



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Newsletter – February 2023

A message from Miss Cooke

Once we get to after February half term, that is more than half the school year gone already – which is quite a realisation. The children are closer to being in the next year group than they are to being in the previous year! But it is also a chance to reflect how much progress they have made, what they have learnt and how much they have grown!

Our Sponsored Skip last Thursday, was a huge success with the children demonstrating the new skills that they have learnt and challenging themselves to do more and more skips in one minute. Now we ask that parents and children send into school the money that they have raised from gathering sponsors. Children can bring in cash to school, but parents may find it easier and safer to use ParentPay to send the money onto school. We ask that all sponsorship money is sent in by Friday 10th March 2023.

The parking situation on Kneller Close is an ongoing issue. I have again received complaints from residents on Kneller Close about parents parking across their drives and on the No Parking markings. Residents have also made complaints to Bedford Borough Council about the situation.

It is noticeable, that if I am stood up on Kneller Close, parents park in accordance with the Highway Code, but if I am not stood there, some parents do not observe the Law as laid out in the Highway Code. The rules outlined in the Highway Code are not optional, they are in place to ensure safety for road users and pedestrians. Please, Please keep every child, parent and local resident safe by observing parking laws.

The punctuality of parents collecting their children at the end of the school day is starting to cause some concern. Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 children **MUST** be collected from their classroom at 3.30pm promptly. If you have children in Y5 and 6, **YOU MUST** collect your younger children at 3.30pm and then wait for your older children at 3.40pm. It is unfair on class staff to be collecting younger children late every day. If children are not collected by 3.40pm they will be put in after school club and parents will be charged for the first hour of care at £4.95 per child.

We hope to welcome all parents to school over this half term to one or more of the many opportunities to come in to school and support your child. From Breakfast events, to consultation evening and our new Parent Showcases, we hope to see all parents. Please see details of these events later in this newsletter.

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



NEU Teacher's Union Industrial Action (strike action)

Wednesday 1st March, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023 are the declared and published days where members of the NEU are exercising their right to strike.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teacher workload, lack of funding for schools and teacher pay, and not because of any issues at our school.

As a result of the strike action, it will be necessary to ask parents to keep children at home from certain classes. **Children in the Jade class should not come to school on Wednesday 1st March 2023.**

Children in all other classes should attend school as normal. Breakfast Club and After School club will operate as normal for children in classes that are expected in school on Wednesday 1st March 2023. It **will not be** available to children in Jade class who are not expected to attend school on Wednesday 1st March 2023.

Children in Jade class should return to school on Thursday 2nd March 2023.

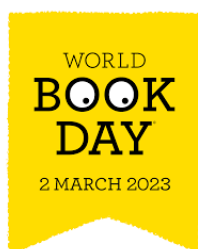
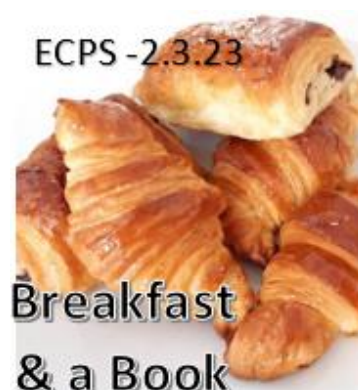
I will write to parents again prior to 15th and 16th March to advise about plans for those two strike days.

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book day will start with **Breakfast and a Book.** Children and parents are invited in to the school hall from 8.15am to enjoy a spot of breakfast and the opportunity to enjoy a book with their child before school. We invite all parents, if they wish, as well as children to dress as their favourite character from a book.

Books will be available on tables set out in the hall from our school library and we ask that children and parents do not access reading or Accelerated Reader books. Parents should stay with their children and deliver them to classrooms at 8.45am. Breakfast Club will relocate to Sapphire Class on this morning for regular attendees and should be booked via Parent Pay in the normal way.

There is no cost for this fun event, but there will be a bowl for donations for anyone wishing to make a donation.



As part of our World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 2nd March, we are inviting all pupils to take part in a 'Potato Book Character Challenge'. Pupils are encouraged to decorate a potato as a book character using any resources they have at home.

Children will need to bring their potatoes in to school on World Book Day, where they will be shared, displayed and judged. There will be prizes for the most creative entries!

We hope that this will be a creative and exciting way to encourage children to talk about, and get involved in, reading for pleasure. We look forward to seeing your creations!

Also to encourage children to read widely and for pleasure, we are inviting children to **dress up** for the day as their favourite book characters.

Please do not feel that you have to spend money on these outfits; homemade options are often the best! Many book characters' wear 'normal', everyday clothes. For example, Horrid Henry is a schoolboy who wore usual clothes, and many characters from Jacqueline Wilson novels also did, too. Take the time to discuss with your child what their favourite books are, and what the characters in the books wore. World Book Day is all about discussing, sharing and enjoying books, not spending lots of money on costumes. We will have an assembly during the day to showcase our outfits and to discuss our most-loved books.

