



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 – December 2022

A message from Miss Cooke

As we near the end of the longest term of the school year, it is an opportunity to look back and reflect on all that has taken place this term.

It seems so long ago that we were welcoming children back in September into their new classes, to our wear it Yellow day, our wear it Pink day and our Harvest Festival.

I am quite sure there will be many more enjoyable events in the Spring and Summer terms.

Attendance across the school over the last few weeks has been significantly down. We are well aware that many children have been unwell and the information in the National news about Strep A and Scarlet fever has no doubt caused anxiety for a number of parents.

Attendance at school is so important and the link between a child's attendance at school and their academic progress is undeniable. If you are not sure, please send them in to school and we will send them home if they are unwell. If they seem a little unwell in the morning and make a recovery during the day – please bring them in. Establishing good attendance habits is important early in a child's school career, as this is a trait that will serve them well throughout life.

A gentle reminder to parents that if your child is too unwell to attend school, please make contact with the school each day to inform us of the reason why your child is not attending school. There has been a new section added to the school web site regarding attendance. Please see this section under the 'Parents' tab.

Even in this time of the cost of living crisis, I am sure all families will do their best to enjoy spending time together over the holiday period. But equally for some families I am sure it will also be a stressful and worrying time. As a school we have a number of avenues that we can support families, so if there is something that you are struggling with, please approach myself, Mrs Stanton, Mrs Cavill, Mrs Dennis or any of the class teachers and we will do our best to support and signpost you to other services.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday and a peaceful new year. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school at 8.45am on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

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



Early Finish on last day of term – Friday 16th December



As we have previously done, we would like to give parents the opportunity to collect their children early on the afternoon of the last day of term, **Friday 16th December 2022**. Children may be collected at **1.45pm**.

Any child may stay in school until the normal end of the school day if parents are working or they do not wish to collect them early.

If you have not already done so, please complete the link below if you wish your child/ren to leave early on the last day of term.

Please note: Year 5 and Year 6 children will not be allowed to leave early without the school receiving a completed form from parents.

After School Club will finish at 4.30pm on Friday, 16th December.

<https://forms.gle/s44TR9g6KKrruNq99>

Christmas Tree Festival

As many of you are aware, the school creates decorations to take part in The Bedford Christmas Tree festival at St Paul's Church each year. This year the theme was musicals and as a school we selected the musical The Wizard of Oz as the theme for our entry. Each of the classes made different decorations on the theme and a range were selected to be added to the Christmas Tree at the festival.

Staff plus three children went to St Paul's Church to add all the carefully made decorations to our allocated tree ready for the thousands of visitors expected to visit the church to view the displayed Christmas Trees. All visitors to the festival were asked to vote for their favourite tree decorated by a school or youth group. We were notified last week that the Edith Cavell entry had been voted the BEST CHILDREN'S TREE by a clear majority by the visitors to the Christmas tree festival! A fantastic honour and a wonderful reward for all the hard work put in by the children and staff.

In Friday celebration assembly on Friday 9th December, Mrs Margaret Oakley, the chair of the St Paul's Church Christmas Tree Festival Committee came to present a trophy to the school celebrating our entry as being the BEST CHILDREN'S TREE in the 2022 Bedford Christmas Tree Festival.

The trophy that was presented along with the winning Christmas Tree is now back in school and on display in the entrance hall for all the children to be able to see the decorations that they made and how they look on the finished tree.



Parents' Guide to Technology



On the run up to Christmas when parents' may be considering purchasing new devices for their children, the UK Safer Internet Centre produces a Parents' Guide to setting up Technology with parental controls and advice about the use of Internet Connected Devices.

This guide can be found at:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Year 2 SAT's Evening

Tuesday 24th January 2023

Y2 SAT's

Is your child in Year 2? Please come along to our Y2 SAT's parents' information session.

We will explain what the Year 2 SAT's look like, how we will be preparing your children in school and what you can do at home to help as well.

Fun reading on a Friday



We would like to remind you that we are continuing with our fun reading with your child on Friday mornings 8.45am – 9am. For those of you who are new to our school, all parents and grandparents are invited in to school on a Friday from 8.45-9am to listen to your child read. Just go along to your child's classroom.



Snow Closure

We significantly hope that the Bedford area will not be further adversely affected by snow this winter, but if conditions warrant the closure of the school we will report this on our website which can be found at www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk and the Bedford Borough Web Site that can be found at www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures Please be assured that through any bad weather I will do all that I can to keep the school open and operational so long as it is safe to do so. Even if other schools in the local area are closed, children from Edith Cavell should make every effort to attend school. We will also use the school text service to keep you updated on the situation so please ensure that we hold a current mobile phone number for you, especially if you are fortunate enough to receive a gift of a new mobile phone from Santa!!



