



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 – January 2023

A Message from Miss Cooke

Dear Parents

As this is my first Newsletter since the start of the new year and new term, I am still going to wish everyone A Happy New Year and Happy Spring Term!

The Spring Term is always one of very focused learning and where the children can make a great deal of progress if they are fully focused, complete homework tasks to a good standard and most importantly **HAVE 100% ATTENDANCE**.

Attendance levels at Edith Cavell over the 2nd half of the Autumn term and at the start of this term have been considerably lower than the same period in previous years. All schools, not just in this area, but nationally have been reporting that the levels of children suffering from illness have been significantly higher than previous years and this is negatively impacting the progress and achievement of children. The advice that I shared on the first day of the Spring Term from the UK Health Protection Agency is still valid and should be followed “there is no reason for children to be kept at home, **if well**. But if any children have a **fever or feel unwell** they should be kept at home until they feel well and “the fever has resolved”

Following a number of complaints from local residents who live on Kneller Close, many parents will have seen me out observing the parking situation along Kneller Close. It has been really disappointing to see some parents ignoring the road markings, parking so that they are blocking driveways and parking so that they are preventing pedestrians walking along the pavement. I am well aware that many families need to drive to bring children to school, but please can I earnestly in the strongest terms request that parents park their cars considerately, observe the painted road markings and protect the safety of all children, parents and residents.

Interestingly, while I have been out on Kneller Close observing the parking situation there, there has been an increase in the number of parents coming into the staff car park just after 8.55am to bring their children to school. Parents should **NOT** park in the staff car park at drop off times for Nursery or school, and we will be keeping the car park gates closed until 9.30am. Parents should ensure that they have enough time to park in accordance with the highway code, further away from school if necessary so that they can park and stride to school ensuring that their children are on time for school.

As a school we strive to instil and promote in all the children that they should do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do and not just because someone is watching them. I would hope that this is something parents model to their children as well, including where and how they park their cars.

I have become increasingly concerned towards the end of last term and in the start of this term at the number of children who either do not have their PE kits or do not have appropriate footwear for their PE kits.

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Providing a named PE kit for your child is part of the Home School Agreement that every parent signs at the start of each school year. Children should change from their uniform to undertake PE lessons and having appropriate footwear that fits correctly is important to ensure that the children can safely take part fully in lessons. At this time of year, some lessons may be taking place outdoors, so we would also encourage parents to provide jogging bottoms **as well** as shorts in their child's PE kit.

Miss Cooke

Teacher Strikes

There has been considerable coverage on the national news about various national unions balloting their members about strike action. Teachers unions have also been balloted and the results have also been reported nationally.

As yet, I cannot fully outline what Edith Cavell's response to teachers exercising their right to strike in protest of the less than inflation pay settlements awarded. When I am able to, I will inform parents. There is a **high likelihood** that it will be necessary to ask parents to keep children at home from some classes.

The notified strike dates for the East of England are

Wednesday 1st February

Wednesday 1st March

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

Please put these dates in your diary and start to think about alternative childcare arrangements in case your child is unable to come to school on the dates stated.

Y2 SAT's information

Y2 SAT's

Is your child in Year 2? If so, please come along, on **Tuesday 24th January at 3.45pm** and learn more about the National Standard Assessment Tests and Tasks that all year 2 children will take in May. We would like to explain the format of the assessments, how they will be presented to the children and how you can support your child with their learning and approaching the assessments.

Sponsored Skip - Thursday 23rd February.

Last years Sponsored Skip was such a success that we have decided that our sponsored event this year will again be a sponsored skip.

Skipping is an activity that can be completed outside, can improve fitness, stamina and be fun with rhymes and games.

Do you remember some rhymes or games that you played when you were younger? Please teach them to your children so they can share them with their friends, class mates and teachers in school.

We are looking to raise funds this year to further update and extend our reading book collection. We want to ensure that the stock of reading books that the children have access to offers extended choice, is up to date and exciting for the children to read.

Sponsor forms will be sent out before half term and we ask that all children attempt to raise some money to support this event as all children will benefit from the new books that we will be able to purchase. Please look out for the sponsor forms.



Chums – Shine Bright – Wear Bright

To support Children's mental health week 6th – 10th February 2023 we will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 10th February**. On this day we encourage the children to come to school dressed in bright clothing and make a **minimum donation of £1** to the CHUMS Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People. Over the week, each class will be thinking about mental health, emotional well-being and how each individual is responsible for their own well-being and mental health.



If a child is not coming to school in uniform, **THEY SHOULD MAKE A MINIMUM DONATION**. This donation can either be made in cash on the day or via Parent Pay.

