



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 – September 2021

A message from Miss Cooke

Welcome back to the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. We are all hoping that the disruption of the last two school years are behind us now and we can start to welcome parents back into school, children can mix more naturally in school and that infection rates locally and nationally enable us to remain fully open for the whole academic year.

It is wonderful to see all the children looking so smart in their school uniforms when they returned to school last week. Thank you to all parents for making such an amazing effort to ensure that the children have all parts of their school uniform.

We have some new members of staff to welcome to the school.

Miss Courtney Jones is teaching Sapphire class on a Friday until October half term and will then take over Sapphire class full time after October half term when Miss Prior starts her maternity leave.

Mr Chris Moses has joined Ruby class and Ms Robyn Grey-Coombes has joined Jade class as Initial Teacher Trainees.

Miss Natalie Wright has joined the school as an apprentice PE teaching assistant and will be based with Aquamarine class and Lower Key Stage 2.

Over the last two years the children's learning has been considerably disrupted and they have missed out on many learning experiences and opportunities. As a school we have always enjoyed and recognized the considerable benefits of taking the children out of school on Educational Visits. We are very much hoping and starting to plan for the re-starting of these much enjoyed and extremely valuable visits. Very careful risk assessments are undertaken for each visit along with consideration of the Covid risks.

Ultimately, for any visits planned, a decision for them to go ahead will be taken a few days before the proposed visit and will consider the most up to date Public Health advice and the circumstances at that time, which could be very different from when the visit was planned. While we would never want to disappoint the children, the safety and infection risk to children and staff has to be paramount.

We hope, over the year to re-introduce parents coming into school to watch their child perform in a class assembly. We will modify the organisation of these so that they are performed at the start of the day at 9.10am and again at 2.30pm. This way we can offer parents a choice of times, to suit their working day, to come in to school, JUST ONCE, to see the assembly. We can also limit the number of people in the school hall at any one time. A list of dates will be circulated later in the term, but will of course will be subject to Public Health and Government guidance at the time.

We will not be resuming inviting parents in to Celebration assembly on a Friday morning. This is due to limiting the number of people in the hall at any one time.

We are planning that KS1 and LKS2 will present Christmas performance in December and hope that parents of children in these two phases will be able to join an audience to view these performances. Details of

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dates and times will be shared in the next newsletter. But again performance will be subject to Public Health and Government guidance at the time.

Just a reminder that children in Y5 or 6 will be dismissed at the end of the school day at 3:40pm. There is no requirement for Y5 & 6 children to be collected.

Also, no child should be seen with a mobile phone on school grounds. If phones are seen by staff, they will be confiscated and parents will need to come to collect them from Miss Cooke.

If parents have any issues or questions that arise, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school, via email (office@ecls.org.uk) or telephone (01234 345636), rather than in person, and staff will do all that they can to assist you.

I look forward to continuing to work with every child and every family over the coming year and further developing the family of Edith Cavell.

Miss Cooke

Home School Agreement

Each year we ask parents and children to review and sign the Home School Agreement.

This is especially important this year as we re-establish some normality with school life. The Home School Agreement will be sent out to families in a following email.

We ask that all parents review this agreement and share it with their children.

PLEASE, PLEASE READ THE HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT CAREFULLY and note the support that as a school we are committing to providing, but also the actions that parents and children are committing to.

If all parties work together to fulfil these commitments, the children will all benefit.

Homework

Homework, when completed carefully and to a high standard can considerably support and embed a child's learning as well as offer opportunity to practice and reinforce previously learned skills and knowledge. The DfE (Department for Education) considers that homework is an essential part of a child's education.

As a school we will be raising the profile of homework this term and academic year. Across the school, if a child has not completed homework that has been set, parents will be informed. If homework is not completed on more than one occasion, the children will be asked to complete set tasks in a **detention** during a lunchtime. We ask that parents support their children with set homework and establish good learning at home habits as these will set good learning routines that can be developed as they move through their school career.

Each year group will clearly communicate the expectations and time scales for homework with parents in the next couple of weeks.

COVID 19 Advice

Advice from Public Health continues to be that we should all be vigilant to the signs and symptoms of someone possibly having contracted Covid 19. No child should attend school if **they or any member of their household** are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid 19 which are:-

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **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)

- **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

If your child starts to display these symptoms, we ask that you inform the school why your child is not in school and obtain a test for Covid 19. Once the results of the test are obtained, we ask that you communicate this to the school.

If your child starts to show any of these signs when in school, we will ask you to collect them, book a PCR test and remain at home until the results of the test are obtained.

Please communicate the results of the test to the school.

The latest copy of the Parent/Career Flowchart is attached to the end of this newsletter.

Fiddle Toys

Parents and children are reminded that **NO** toys of any kind should be brought into school. This includes the currently popular 'fiddle toys.' Should staff in school consider that any child would benefit from access to a fiddle toy to support their concentration and attention in lessons, the school will provide them.

