

Head Teacher's Comment – from Bryony Surtees

I took a group of children to Lily House this week to share a collection of their books and to discuss the knowledge that they have with a group of residents. It was lovely to see the children engaging with the residents, sharing what they know and hearing stories from the residents. There was much chatter in the room along with laughter, questions and the beginning of friendships. Ellie H, Year 6, read the residents a story she had written and the residents were enthralled by it. The children from Green House were a credit to the school, I was very proud of them and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are hoping to deepen our links with Lily House over the coming weeks and months and to give children from all of the houses an opportunity to visit as there is a lot to be gained for both parties. Children who regularly mix with the older generation see improvements in their language skills, reading and social skills and for the elderly, they are less likely to suffer loneliness. It has been lovely developing links with the community again. We are holding our annual Decoration morning on Monday 12th December. Historically, we have always invited the parents to join us for this occasion but that hasn't been possible over the past couple of years due to COVID. However, we would like you to join us again this year and help the children get into the Christmas spirit and have fun with the glitter and glue. Join us for an hour at the beginning of the day so please wait on the playground to be collected when the classes are ready for you. I wish you all a happy and enjoyable weekend.

Latest news and information from Isle of Ely Primary School

Staffing Update:

We have appointed Mrs Anna Sandfield to join our nursery team from January. She will be working with Miss Lewis as an extra nursery teacher each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Congratulations to Mrs Gemma Berrill who will be taking over the English lead from Mrs Silveira when she goes on maternity leave in the New Year.

We have welcomed Mrs Michelle Burrell to the Year 1 team as she supports in Bumblebee Class.

Blue House Charity Day:

Blue House held their charity day on Thursday and all of the children came to school dressed in as much blue as they could. The day was a sea of blue! David and Isaac, House Captains, wanted to raise money for Little Miracles, a local charity supporting children with additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions. Blue House have successfully raised **£545**. A big thank you to everyone who has donated. If you haven't made a donation and would like to, please use the link below:

[Isle of Ely Primary School is fundraising for Little Miracles \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Isle-of-Ely-Primary-School)

We look forward to our next House Charity day in the New Year.

Parents' Forum:

Next Friday, we are holding our first parents' forum of the year. We would like to discuss safety and being safe at school with parents. It starts at 0845 and Mrs Godfrey and Mr Lloyd will lead the session. Please sign in at the school office if you would like to attend.

Wreath Making Workshop:

There are still spaces available at the PTA wreath making workshops on Monday 7th December and Tuesday 8th December from 1900 – 2100. Join them and get into the festive spirit and you will be guided in making your very own Christmas wreath. To book a place, please click on the Eventbrite link below:

<https://bit.ly/ioewreathmaking>

Winter Fest:

We are looking forward to our first Winter Fest next Friday evening, Friday 2nd December from 1700 – 1900. There will be Christmas stalls and activities as well as food and drink. Winter Fest will end with a wonderful firework display. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please do get in touch as we need as many helpers as possible.

Term Dates 2023/2024

The term dates for the next academic year, 2023 – 2024, are now available on the website. They are closely aligned to Ely College term dates as our secondary feeder. Please click on the link below for further information:

[Term Dates | Isle of Ely Primary School](#)

Parking:

Please do not park along the road on the edge of our car park as it then creates a blockage for cars trying to get into and out of our car park. Please use the car park instead, there is enough space.

Choir:

Next Friday, 2nd December, the choir are going to sing at Ely Market place at 0900. If you are able to support the teachers with walking into the centre of Ely with the children, please do let us know. Also, if you are able, please do go along, enjoy the singing and support the choir.

Friday 9th December:

Friday 9th December, we will be hosting our annual Christmas dinner for the children. We would like the children to wear a Christmas jumper on the day but we will not be collecting for the charity as you have all been very generous this year for other charities already. However, if you would like to make a donation, you can do so on the Save the Children website.

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