



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

Tel: 01234 345636 E-mail office@ecls.org.uk

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Newsletter – October 2021

A message from Miss Cooke

I want to start this newsletter by saying **THANK YOU** on a couple of fronts.

Firstly, **THANK YOU** to parents and children who made donations to our Harvest Festival appeal at the end of September. We donated the food collection to the Bedford Food Bank and have already received a letter of thanks from them. The letter and certificate explains that as a school we donated 109.5KG of food which equates to 260 meals for those in need. That is amazing. Thank you.

Secondly, I want to say **THANK YOU** to all the parents that have attended parent consultation meetings, either in person or virtually, this week. (Parents of children in Reception, don't worry, you have not missed consultations, Reception consultation evening will take place after half term.) It has been fantastic to reconnect with parents and to be able to share how well the children have settled back into school and learning as well as discussing how parents can support their child's learning at home. In that true partnership, school and home are working hand in hand to enable all children to achieve success with their learning and supporting all aspects of a child's learning and development.

If you have not yet completed a parent survey either online or a paper copy, please use this link to complete the survey. <https://forms.gle/XZi5rRB1tStpUQv67>

Much as we really wish that the disruption and threat from Covid 19 had gone away permanently, it is not the case. In school we are maintaining the enhanced cleaning, and hand washing, but have relaxed the bubble and one way systems at present. We have had isolated cases of children testing positive in the school, but have not reached a threshold where control measures would have to be re-introduced.

Thank you to parents who have helped to keep our infection rates low, by being understanding and taking their children for PCR tests if they have become unwell with any of the recognised symptoms of Covid 19.

This is helping families inside and outside of school in keeping safe.

We do recognise that it is really difficult to be certain if a child is feeling unwell with a cold or suffering with symptoms of Covid, but a PCR test confirms.

A quick reminder that children should attend school on **Monday 1st November. This is the first day back to school after the half term break.**

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to me in the playground or make an appointment to come and see me.

Miss Cooke



Coats



As the weather is getting colder and wetter, all children are required to bring a coat to school **EVERY DAY**.

We will always try to take the children outside at break and lunchtimes, including when it is slightly raining. If your child does not have a coat, they will get wet and have to sit in wet sweatshirts for the rest of the school day which is not good for them.

Parent Pay

The school's online payment portal, Parent Pay, is a quick and easy to pay for most costs, charges or donations to the school. From charity donations to paying for a trip, school dinners or breakfast and after school club. Please remember to allocate your payment to the correct payment item you are paying for.



We have updated Parent Pay so that breakfast club and after school club can be booked and paid for via the portal up to midnight the night before a session.

We hope that this will reduce the number of ad hoc sessions that children are accessing.

While breakfast club and after school club are always there if needed as an emergency option to parents, it is important that children are pre booked into sessions so that we can ensure that we have the correct staffing rations and food available to be able to safely accommodate any emergency bookings that come in during the day.

Packed Lunches

EDITH CAVELL IS A NUT FREE ZONE

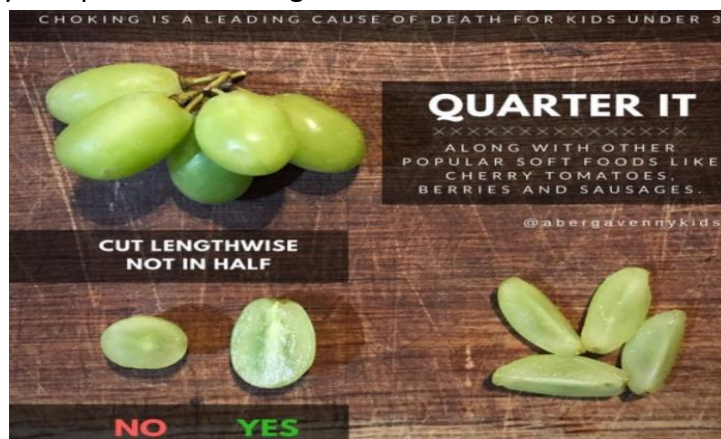


Children bringing packed lunches, **MUST NOT** bring any kind of nut product, which includes peanut butter, as part of their packed lunch. We have a number of children in school who have allergies to nuts and especially peanuts.



