



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

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/>

Newsletter – February 2022

A message from Miss Cooke

I can't believe that I am writing my February newsletter already and we are at the end of February! The year is speeding by. One positive is the lighter mornings and evenings; it makes it feel that the spring is on its way.

Thank you to all parents who have supported their children to obtain sponsors for our sponsored skip. The children have really enjoyed learning and practising their skipping skills. Now that the children have all completed the sponsored skip, please could sponsorship money and donations be forwarded to the school by Friday 11th March. Parents are able to use ParentPay to return the money raised or a donation to the school.

There have been many changes in the past few weeks to the advice from local and central government around responses to Covid 19.

I have attached the updated flow chart from Bedford Borough to this newsletter. While the legal requirement to isolate following a positive test for Covid has been removed, the **advice** is to still isolate following a positive PCR or LFT test.

As a school we will continue to follow this advice and if a child is displaying Covid symptoms, we will ask parents to collect their child, complete a PCR test, and inform the school of the results of that test. If the test results are negative and the child does not have a temperature, they may return to school. If the results of the test are positive, they should isolate at home. On day five, they can take an LFT test and if that test is negative, take another LFT test 24 hours later. If the second test is negative, then the child can return to school.

We will be continuing to follow this advice as we want to keep all members of the school community as safe as possible and avoid spreading Covid 19 as much as possible. In school, for the time being, we will be maintaining consistent groupings, the other arrangements that we have in place and will continue to keep the local situation and under review.

For the upcoming SEN parent's evenings, Parents will have the option to attend in person or via a virtual meeting. Any parents choosing a face to face meeting will be asked to wear a face mask when they come into the school building.

By working together, we can continue to keep as many children and staff in school as possible and continue to keep children learning.

Please stay safe.

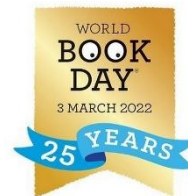
Miss Cooke

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World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March 2022

We will be celebrating World Book day on the 3rd of March. Last year we celebrated this event virtually, so this year it will be wonderful to see the children dressed as their favourite characters from a book for the day. In the interests of safety, please ensure that the children are wearing sensible footwear.

During the day the children will be taking part in a number of different activities based around books and reading. There will also be a Masked Reader competition as well as mystery story tellers visiting each class.



Comic Relief – Friday 18th March 2022



On Friday 18th March we will be celebrating Comic Relief.

We are asking that the children come to school dressed as a **Superhero**. Please be inventive with this theme – a Superhero does not have to be a character on the TV or film. Your superhero could be someone real – Is your Gran amazing, is your judo instructor fantastic, is your scout leader a real inspiration, or is it your parents that are the bee's knees!

We ask that all children not dressed in their school uniform make a minimum £1 donation to Comic Relief on this day. Parents can make a donation via ParentPay or send in the cash on the day.

Price Increase for Breakfast and After School Club

In light of recent well publicised increases in the cost of basic goods and services, it has been necessary to review the charges for our breakfast and after school clubs.

We have not raised our charges for these clubs for two and a half years, but in the current set of price rises nationally, it cannot be avoided.

From after the Easter holidays, when we return to school for the summer term on Wednesday 20th April 2022, the new prices are outlined below.

	Current charge	New charge from 20/04/22
Breakfast Club		
Cash payment	£4.20	£4.30
Parentpay	£4.00	£4.10
After School Club		
1 hour of care		
Cash Payment	£4.70	£4.80
Parentpay	£4.50	£4.60
2 hours		
Cash Payment	£8.20	£8.30
Parentpay	£8.00	£8.10

The price rises constitute a 50p per week increase for Breakfast club and either a 50p or £1 per week increase for after school club depending on one or two-hour booking. We hope that you agree this still constitutes value for money.

Price Increase for school uniform

We have also been informed by our uniform suppliers that there will be (a small) increase in the cost of branded school uniform from April 2022.

	Current charge	New charge from 01/04/22
Sweatshirts	£9.25	£9.50
Cardigans	£10.75	£11.25
Embroidered Bookbag	£4.00	£5.00
Satchel Bag	£7.00	£7.70

Parent Safeguarding Advisor Videos

All parents will be receiving over the coming weeks, a number of emails and links to a series of videos presented by Alan Mackenzie. These emails and videos have been specifically designed to be a short watch for parents to support them to support their children with online safety.



Alan Mackenzie is Nationally and Internationally recognised as having a wealth of experience in the area of Online Safety. He is a CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) Ambassador and the author of the Ditto Online Safety Magazine that we have shared with parents for a number of years.

The emails, videos and advice can be accessed until the end of the calendar year, so please keep the emails and don't delete them as you may wish to refer back to them.

As part of the licence that we have purchased, we are not allowed to display the links publicly on our school web site and ask that parents do not share outside their families.

Local Offer – Bedford Borough Council

The Bedford Borough Local Offer can be found at

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/home.page>

Bedford Borough's Local Offer is a place where parents and young people with Special Educational Needs and or disabilities can find clubs, activities and services to support them and their families.



Cleaners

The school uses an external company Minsters to clean the school at the end of the school day. Minsters are always looking for additional operatives to support their work across Bedford. If you are looking for work in this area or know of someone who might be, please make contact with

<https://www.minstercleaning.co.uk/>

Change to Term Dates – Additional Bank Holiday for Queen's Platinum Jubilee

School Closed Friday 22nd July 2022

To help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, an additional bank holiday has been put into the National calendar for 2022. As the day assigned as the additional bank holiday has been placed within the May Half term holiday, schools have been asked to add the bank holiday into their school term dates.

