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

I hope everyone is staying safe and well, both mentally and physically. We have now all settled into our new normal with some children learning at school and others at home and I am very proud of all of our children and how they have coped with the changes. Following the Government’s announcement, it will be a little longer than hoped before we can welcome all of the children back to school so we look forward to the 8th March and a time when our community can be together again. I know some children are beginning to get fatigued with being at home but please do persevere with the live lessons and encourage them to engage with their teachers but we totally understand if not all of the works gets submitted. Next week is children’s mental health week and this year’s theme is Express Yourself. **Expressing yourself** is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. I would urge all of our children to express themselves in whatever way they want to so they feel good and mentally healthy! Have a lovely weekend and stay safe!

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

**Staffing Update:**

Mrs Nicky Pauley joined us at the beginning of the term and has now settled into Scorpion class and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Hema Patel-Thorpe at the beginning of March who will also join the Year 6 team.

Sadly, Mrs Kate Atkinson, who hasn’t been with us very long but whom we have enjoyed working with, will be leaving us at the end of February.

**PD Day:**

We have a planned professional training day on Friday 12th February and so the school will be closed to all pupils which means there will be no online lessons that day.

**Illness:**

If your child is ill and unable to take part in the remote learning or attend school, please inform the school office.

**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, please get your child tested, isolate immediately, let us know, whether they are at home or at school, and inform us of the result.

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.

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

**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:**

**12th February 2021**