PE at the Isle of Ely Primary School has flourished and with this year’s additional funding has allowed further opportunities for the children and staff.

Currently this year we have increased participation in competitive sport by attending many of Witchford Sports Partnerships events, which allows the children to compete against children from a range of different schools. We have taken 21 children to events already this year and have further events to attend. The feedback from the children was fantastic and all 21 children said that they would like to attend another competition soon. One pupil who attended a cross country competition explained ‘I really liked when I ran towards the finishing line as I could hear and see all my friends cheering me on’. Another pupil who attend a gymnastic competition shared that they liked working with students from Witchford Village College by explaining that ‘I liked it when they gave us points for what we did good and then take away points for what we could have done better’. To enable children in KS2 to take part in a competitive event we held a Year 3 cross country event with the support of Ely College Sports Leaders.

To support the engagement of all pupils taking part in regular physical activity we have worked on developing our lunch time play. Three times a week we have a football coach from Norwich City Football Club attending the school during lunch time play. The coach runs small games which develops children’s skills as well as helping to support the children to work as a team and build on social skills. The feedback from the children and members of staff has been brilliant; one pupil explained that it helps her to make better choices at lunch times as she enjoys playing football with her friends. Additionally to having a football coach in school, two members of staff have set up a speed stacking zone after attending a course. This zone has been very popular, allowing the children to develop their fine motor skills, social skills and supports the children with having a focus and making the right choices. We have also used the funding to buy new playtime equipment along with a trolley that allows the children to access all of the equipment and gives them the choice of equipment that they would like to play with. Alongside lunchtime play, all teaching staff have had additional support to help them find ways within the classroom and throughout the day to increase physical activity, for example, using Go Noodle, Cosmic Yoga, Pilates, and even the daily mile.

The profile of PE and Sport has been raised throughout the school in many different ways and we have worked hard to allow the children to experience a range of different sports. One particular way we did this was by holding a ‘Limitless Day’, which linked with a charity called Steel Bones. The day was designed to educate children about disability, breaking down barriers and dispelling assumptions. The children worked with the amputees to learn a range of different inclusive and adapted games, such as, sitting volley ball, Boccia and goal ball. The children enjoyed being able to ask a range of questions and learn a range of new sports. The day also provided CPD for all members of staff and this will be followed up in the summer term with some additional training to help implement the games and to share ideas in order to deliver an inclusive PE curriculum.

I have outlined just a few areas to which the impact that they additional funding has had for PE at the Isle of Ely Primary School. It is a very exciting time to be developing PE as a whole school and we will continue to provide a range of opportunities for the children.