If the school is forced to close due to snow, we will do all we can to move to online learning immediately.

Google Classroom



Over the Covid lockdowns, we developed the use of Google Classroom to deliver remote learning. Please ensure that children in Key Stage 2 are able to access their school email account and therefore their Google Classroom.

Should the weather in Bedford deteriorate and we have a large amount of snow which means that it is not safe for children and staff to come into school, we will move to online remote learning via Google Classroom.

Please check that previously used accounts still work, before they are needed. If your child is new to the school or in Key Stage 1 they will be issued with their log on to their Google accounts. For children in Reception, any remote learning will be issued through your child's Tapestry account, so please ensure that you have access to your Tapestry account.

If any parents have a problem supporting their child to access their Google account, please make contact with your child's class teacher for support.

Contact Numbers -

If parents or other family members, for who we have contact details, are lucky enough to receive a new phone from Santa, please ensure school is supplied with any new phone numbers immediately in January.

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Naming school uniform

Please can we ask parents to check their child's school uniform for a label with their name? If you wrote their name in at the start of the school year there is a very fair chance that it has washed out over the term and if the children take their jumpers off for any reason it can be difficult to get them back to the right person if they are not named. If children are starting to wear hats, scarves and gloves, please also name these as they are extremely difficult to return to their owners.



Dress up Clothes/ Costumes



If any families have any dress up clothes or Christmas costumes that are in good condition and they feel will be of no further use in the family, please consider donating to the school. Our Reception children always enjoy role play and having an appropriate costume or uniform to wear supports the role play.

Reception – September 2023

For parents looking to apply for a place for their child for entry in to Reception in September 2023, we have the following date available to visit and tour the school:

Thur 5th Jan 2023 – 2pm

Please contact the school office to book on to one of this tour of the school.



Applications for Reception school places for September 2023 must be made to Bedford Borough Council by 15th January 2023.

News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)

It was amazing to see so many people at the Christmas Fair from across the whole school community.

The fair raised £1000 which is all going towards getting the library up and running!

Thank you to everyone for your amazing contributions!

We have had a 'normal' Autumn term and we look forward to the Spring Term which will bring a disco, Science Saturday, Mother's Day shop, Samosa sale, Lego Club and an Easter raffle!

Message from the School Governors

The Autumn term is a very special time, in particular for the children and staff who joined the school community in September. We hope you've had a fantastic first term and continue to thrive and enjoy your time in the school.

As always, the Autumn term has also been a very busy time for the school. The governors too have been busy with our regular meetings and school visits. After many months of supporting the school remotely and meeting online, opportunities to talk in person and be present in school have been much appreciated.

On that note, it has been so good to see so many parents and families enjoying the events we have really missed attending as a community in the Autumn term, such as the school fair and the Christmas performances. Thank you for being there. We encourage you to stay connected and take advantage of opportunities throughout next year 2023 to see what makes Edith Cavell such a special place.

As we say goodbye to 2022, I would like to extend thanks to the dedicated and caring staff and all parents, volunteers and friends of the school for their continued support.
Wishing everyone a happy and restful holiday.

Gillian Bishop
Chair of Governors

[Advice for parents from Alan Mackenzie \(esafety-adviser\)](#)

[Useful Links for Parents](#)

Advice by age:

Younger children need different advice and guidance than older children. Older children need different advice and guidance than teens. It can be really difficult keeping up with everything that is online and what risks and issues may affect children of different ages, so on these pages there is some age-related advice and guidance for parents and carers:

Pre-school - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

6 - 10 year olds - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/>

11 - 13 year olds - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/11-13/>

14 plus - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/>

Setting up devices:

It can be difficult knowing all the different settings that are available on different devices to help protect children, this includes allowing or disallowing chat, friends, spending money, content filters and much more. On these pages you will find the details, as well as non-technical instructions, which will help you understand what is available to you and how to set up your child's devices.

Gaming consoles and devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>

Smartphones - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>

Broadband & mobile networks - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

Entertainment and search engines - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Safety/privacy settings on social media:

With many children and young people using social media it is important to understand what features are available to you to help protect your children. This is also important because for the most part, all privacy settings are default off when a new account is created, but also because some social media providers change their features quite frequently, e.g. TikTok.

Take a look at this link to see what is available to you and how to set up your child's social media. We would also advise doing this with your child so that you can discuss the features together.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

Useful new features on YouTube and YouTube Kids

YouTube is hugely popular with all age groups but historically parents haven't had a lot of control over what their children can/cannot watch. But things have changed and YouTube now gives parents a greater degree of control. It isn't perfect but it is a step in the right direction. Take a look at the page below where you will see a few short videos of newer features that can help you on YouTube and YouTube Kids.