Lost Property

We had a considerable amount of lost property left at the end of the summer term. On a couple of occasions, we have put out what we have on tables at the end of the day. If any further parents feel that their child lost an item of clothing last term, please see the current phase leader to look through the items we have. All lost property from last summer term will be disposed of on Friday 24th September 2021.

Supervision on the playground at the start and end of the day

Parents are reminded that children in Year 4 and below, **must** be supervised by an adult until their start of school time in a morning and **must** be collected by an adult at the end of the day. We are aware that the staggered start and end to the end of the school day may have caused some issues for some parents, but these change in start and end times of the school day are organisational variations that the Government has required us to implement in an attempt to limit the number of parents who are on the school site at any one time and also maintain social distancing between parents.

Parents please remember to social distance when you are waiting on the playground at the start and end of the school day and when arriving or leaving the school site.



Permission to collect

If you as a parent do not collect your child every day, please supply the school, in writing, a list of people who may collect your child on occasions. This may be grandparents, aunts and uncles, or just friends of the family, but in order to keep your child safe we must know who has your permission collect your children. If you know in the morning that someone other than a parent will be collecting your child that evening, please inform the class staff – via email if possible to the class email addresses listed below. If there is a change of collection arrangements over the day please phone the school office to inform us and we will pass that information on to the class staff and your child.

Parent Pay Shop

Parents are reminded that school uniform can be ordered online on the school web site in the Parent Pay shop.

On the Parent Pay Shop you can order and pay for items of uniform from the school office.

Once you have ordered and paid for your items, these can then be collected from the school office or we can have these dropped off to your child's class. You do not need a Parent Pay Account to be able to use this feature.

You can access the Parent Pay shop at

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=1083>



Eligibility to Free School Meals.



If you feel that your circumstances have changed and as a result your child may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) we would **STRONGLY** request that you complete the eligibility form on the borough web site. Even if you are only eligible for a short time, but register, the school receives vital extra funding for a number of years. We would also be able to

offer you to a reduction in the cost of school visits.

This possible extra funding is becoming extremely important to the school in this time of decreasing school budgets. Even if your child has packed lunch and never has school dinners, you could still apply for FSM and allow the school to access the additional funding.

Even if your child is in Reception or KS1 and they receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), please still complete the eligibility form if you feel your circumstances have changed and you may now qualify for FSM.

An application for free school meals can be made at

https://bedford-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals.

Parent Pay – school dinners

Please remember that school dinners, Breakfast and After School Club should always be paid for in advance through Parent Pay. If you have still not yet activated your Parent Pay account then please contact the school office for your activation details.

The cost of school dinners is as shown in the table below.

Dinner money total 2021/22		
Year 3 & 4 (LKS2)	Year 5 & 6 (UKS2)	
£2.22	£2.32	per day
£11.10	£11.60	per week
£44.40	£46.40	per month (20 days)
Cheques payable to Caterlink Ltd		

Packed Lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch in to school, please ensure it is healthy (no chocolate spread sandwiches or packets of sweets please). We ask that **NO NUTS** are included as we have children in school with severe nut allergies.

Any rubbish or left over food is then sent back home with your child so you can monitor how much of their lunch your child has eaten.



Healthy Snacks

We would like to remind parents that children may bring a small **healthy** snack in to school each day in a small container clearly labelled with their name and class. Reception and Key Stage 1 children are also provided with a free piece of fruit at break time. Healthy snacks could include fresh and dried fruit, vegetables, currants, cheese strings or pita bread. We ask that **NO NUTS** are included as part of snacks as we have a number of children in school who are allergic to nuts. Please keep these snacks separate from lunch boxes and in small hand held named containers, as it makes them easier and quicker to locate at break time. **No chocolate or sweets should be brought to school as these are not healthy snacks.**

School milk



All children under the age of 5 are entitled to free school milk. If your child would like to continue having milk after their fifth birthday it can be ordered through "Coolmilk" either via our school website or at www.coolmilk.com

Harvest

Each year we hold a Harvest Festival assembly and we ask parents for donations that we then share between The Bedford Food Bank and SMART Prebend Street Centre. This year our Harvest festival assemblies will take place in the week of 27th September. **So on Thursday 30th September**, we will place tables out on the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. Any parents who feel that they would be able to donate a tin or packet of food that can then be passed on to the two charities will be able to place items on these tables at the beginning or end of the school day.



As an alternative, The Bedford Food Bank have also suggested that parents may be able to make a 50p or £1 donation. On the school Parent Pay site, parents would have the option to make this donation.

Water bottles

As part of our healthy eating programme children are encouraged to bring their water bottles. It has been scientifically proven that keeping hydrated and maintaining blood sugars assists children to concentrate for longer periods of time. They are available to buy water bottles from the office or Parent Pay Shop for £1 if you do not have one. Please also ensure it is named. Children should bring them into school every morning with water only in them and take them home at the end of the school day to wash and refill.



The number of children without water bottles in school every day has been steadily rising and this means that those children are not able to keep as readily hydrated, which hinders their learning.