The Governors have agreed that the additional day of holiday will be the final day of the school year on Friday 22nd July 2022.

Therefore, the final day of the school year, the final day that the children will be in school before the summer holidays will be Thursday 21st July 2022. **The school will be closed on Friday 22st July 2022.**



Operation Encompass- Working in partnership with Bedfordshire Police and Beds Borough Council

Operation Encompass is a charitable organisation set up in 2011 by David and Elizabeth Carney-Haworth OBE (a police officer and school head teacher). They recognised the necessity for police to share timely information with schools in order that children can be supported at school following Domestic Abuse Incidents they may have witnessed or been impacted by.

From 21/02/22 – Operation Encompass will be launched across Bedford Borough and Edith Cavell will be part of the scheme. This is a joint initiative between Bedfordshire Police and Bedford Borough Children's Services and its aim is to provide schools with information relating to domestic abuse incidents that have impacted pupils at the school, as quickly as possible so that the school can provide appropriate support for children impacted by Domestic Abuse.



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Eligibility to Free School Meals.(FSM)

We are very aware that some families may be facing changing financial circumstances due to the Coronavirus outbreak. If, through change of circumstances, you feel your child may have become eligible for free school meals, we would urge you to consider applying for this benefit. Details of those who may now be eligible for FSM can see eligibility criteria on the school web site at

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/free-school-meals/>

An application for free school meals can be made at

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



If any family are eligible, even for a short time, the school will receive financial support for six years, so any applications that are successful will support you and the school.

COVID 19 Advice - Reminder

No child should attend school if **they 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

An upset stomach, headache, sore throat or unusual fatigue are early warning signs of Covid 19. Please look out for these and if your child is displaying any of these symptoms, please get them tested to keep everyone in the school safe.

We have a number of vulnerable parents with serious health conditions who could be very seriously affected if their child contracts Covid 19. If we are all vigilant, we keep everyone safe.

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.

The Bedford Borough flowchart to assist parents in making decisions about when to send a child to school is attached to the end of this newsletter and displayed on the school web site.

Class emails

If you need to communicate with the school office, we would prefer if this could be done via phone or email and as this would be preferable to physically visiting the office. Class email addresses for your child's 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	Email address
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Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@ecls.org.uk
Pearl	pearl@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarines	aqua@ecls.org.uk
Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk

Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Jade	jade@ecls.org.uk
Amber	amber@ecls.org.uk
Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk

A message from the Governors



Did you know that the Governors are responsible for overseeing the management of the school? We do this by working with the head teacher and other staff in the school, contributing to a school strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing decisions. We operate both as a full governing body and in sub-committees focussing on areas, such as Finance and Health and Safety, Personnel and Well-being and the Curriculum Committee. In general, Governors are either co-opted for their skills or join as parent governors, valued for their passion for the school and the parent perspective.

We plan to give you an update from each committee and the Finance and Health and Safety is the first.

In this committee, we are responsible for setting the school budget, considering the school's strategic plan, and making sure that the school does not overspend. One of our roles is to ensure that money (including pupil premium) is spent effectively to deliver the best possible education to the children. We also have a role in ensuring that the school provides a safe environment for staff and children, by reviewing policies and expenditure proposals. We are fortunate to have a Health and Safety professional on the committee, who undertakes termly H&S walks through the school and has provided useful advice during the COVID pandemic. The current members of the committee include the Head teacher, the School Business Manager, the Committee Chair (a qualified accountant), the Chair of Governors (a former senior teacher), a parent governor and the further co-opted governor (H&S professional).

Parents should talk to the Headteacher, Miss. Cooke, if they are interested in becoming a governor in the future or want to know more about the role of the governors.

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 Attendance Bear in January have been

3 rd - 7 th Jan	Jade and Quartz Class
10 th - 14 th Jan	Jade Class
17 th - 21 st Jan	Pearl Class
24 th - 28 th Jan	Ruby Class

Dates – Spring 2022

Thur 3 rd Mar	World Book Day
Mon 7 th	Send Parent consultations - Virtual
Tue 8 th	Send Parent consultations - Virtual
Fri 11 th	Science and engineering Week 11 th – 20 th March
Fri 18 th	Comic Relief
Wed 23 rd	World Maths Day
Fri 1 st April	End of Term

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

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: Thursday 21st July 2022 – change from previously published date

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

Stars of the Week

January 2022

Amber

Olivia
Sophia
Kyrese
Carys

Pearl

Harvee
Malvina
Remi
Miracle

Emerald

Yahya
Sarah
Tola
Hashim

Jade

Theo
Angad
Arshdeep
Miller

Opal

Teddy
Natasha
Vanja
Phoebe

Ruby

Eliza
Madiya
Jessica J
Georgia

Garnet

Kaio
Amber
Mollie
Maks

Quartz

Daniyal
Wojciech
Rabiya
Xavier

Aquamarine

Louis
Kife
Sophia
Isaiah

Sapphire

Abigail
Safaah
Nathan
Frankie

COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers in Bedford Borough Education Settings From 24th Feb 2022

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a young person please follow the flow chart below.

