

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

We are now at the end of September and the first month of the year has gone by very quickly. Today we celebrated harvest and a big thank you for being so generous with your kind donations to the food bank to help us celebrate our Harvest Festival today. Graham Bliss led our assembly and the children enjoyed learning about apples and different fruits as well as singing some beautiful harvest songs. It was a joyous occasion and reminded us we have a lot to be grateful for. Last week we celebrated with Miss Lewis, Little Elvers' Class teacher and Early Years Lead, as she won the Ely Hero Award for the best teacher. Miss Lewis is an amazing teacher and a kind and generous person and truly deserves the recognition. We are all very pleased and proud of her. We have many amazing members of staff so hopefully, our school will receive another recognition award next year! This year, we have gone back to having whole school assemblies in person. Each Monday, the assembly is taken by a member of the senior leadership team on a specific topic and all the children from Years 1 to Year 6 are in the hall altogether. It is lovely to be back together, however, we have to get approximately 400 children into and out of the hall. As we haven't done it in so long, as assemblies have mainly been on line, we have been occasionally late which has meant the children are late out of class. I do apologise for making you late and we will make reasonable endeavours in future to get into and out of the assembly on time. Hopefully practice will make perfect 😊 I wish you all a lovely, enjoyable weekend.

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

#### **Staffing Update:**

Congratulations to Mrs Christine Mead who welcomed her baby earlier this month, a little girl called Heidi. Mother and baby are doing very well.

#### **Spotlight on behaviour:**

Behaviour in school is very good and the children are calm in the classes, they listen attentively and enjoy learning. They have good friendships and enjoy the playtime and socialising with our friends. However, they are children and are continually learning, including about behaviour and being kind and so we are having a big push on kindness at the moment, in thought, speech and deed. For the next few weeks, the head teacher's award will be given for kindness and the House Captains and the adults will be looking out for children carrying out random acts of kindness. Please talk to your child/ren about how they can be kind to each other and how this makes them and others feel. A simple smile might brighten up someone's day.

#### **Online Safety:**

Children regularly use different websites and apps, and it can be hard to keep up in this ever-changing digital world. But the things that help keep children safe online are often similar to the things that keep them safe offline. Talk about what they think is normal online and what behaviour to expect from others and from themselves. Encourage them to think critically and question what they see online. Talk to them about where they go to get information they trust, talk about fake news, fake followers and scams. Help them develop a healthy suspicion of whether people are who they say they are.

**Parking:**

Several parents and residents have emailed into school recently with concerns regarding dangerous and inconsiderate parking at the beginning and end of the day. When you are dropping off or picking up, please be mindful of everyone. Cars parking opposite the school on School Road, causes a real blockage for traffic leaving our site and cars parking on the dropped kerb and over the double yellow lines is dangerous. The double yellow lines are there for a reason and no one should park on the pavements. Please be mindful and considerate of each other and the residents around the school whilst parking and remember that you are able to park in our car park, there is space.

**Open sessions for Intake 2024:**

If you have a child, or you know someone who has a child, born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, then you will be thinking about them starting school in September 2024. We have 60 places at our school for Reception children and we would love your child to join us and be part of the Isle of Ely Primary School. We are an Ofsted rated 'good' school, we are extremely inclusive, we have great teaching and support staff, our curriculum is engaging and fun and the children's behaviour is exemplary. If you would like to come and see all of this for yourself, please book onto one of our up and coming open sessions taking place throughout the Autumn Term. Please email or phone the office to put your name down. The dates for October are below:

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October @ 1400

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October @ 1400

**PTA:**

The PTA are holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October @ 1800 in the staffroom at school. Please do come along and give your support.

The PTA have organised a DJ and our school disco will be taking place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Early Years and Key Stage 1 disco will start at 1700 and end at 1800 whilst Key Stage 2 disco will begin at 1815 and finish at 1915. The PTA will be selling tickets for the event in the coming weeks.

**Bike marking event 7/10/23**

Secure your bike! Join East Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Policing team on Saturday, October 7th, at Ely's Market Square, where they'll be marking bikes from 10am to 3pm 🚲✔

By getting your bike marked, you're taking a proactive step to protect it. In case of theft, this marking allows them to quickly reunite stolen bikes with their rightful owner 🙌

Don't miss this opportunity to safeguard your wheels!

## School Term Dates 2023 - 2024

### Autumn Term 2023:

Starts	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September
Half term	Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023
Ends	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas holiday	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024