PLEASE PLEASE make sure that your child has a water bottle in school every day.

PE Days

On the following days please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school.

EYFS			KS2		
Amber	Monday		Aquamarine	Come to school on Tuesday in their PE Kit	Monday
KS1			Sapphire		Thursday
Emerald	Monday	Wednesday	Garnet		Friday
Jade	Tuesday	Friday	Quartz	Swimming or PE on a Monday	Wednesday
Ruby	Wednesday	Thursday	Opal		Tuesday
			Pearl		Thursday

Parking on Manton Lane, Turner Way and Kneller Close

We again respectfully ask that parents observe the Highway Code, road markings and respect our neighbours when parking to collect or drop off children to school.

I have again been contacted by more than one local resident who is unhappy at the way in which and where parents are parking when coming to collect or drop off children at school. Every driver is responsible for ensuring that when they park they obey road markings, road signage and show consideration for the residents of the street on which they are parking. I have advised the residents who have contacted the school that they should contact Bedford Borough Council and the Police if they feel any road traffic rules have been broken by motorists when parking their cars. Inconsiderate parking on local roads paints the school in a bad light with local residents and tarnishes the schools' good reputation in the local community and I would strongly urge every driver to examine their own behaviours and consider parking further away and walking in to school. This will also have health benefits for parents and children alike.



#Hello Yellow – 8th October

On **Friday 8th October** we will again be supporting the Young Minds Hello Yellow campaign. We ask that all the children wear some form of Yellow for the day and make a minimum £1 contribution that will go to the charity. This day is **NOT** a general non uniform day, but an opportunity to show support for this charity by wearing at least one item of yellow clothing.

Parents can make this donation on the school Parent Pay site from the 1st October.

#HelloYellow

NSPCC Underwear Rule

In our PSHE lessons this term, we will be discussing the NSPCC's Underwear Rule. This is designed to teach pupils how to stay safe from sexual abuse without giving explicit information or telling scary stories or even using the term "sexual abuse". In the lesson, children will learn about the 'PANTS' acrostic, which stands for

- Privates are Private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help

The lesson will be delivered in a way that's fully age appropriate.

More information about the Underwear Rule, including a short film and a parent guide can be found at

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule



Online safeguarding – Digital Safeguarding

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

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.internetmatters.org/the-online-together-project/>

Online Together Project - This interactive tool has been designed by Internet Matters to help all young people, their parents and carers, to develop critical thinking skills and encourage a positive and inclusive culture online.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>

Digital parenting is a web site where parents can find information about supporting their children to stay safe online, Apps that parents should know about, how to respond if things go wrong on line and how to be a digital role model to their children.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>

Parent zone is a web site that offers Parent guides to many games, apps and social media sites that may be useful.

Class emails

Class email addresses for your child's new class teacher are listed below and can be used to communicate with class teachers as face to face meetings are highly discouraged. 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

Opal

Quartz

Pearl

Aquamarines

Sapphire

Garnet

Email address

opal@ecls.org.uk

quartz@ecls.org.uk

pearl@ecls.org.uk

aqua@ecls.org.uk

sapphire@ecls.org.uk

garnet@ecls.org.uk

Class

Ruby

Emerald

Jade

Amber

Little Treasures

Email address

ruby@ecls.org.uk

emerald@ecls.org.uk

jade@ecls.org.uk

amber@ecls.org.uk

treasures@ecls.org.uk

Dates – Autumn 2021

September

Mon 20 th	Reception full time
Wed 22 nd	National Fitness Day
Mon 27 th	Bike to School Week
Thur 30 th	Harvest collections

October

Mon 4 th	Black History Month - The Black family – Representation, Identity & Diversity
Tue 5 th	UKS2 sports festival – Selected children
Thur 7 th	Flu vaccinations offered in school by NHS
Fri 8 th	Hello Yellow Day
Mon 11 th	Parent Consultations – KS1
Tue 12 th	Parent Consultations – LKS2
Wed 13 th	Parent Consultations – UKS2
Tue 19 th	Garnet Class – Sports festival
Fri 22 nd	Wear it Pink Day
	Half Term

November

Mon 1 st	First day back for children
Fri 5 th	Ruby class sports festival – pm
Mon 8 th	Reception Vision Screening
Fri 12 th	Children in Need
Mon 15 th	Anti-Bullying week – One Kind Word
Fri 19 th	Odd Socks Day
Wed 24 th	No Pens Day
Fri 26 th	Bikeability – L1 – Y3 & 4

December

Thur 2 nd	UKS2 sports festival – 10 – 12 – Selected children
Fri 3 rd	LKS2 sports festival – 10 – 12 – Selected children
Mon 6 th	Theatre of Widdershins
	Last swimming – UKS2
Tue 7 th	Last Gym – LKS2
Fri 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day
	Christmas Dinner
Mon 13 th	Second in school date for Flu Vaccinations offered by NHS
Fri 17 th	Last Day of Term

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** (Change from previous newsletter)

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