Change to Term Dates – Additional Bank Holiday for King's Coronation, Monday, 8th May 2023

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday, 6th May 2023. In order to give families and communities a chance to come together to celebrate there will be an extra bank holiday on Monday, 8th May 2023.

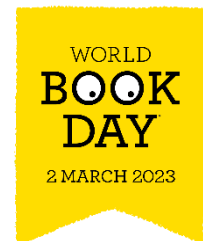


The school will be closed on Monday, 8th May 2023.

Advance warning

World Book Day is Thursday 2nd March 2023.

We will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting the children to dress as their favourite character from a book. This does not have to be a purchased expensive costume, most book characters in books wear normal everyday clothes. For example, Horrid Henry is a school boy who wore normal children's clothes and Gemma in Jacqueline Wilson's Best Friends wore normal children's clothes. There are many book characters who wear normal children's clothes. Have that conversation with your children about who are characters in books that they have enjoyed and what they wore. World book day is all about talking about books, enjoying books and learning about new books, it is not about parents spending lots of money on costumes for a dress up day.



Breakfast with a Book

As part of our World book day celebrations, we will be inviting parents to join their children and share breakfast and a book. This will take place before 8.45am at the start of school, so please put the date in your diaries. More details will follow.

Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 17th March

We are very happy to bring back what has been extremely popular in the past, Mother's Day (or the important female in your life) breakfast. Again more details will follow, but please put the date in your diary.

For Parents - Game Finder

Finding games for children which are appropriate for their age, which work on the devices the children use and the children will actually enjoy playing can be a minefield, particularly when parents are being bombarded with the 'but everyone else is playing this game' guilt trip. Game Finder is a new (free) service available from Taming Gaming which walks parents through various aspects, such as how old is your child? What devices do they have? What types of games do they like to play? And then gives a list of recommendations of suitable games. I've used this a few times and it is brilliant, you can find Game Finder [HERE](#).



Message from Friends of Edith Cavell (FOEC)



FOEC have lots of plans this Spring term.

Firstly, we have our Lego Club which is hugely popular and I'm sorry for any disappointments with your children. We do try and make sure every child gets a place at some point and if anyone wants to talk about this please contact the office and they can send a message for someone from Friends to get back to them. Thank you for your continued support and as always we need volunteers to run our clubs.

On Thursday 19th January we have Clearance Club visiting school at pick up time. I will put a link on Facebook but essentially Angelo sells food from local factories that would be going to landfill to the local community. The emphasis is on saving food from being wasted and helping local communities shop for less. All food is in date and is sold as seen. Angelo will be selling a bag for £5 or 2 bags for £9.95. All welcome and more details to follow.

On Thursday 9th February we will be having a school disco. More details to follow.

Also, on Thursday 9th February we will be holding a coffee morning straight after drop off. Parents and Carers (young children welcome) can come along to Topaz class for a hot drink and a natter. This is an informal gathering so that parents can get to know one another so we can continue to support each other AND please be assured FOEC won't sign you up to running a club ;-). Miss Cooke will be around too but really this is for parents and carers to get to catch up. We also appreciate that people have to rush off to work so if other timings work better please let us know. If this proves useful/popular we will be able to do more.

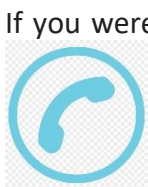
After half term we will be doing a Mother's Day shop on Thursday 16th March for children to purchase gifts. We really try to sell gifts at a low price.

Lastly, and really good news is that we have been given a grant for £3000 by The Gale Family Trust! This is really great news and will really help the library fundraising.

Next week we will be reaching out to everyone to see what skills, time you can offer to help us complete the library. If you have any trade accounts or can spare a few hours over half term that would be incredible, please contact the office if you can help in anyway.

Thanks all

Update Contact Details



If you were lucky enough to receive a new device over Christmas, and your phone number has changed, please do let us have your new contact details as soon as possible. If you are aware that the contact numbers for the second contact for your child has changed please let us know this as well. Thank you.

School Vacancies



We have a number of different vacancies available across school. Please see the link below for more details and an application form or if you know of any family or friends who might be interested and wish to apply.

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

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Health

Just a reminder if your child is diagnosed, by a health professional, with Scarlet Fever, Strep A or Chicken Pox, that you inform the school. Thank you.



If your child is affected by chicken pox they will need to stay away from school or nursery until all the spots have formed a scab. This is usually 5 days after the spots appeared.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 7th February 2023



National Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 7th February and in school we will be marking this day by undertaking a number of activities that remind the children about how they can be safe online, their responsibilities to report anything that concerns or worries them that they see on line to an adult. The theme for this year's campaign is '**Together for a better Internet**'. Further information about Safer Internet Day can be found via the following link

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>

Eligibility to Free School Meals (FSM)

We are very aware that some families may be facing changing financial circumstances due to the current climate. 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.](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.

