

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

We have come to the end of one of the shortest half terms that I have known in my career. It has been a great half term packed full of learning, events, music, friendships and fun. I have been very proud watching our children be courageous and resilient by taking part in singing, dancing and musical performances. They are always great ambassadors for our school and really show case their talent. This week has been a busy week for us as we interviewed for our new deputy head teacher on Monday and we had a whole school review on Tuesday. On Monday, SLT interviewed six candidates for the role of deputy head teacher. We put them through a rigorous process involving teaching, observing and an interview with our house captains and us and a presentation. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Mickleburgh was the successful candidate. We already know Mrs Mickleburgh very well but I look forward to working with her in a different capacity in September. Then on Tuesday, we had four members of the executive leadership of the Active Learning Trust carry out a whole school review. I am pleased to report that they were very positive about the school. They complimented us on the children's knowledge, the positive relationships, the children's vocabulary and oracy, our safeguarding procedures, the children's behaviour, our music curriculum, our SEND offer and much, much more. Whilst these reviews can be a cause of stress for everyone involved, it is always nice to have positive affirmation about what we do for our children at Isle of Ely. Wishing you all a Happy Easter break!

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

#### **Staff update:**

Congratulations to Mrs Milly Mickleburgh who has been appointed as our new Deputy Head teacher replacing Mr Lloyd when he goes at the end of the year. Mrs Mickleburgh will be in post from September 2024.

Sadly, Miss Helen Pham, Learning Support Assistant, is leaving us today as she takes up a totally different role at RAF Lakenheath Hospital. We thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well with her future endeavours.

#### **Ely Music Festival:**

Our choir joined other Ely Schools last week at the Maltings at the annual music festival. The singing and music from all of the schools was outstanding and it was a joyous event to watch and be part of. *'Music is a piece of art that goes in the ears and straight to the heart'* and that was certainly true last Tuesday watching our wonderful children perform. A big thank you to Mrs Branson for all of her hard work and dedication to the choir and music within our school.

#### **Year 4:**

A big well done to all of the year 4 children who took part in The Tutors performance this week – it was fantastic and very enjoyable. Not only did they remember their lines and acted, they also played their newly learnt instruments, the flute and the clarinet. Thank you to Mrs Helen Allen for supporting the production.

**Irish Dancers:**

Well done to the Irish Dancers who performed to the residents at Orchards care home last week. They danced beautifully and the residents thoroughly enjoyed the show.

**Facebook:**

Our new Isle of Ely Facebook group is now live. Please join our Isle of Ely page as we will be posting all of the relevant information there, including this newsletter. The Isle of Ely Community page will close this weekend and you will no longer be able to access the information.

**Taste Ramadan:**

We received some lovely feedback after hosting the Taste Ramadan event last week:

‘On behalf of Ely Islamic Centre (EIC), I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Isle of Ely and your management team for graciously hosting the Taste of Ramadan event this year. The event was a tremendous success and was warmly received by all who attended.

We have received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from the community regarding the event, and I thought to inform you that your care and hospitality have not gone unnoticed. The entire community joins us in extending their gratitude to you and your team for your kindness and generosity.’

Amina Abdullahi-Momodu

On Behalf Of Trustees, Imam Ely Islamic Centre

**House Points:**

Congratulations to Red Team who again won this half term’s Team Cup. They will celebrate with a non-uniform day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Red: 10397**

**Green: 9583**

**Yellow: 9583**

**Blue: 9366**

**Online Safety:**

As the Easter holidays approach; adults, carers and parents may be concerned that their children will spend more time on social sites and playing online games. The latest statistics suggest that they could be online for up to 44.5 hours each week during school holiday dates.

*According to studies, 40% of parents do not keep track of their children's social media use*

If you are worried about how to keep your children safe online, unsure about parental controls or want to learn about how to stay safe online, seek help and guidance from online safety resources.

## School Term Dates 2023/2024

### Spring Term 2024:

Starts	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Half term	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024
Ends	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Spring (Easter) holiday	Friday 29 March 2023 to Sunday 14 April 2024

### Summer Term 2024:

Starts	Monday 15 April 2024
Half term	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
Ends	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Summer holiday	Saturday 20 July 2024 to Friday 30 August 2024

PD Days (School closed to children):

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024