Throughout the day, we will also be taking part in virtual author **live lessons**, enjoying a 'secret storyteller' event and sharing numerous stories and book-related activities.

Clearance Club – Friday's on the KS1 playground

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In the current financial climate, we want to do all that we can to support families and about reducing the amount of food wastage.

FoEC have arranged for Friday Clearance Club. Angelo in his van will come on to the KS1 playground at about 3.15pm on a Friday. Parents can pay £5 and fill a supplied carrier with a selection of food stuffs that Angelo has available. There are different things each week – no two weeks are ever the same.

Please feel free to bring your own bags to transfer your purchases into.

If you are accessing Clearance Club, Please ENSURE that you collect your children from their classes at 3.30pm promptly. Angelo will still be there after you have collected your children.

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.



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.

SEN Parents Consultations – Monday 6th March

Parents of children recognised as having a Special Educational Need will be invited to review and then co-produce the new plan of support going forward for the next term on Monday 6th March from 3.30 – 5.30pm. Please look out for the letters inviting you to make an appointment. Attendance at this meeting is necessary to review current and provision going forward.

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.



Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 17th March 2023



Before Covid, we would hold an annual Mother's Day Breakfast event and this year we plan to reinstate this previously very popular event. Children along with their Mums, step mums, Grandmothers or significant female carers to join us for Mother's Day Breakfast on Friday 17th March in the school hall. Doors will open at 8am. There is no cost for this event, but there will be a bowl for donations for anyone wishing to make a donation. Breakfast club will take place in Sapphire room on this day.

Red Nose Day – Friday 17th March 2023

We will again be marking Red Nose Day by holding a non-uniform day. Children can dress in Red or dress as a Superhero for the day and make a minimum £1 donation either on Parent Pay or in cash on the day.

Think outside the box about dressing as a superhero – there were some wonderful costumes last year as children dressed as scientists, doctors, firemen and nurses,



Parent Showcases – Week commencing Mon 27th March

We are going to be introducing a new event to invite parents in to school to view their children's school books, see art work, presentations and have discussions with staff and children about the learning that the children have been engaged with this term. These Key Stage Showcases will take place in the hall from 2.30pm.



The children will choose their favourite or piece of work that they are proudest of to be on display in the hall and will show that to their parents along with explaining how the particular piece of learning fits in to the programme of learning that they have been engaged in this term.

KS1 Parent Showcase – Monday 27th March from 2.30pm

LKS2 Parent Showcase – Tuesday 28th March from 2.30pm

UKS2 Parent Showcase – Wednesday 29th March from 2.30pm

Children and siblings may go home with their parents after they have visited the Showcase

Attendance – 92% National Threshold

Due to very high levels of sickness and illness since the start of the school year across all year groups, the levels of attendance for many children have fallen below the national expectation of 92%.

Thank you to all parents who ensure that they contact the school on the first day that their child is absent and on subsequent days. This ensures that we are fully informed of the reason why a child is absent and can update our records accordingly.

As a school we constantly monitor levels of attendance and in accordance with The Bedford Borough Attendance Toolkit we formally review levels of attendance each month. When a child's attendance falls below the national expectation of 92% we will write to parents to inform them that their child's attendance has fallen below the national expectation of 92%. We will write to all parents where their child's attendance has fallen below 92% regardless of the reason for the fall in attendance.

Learning moves on so quickly in school and if your child is absent for a considerable amount of days their learning and progress will suffer.

If your child is absent for ½ a day every week, their attendance will only be 90% - equivalent to 4 weeks of school and learning missed over the year.

If 90% attendance continues over 5 years that is equivalent to half a year of school and learning missed.

All children should be at school every day unless they are too ill to attend. 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.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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.

Holiday requests

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk



We have received a number of requests for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday recently so it is appropriate that we share again the school policy on requesting permission to go on holiday.

Legislation came into force in September 2013 that prevents school granting requests for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday. Leave of absence, for up to ten school sessions (5 days), may be granted in exceptional circumstance, but not for a holiday. Due to this change in legislation the school will not be authorising any applications for holiday in term time.

It is also worth reminding parents that where a leave of absence is not granted, and the holiday in term time is taken this will be noted on the child's file. If a second leave of absence is requested in the same or subsequent years, not authorised, but still taken, a fixed penalty notice will be issued by the Educational Welfare Service when that child returns to school. When a leave of absence has not been requested but a holiday is still taken in term time a fixed penalty notice will be issued by the Educational Welfare Service when that child returns to school. When a child does not return to school after a school holiday period due to extension of holiday arrangements, a fixed penalty notice will be issued by the Educational Welfare Service when that child returns to school.