Packed lunches should also be a healthy meal and so should not have packets of sweets or large chocolate bars or large amounts of chocolate. Midday supervisors regularly check lunch boxes, and so will speak to your child about the content of their lunch box if it is considered to contain a high amount of unsuitable or unhealthy items.

In contrast, grapes are a very healthy option to have as part of a packed lunch, but we ask that any children in Reception or KS1 who have grapes as part of their packed lunch or playtime snack, that the grapes are cut length ways. This is to try and prevent choking.



Year 6s Virtual SATs Information Evening

It has come round to that time in the year that we would, in normal circumstances, be inviting you in to school for an information session about the upcoming Year 6 SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) that your child will be taking in May 2021. Due to rising COVID infection rates in the borough, we propose to hold a **virtual** information session on **Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 5.00pm.**

This will be held on Google Meets. The link to join can be found below:

<https://meet.google.com/bpt-fksf-ngp>

Wear it Pink Day

On **Friday 22nd October** we will again be supporting Breast Cancer Awareness by inviting the children to come to school dressed in the colour Pink and making a minimum £1 donation to the charity. This is a charity that we have enjoyed supporting regularly. Seeing the children in such varying shades of Pink and with such great ideas for wearing pink in creative ways is a great fun, a great sight and supporting a very worthwhile charity.

Children should wear at least one item that is pink, if not in uniform.

Parents can make this donation preferably on the school Parent Pay site.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



When we return from half term on **Monday 1st November**, in each phase of the school, **NOT** at the school office, the children will have the opportunity to give a donation to acquire a commemorative poppy. There will also be other Royal British Legion Poppy merchandise available to purchase for set prices.

Children should bring their money to school if they wish to take part in this appeal and items will be brought to each class in each phase of the school.

Christmas Performances

We very much want to return to inviting parents into school to watch their children perform in different events.

We have planned to present two Christmas performances this year.

KS1 children will hope to present a Christmas Nativity and LKS2 a concert of Christmas songs.

These plans will be dependent on the Covid 19 infection rate in Bedford and the school at the start of December. The proposed performances will be carefully risk assessed and it may be necessary to cancel these plans if on the balance of risk, it is considered too great a threat of spreading Covid 19.

Much as we do not want to disappoint parents or children, we have to be mindful of the wider risks to the school community, especially that close to Christmas.

The planned dates are



KS1	LKS2
Wednesday 8 th December – 2pm	Tuesday 14 th December – 2pm
Thursday 9 th December – 9.30am	Wednesday 15 th December – 9.30am

Reception and Year 1 Parent Coffee Mornings

Due to the pandemic over the past two years, as a school we have not had the same opportunities to have face to face conversations and build relationships with the parents of children in Reception and Year One. Therefore, we would like to invite the parents of children in Year 1 and Reception to attend one of our informal coffee mornings on **Wednesday 3rd November** and **Friday 19th November 2021** starting at **8.45am – 9.30am**.



The coffee mornings will be an opportunity for parents to talk through any aspect of school that they have a question, query or are unsure about with Miss Cooke and Mrs Stanton. It will also be an opportunity for parents to talk together.

Please come to the Little Treasures classroom after you have dropped your Reception or Key Stage 1 child into school.

Keeping Children Safe On Line

At parent's evenings, there was a range of information being displayed on the big screen in the hall. If you had a virtual meeting with your child's class teacher you would not have seen this information, or you may not have seen all the information so a few key points and links are repeated here for parents to access more easily.

The most important thing that parents can do is have honest and open conversations with their children about the sites and apps that they are using and their activities online.

If your child starts talking about an app or web site that you know nothing about

Use the web site

- Common sense media
- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>



On this site you can look up apps and web sites to see the recommended age rating.

Reviews for what your kids are into (before they get into it)

Trusted ratings created with families in mind.

Does your child play a game or access an app that is recommended for older children?

- Do you know how the content of that game or app is affecting your child?
- If your child is playing or seeing parents or older sibling playing adult rated games?

They are seeing a level of violence not recommended for them.

- Would you take them to the cinema to see an 18+ rated film?

Lego have released a new, free online safety resource for parents and their children called Build and Talk. It's a question and answer story game to allow parents to talk to their child about digital safety and wellbeing.