<https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/>

Gaming

Finding good games, as well as knowing what is appropriate for the age of the child isn't easy, particularly when there can be lots of peer pressure to play the more popular games that are not always appropriate. Taming Gaming is a great resource for parents to find new games for children as well as lots of advice about content, suitability etc.

<https://www.taminggaming.com/>

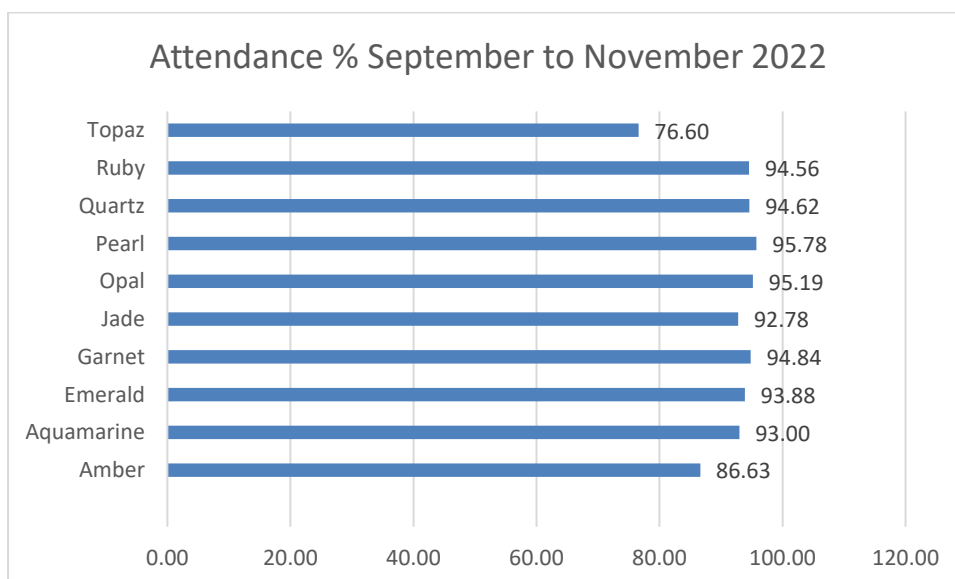
Class emails

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
Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@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

Attendance



Stars of the Week

November 2022

Emerald

Archer
Robina
Oliver
Carmela

Pearl

Whole Class
Cass
Anna
Reuben

Jade

Remel
Adelina
Mu'tasim
Margo

Opal

Maks
Year6s in Opal
Dejonie
Khadija

Ruby

Kife
Amelia
Ibrahim

Garnet

Sheila
Jayden
Archer
Macey

Quartz

Etienne
Whole Class
Chloe
Chloe

Aquamarine

Mariyum
Whole Class
Caleb
Kade

Important Dates - Spring Term 2023

Wed 4 th January	First Day of Spring Term for children 10 -11am – New Nursery Visit Nursery Home visits
Thur 5 th	2pm – New reception (Sept 23) visits
Mon 9 th	Nursery Children return
Tue 10 th	New Nursery Children start
Tue 17 th	Braiswick Photography in school
Tue 24 th	Y2 Parents – SAT’s Information – 3.45pm
Mon 6 th Feb	Children’s Mental Health week
Tue 7 th	Safer Internet Day
Fri 10 th	Shine Bright – Wear Bright – No uniform Day Children finish for Half term
Mon 20 th	First Day back for children after half term
Thur 23 rd	Sponsored Skip
Thurs 2 nd March	World Book Day
Tue 7 th	Garnet - Sports Festival
Friday 17 th	Comic Relief
Thur 23 rd	Emerald – Sports Festival
Friday 31 st	Last Day of Spring Term

Academic Year 2022 – 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Training Days – Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September 2022
Children return - **Monday 5th September 2022**
Half term: Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October 2022
Training Day – Monday 31st October 2022
Children return – **Tuesday 1st November 2022**
Term Ends: Friday 16th December 2022

Spring Term 2023

Training Day – Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Children return - **Wednesday 4th January 2023**
Half Term: Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2023
Children return – **Monday 20th February 2023**
Term Ends: Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term 2023

Training Day – Monday 17th April 2023
Children return – **Tuesday 18th April 2023**
May Day – Monday 1st May 2023
Additional Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May – Change from previously published dates
Half Term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023
Children return – **Monday 5th June 2023**
Term Ends: Friday 21st July 2023

The school term dates for 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 are available on the school web site.