual in all other inside establishments.

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**Dates and School Term Dates 2020/2021**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **November** | |
| Monday 2nd | Children back to school – Non-uniform day for those in **Red House** |
| Friday 13th | Children in Need day |
| w/c Monday 16th | Anti-bullying week |
| Thursday 19th | Zoom Meeting for Prospective Parents @ 1800 |
| w/b: 23rd | Year 2 Phonics Screening |
| Monday 23rd | Parents’ Evening 1530-1730 |
| Wednesday 25th | Parents’ Evening 1530-1930 |

**Autumn term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 7th September (3rd & 4th September PD days) |
| Half term | Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2020 (Monday 19th October PD Day) |
| Ends | Friday 18th December 2020 |
| Christmas holiday | Monday 21st December 2020 to Sunday 3rd January 2021 |

**Spring term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Tuesday 5th January (Monday 4th January PD Day) 2021 |
| Half term | (Friday 12th February PD day) Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February |
| Ends | Friday 26th March |
| Spring (Easter) holiday | Monday 29th March - Friday 9th April |

**Summer Term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Starts | Monday 12th April |
| Half term | Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June |
| Ends | Thursday 22nd July 2021 |
| Bank Holiday (School Closed) | Monday 3rd May 2021 |

**PD days - The school is closed on the following days for the professional development of staff:**

**3rd September 2020, 4th September 2020, 19th October 2020, 4th January 2021 and 12th February 2021**