Winter clothing

During the winter months we very much want children to wearing appropriate clothing for the weather and so hats, gloves, and scarves are an essential. Please can hats, scarves and gloves be named so that when they have been dropped in the cloakroom there is a chance for returning them to their rightful owners as younger children do not always recognise them as their own when asked.



Budgeting and Money Management Courses

We have been given information about budgeting and money management courses being run by All Nations Church in Bedford. There is a leaflet with more details at the end of this newsletter. You can also find out more information at <https://www.allnationsbedford.org/> or email at capmoney@allnationsbedford.org

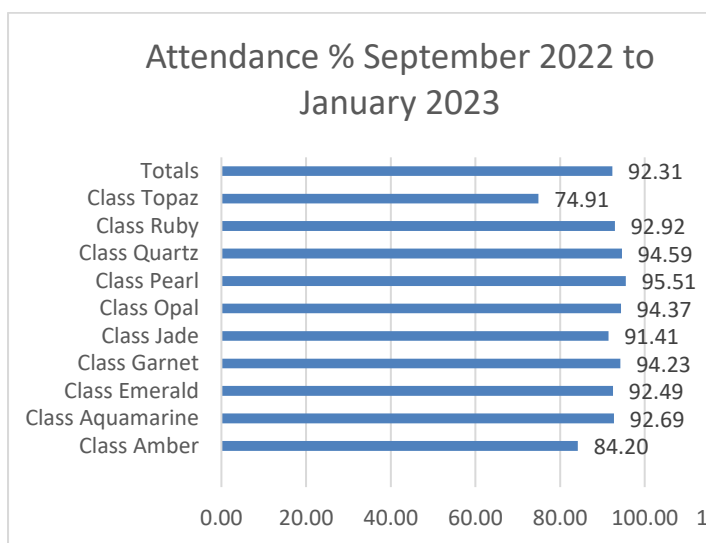
Class emails

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**

Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk	Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@ecls.org.uk	Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Pearl	pearl@ecls.org.uk	Jade	jade@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarines	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 Analysis since September 2022 – January 2023

Important Dates - Spring Term 2023

Tue 24 th January	Y2 Parents – SAT’s Information – 3.45pm
Wed 1 st Feb	Teacher’s strike day
Mon 6 th Feb	Children’s Mental Health week KS2 Parent Consultations
Tue 7 th	Safer Internet Day KS1 and Reception Parent Consultations
Thursday 9 th	FoEC Disco
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
Wed 1 st March	Teacher’s strike day
Thurs 2 nd March	World Book Day Breakfast with a book
Tue 7 th	Garnet - Sports Festival
Wed 15 th	Teacher’s strike day
Thur 16 th	Teacher’s strike day
Friday 17 th	Comic Relief Mother’s Day Breakfast
Thur 23 rd	Emerald – Sports Festival
Friday 31 st	Last Day of Spring Term

Academic Year 2022 – 2023

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.

Stars of the Week
December 2022

Amber

Pearl

Maryam
Wojciech
Kevinas

Emerald

Olivia
Whole Class
Ona

Jade

Julian
Whole Class
Sean

Opal

Perla
Demi
Charlotte

Ruby

Kife
Isaac
Ibrahim

Garnet

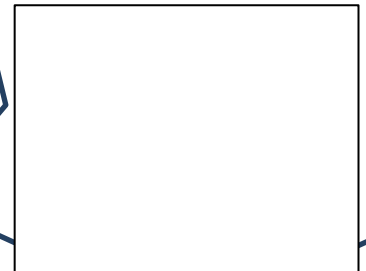
Rithighaa
Henry
Connor

Quartz

Piotr
Chris
Tiana

Aquamarine

Miller
Donella
Makai



DOES IT FEEL AS IF YOUR MONEY IS RUNNING THROUGH YOUR FINGERS?



LET THE MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE HELP YOU!

What is the Money Management Course?

- provides you with the tools to budget better and save wisely
- completely confidential
you won't be asked to share any details of your financial situation

When & Where?

- at All Nations Church
79 Brickhill Drive MK41 7QF
- each course consists of two sessions (about two hours each session) completely *free* to attend and the next two courses are on

Thursday 26th January at 9.30am or 7.30pm and

Thursday 09th February at 9.30am or 7.30pm

How Do I Sign Up?

- email us at capmoney@allnationsbedford.org
- We really hope to see you soon!
- more information on www.allnationsbedford.org



budget. save. spend.

The CAP Money Management Course is a *free* course provided by Christians Against Poverty and delivered by All Nations Church Bedford