A copy of the Statutory Instruments relating to this change can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/756/contents/made>

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.



Advice for parents from Alan Mackenzie (esafety-adviser)

Useful Links for Parents

KS1 - Hanni and the Magic Window

Newer resources for younger children tend to be few and far between, so I'm really pleased to be able to share this great little story from Childnet for KS1 children. The link will take you to a YouTube video where the book, Hanni and the Window is read to children, the Magic Window being used as an analogy for a computer screen. The YouTube link is [HERE](#).

What is Digital Resilience?

Digital resilience is the ability to "learn how to recognise, manage, recover and grow following experiencing online risks". It's a tricky one to talk about, particularly with parents when explaining the balance to managing a child's online activity. That balance will be different for different parents and ultimately comes down to their parenting style, how involved they are with their children, their own knowledge, experience, age of the child and much more. Studies into digital resilience are few and far between however there has been a new study which I think you may find interesting [HERE](#) which specifically considers digital resilience for 8 to 12 year olds.

Message from Friends of Edith Cavell –(FoEC)

A big thank you for everyone supporting this terms events. We are storming along with the library and work has been done over half term and will continue to happen over the next few weeks. We have been held up by contractors but that is starting to happen now.

A lot of local businesses have supported us and we are so grateful.

We will be holding a Mothers Day shop on Tuesday 14th March after school . All gifts will be under £3 and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your continued support.

Abi

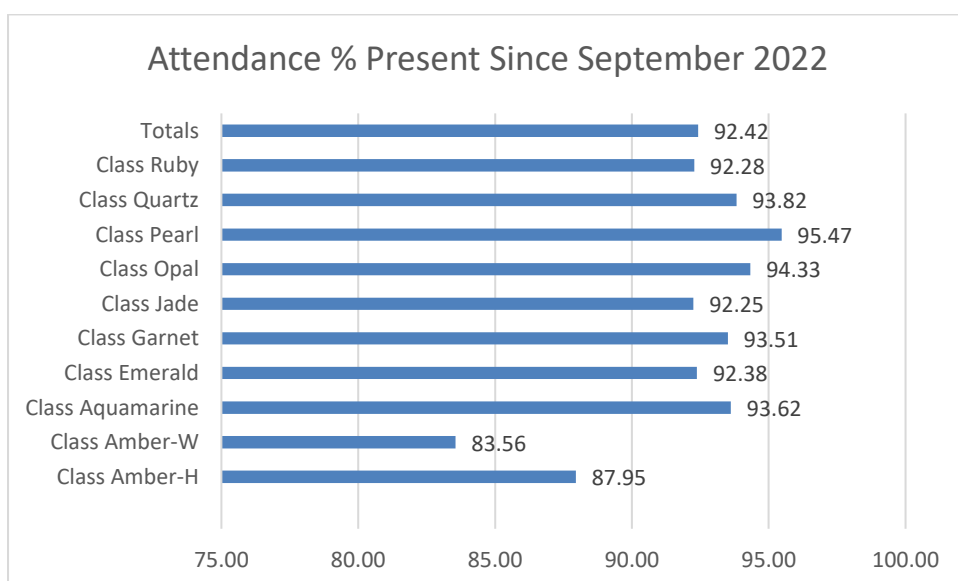
Class emails

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
February 2023

Pearl

Rabiya
Miki

Emerald

Aka
Paulina
Luna

Jade

Tola
Kyra
Carys

Opal

Ayaan
Riley
Saoirse

Ruby

Cameron
Esmæ
Ameya

Garnet

Theodora
Charlie
Malik

Quartz

Naveed
Kaio
Daren

Aquamarine

Jessica H.
Dalton
Jason

Amber

Ava
Josephine
Loghan
Ranveer

Important Dates - Spring Term 2023

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Wed 1 st March | Teacher's strike day |
| Thurs 2 nd March | World Book Day Breakfast with a book |
| Mon 6 th | SEN Parent Consultations |
| Tue 7 th | Garnet - Sports Festival |
| Wed 8 th | World Maths Day |
| Tue 14 th | FoEC – Mother's Day Shop |
| Wed 15 th | Teacher's strike day |
| Thur 16 th | Teacher's strike day |
| Friday 17 th | Comic Relief Mother's Day Breakfast |
| Tue 21 st | Garnet Class – Sing On at Corn Exchange |
| Thur 23 rd | Emerald – Sports Festival |
| Mon 27 th | KS1 Parent Showcase from 2.30pm |
| Tue 28 th | LKS2 Parent Showcase from 2.30pm |
| Wed 29 th | UKS2 Parent Showcase from 2.30pm |
| 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.