<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/buildandtalk/>

Google Family Link is a family parental controls service by Google that allows parents to adjust parameters for their children's devices. The application allows parents to restrict content, approve or disapprove apps, set screen times, and more



- © <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

Apple Family Share - Controls & Settings guide

Family Sharing makes it easy for you and up to five family members to share Apple Books, and App Store purchases, photo album, family calendar, an Apple Music family plan, and an iCloud storage plan.

It is also useful if you have children as you can set up tools such as 'Ask to Buy',



locate their devices, set screen time limits for specific apps and much more. A parent or guardian can also set up an Apple ID account for a child under 13 years' old.

Where to find more information

Internet Watch Foundation

- www.iwf.org.uk/

NSPCC – Net Aware

- www.net-aware.org.uk/

Internet Matters

- www.internetmatters.org/

UK Safer Internet Centre

- www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Class emails

Class email addresses for your child's class teacher are listed below and can be used to communicate with class teachers. A phone call can also be made by a class teacher after the end of the school day.

The school office can be contacted on 01234 345636 or office@ecls.org.uk

Class	Email address		
Pearl	pearl@ecls.org.uk	Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk	Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@ecls.org.uk	Jade	jade@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarine	aqua@ecls.org.uk	Amber	amber@ecls.org.uk
Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk	Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk		

Attendance

Each week in school we award the 'Attendance Bear' to the class that has had the best attendance in the school. The children enjoy having Attendance Bear in their classroom for the week and eagerly await the results each week.

Please help your child's class earn the privilege of looking after Attendance Bear for the week by ensuring that your child attends school every day. The winners of the Attendance Bear in September 2021 have been:

6 th – 10 th September	Garnet Class
13 th – 17 th September	Jade and Quartz Class
20 th – 24 th September	Ruby Class
27 th September – 1 st October	Ruby Class



Stars of the Week September 2021

Amber

Pearl

Chido
Maciej
Amelia

Emerald

Emerald Class
Caleb

Jade

Jade Class
Chester
Noah

Opal

Raul
Cayden
Kyle

Ruby

Bobbie
Ella
Irine

Garnet

Naveed
Ismaeel
Filip

Quartz

Safaa
Carter
Kevinas

Aquamarine

Meerah
Millie
Bentley

Sapphire

Yahya
Srcher
Kenzo

Dates for your Diary

October

Tue 19 th	Virtual Y6 SATs Information Evening at 5pm - https://meet.google.com/bpt-fksf-nqp
Fri 22 nd	Wear it Pink Day Half Term

November

Mon 1 st	First day back for children
Wed 3 rd	Reception and Year 1 coffee morning
Fri 5 th	Ruby class sports festival – pm @St Thomas Moore Reception and Year 1 coffee morning
Fri 12 th	Children in Need
Mon 15 th	Anti-Bullying week – One Kind Word
Fri 19 th	Odd Socks Day Reception and Year 1 coffee morning
Wed 24 th	No Pens Day
Fri 26 th	Bike ability – L1 – Y3 & 4

December

Thur 2 nd	UKS2 sports festival – 10 – 12 – John Bunyan
Fri 3 rd	LKS2 sports festival – 10 – 12 – John Bunyan
Mon 6 th	Theatre of Widdershins Last UKS2 swimming
Tue 7 th	Last Gym
Wed 8 th	KS1 Performance to parents – 2pm
Thur 9 th	KS1 Performance to parents – 9.30am
Fri 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Mon 13 th	Flu Vaccinations
Tue 14 th	LKS2 performance to parents – 2pm
Wed 15 th	LKS2 performance to parents – 9.30am
Fri 17 th	Last Day of Term

Please take note of
Edith Cavell term
dates – Local
schools may have
different term dates.

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

Autumn Term 2021

Training Days – Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021

Children return - **Monday 6th September 2021**

Half term: Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021

Children return – **Monday 1st November 2021**

Term Ends: Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Training Day – Tuesday 4th January 2022

Children return - **Wednesday 5th January 2022**

Half Term: Monday 14th February – Friday 18th February 2022

Children return – **Monday 21st February 2022**

Term Ends: Friday 1st April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Training Day – Tuesday 19th April 2022

Children return – **Wednesday 20th April 2022**

May Day – Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022

Children return – **Monday 6th June 2022**

Term Ends: Friday 22nd July 2022