



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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

Newsletter – September 2023

A message from Miss Cooke

Welcome back to the 2023 – 2024 academic year. I hope that everyone had a great summer holiday and that the poor weather did not prevent activities that you had planned. We are welcoming many new families to our school this term and I would encourage you as well as existing parents, to read this newsletter carefully as it gives a lot of information about routines, expectations and events taking place in and around the school.

I know from personal experience that getting back into that school routine, while strangely comforting can be a challenge at the start of September. It was wonderful to see happy smiles and positive comments on Monday 4th September as I wandered through the playground before school. The punctuality of most children in the first few days has been fantastic and I really thank parents and families for making that effort to have children in school on time and with all the equipment that they need. I appeal to all families to keep up this great start all year and ensure that the children are all in school before 8.55am. Children who are here at 8.45am benefit from an additional 10 minutes of learning time every day. This adds up to 50 minutes a week, and nearly 6 hours over a half term, so please try to have the children coming into school at 8.45am each day. We don't want to waste any learning time.

We have welcomed some new members of staff to the school this term:

Mr Mortimer is the class teacher in Quartz Class

Mrs Anderson is the class teacher in Opal Class

Miss Tolley is the class teacher in Sapphire Class

Mrs Pearce and Miss Nice have joined our support staff team.

We welcome all these staff to the Edith Cavell staff team and look forward to working with them going forward.

Just a reminder that 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 and collect them from Miss Cooke. We would also strongly request that when parents collect their children from school that they are able to direct their full attention to greeting their child after a day at school rather than engaged on their mobile phones.



If parents have any issues or questions that arise, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school, preferably via email or phone and staff will do all that they can to assist you. Emails to your child's class teacher via the class email addresses (listed at the end of the newsletter) will be answered in a timely fashion, but will not be answered over weekends and holidays.

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

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Little Treasures – Pre School



We are extending our Pre-school provision. From September 2023, we will be offering a morning pre-school session as well as an afternoon session.

In the term after their third birthday, children can attend **either** a morning **or** afternoon session at Little Treasures Pre-school. Morning session will be 8.40am – 11.40am. Afternoon session will be 12.30pm – 3.30pm. Please advertise and share

information about Little Treasures Pre-school with your friends and family.

To register for a place at Little Treasures Pre-school, please contact the main school office on office@ecls.org.uk

Parking in Knellor Close and Raynolds Close

We have a number of new parents who have joined our school this year and I respectfully ask that new and existing parents ensure that they observe parking restrictions, marking and act respectfully to the school neighbours when parking on residential roads close to the school. I have already received complaints from residents who are unable to access their driveways because of the inconsiderate parking of parents.

I understand that you may only be 'nipping' in to the school or you are 'running late' but that does not make it acceptable to ignore parking laws, no parking markings or blocking resident's driveways.

I have been out on Knellor Close on a number of mornings and evenings, and it is amazing how just seeing me stood there seems to alter parent's actions. It should not take the presence of the head teacher to make you do the right thing. As a school we are trying to instil into your children that doing the right thing whether an adult is watching or not is the right thing to do. I hope parents can support us with setting a good example with their parking habits.



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 the morning and **must** be collected by an adult at the end of the day.

We ask that children **do not** access the field at the start of the day as the grass is often wet with dew and this will cause the child to have wet feet at the start of the day and also bring that wetness into the school flooring.

Children in Year 5 and 6 may walk to and from school independently, with their parents' permission. They are dismissed at the end of the day and there is no requirement for parents to collect them.



Collecting at the end of the day on time.

The bell for the end of school rings at 3.30pm and parents should be waiting to collect their children. We do understand that occasionally parents are delayed slightly and are not waiting to collect at 3.30pm. Parents who choose to collect children in Year 5 and 6, **MUST** collect younger children at 3.30pm and then if they choose to do so wait with those children until the Year 5 and 6 children are dismissed. It is not acceptable for parents to not arrive at school until 3.40pm to collect children from Reception to Year 4.

We keep a record of children who are regularly late being collected and you will be reminded by the class teacher and Miss Cooke that you should collect at 3.30pm. If late collection continues, your child will be put into After School Club, after 3.40pm and parents **will be charged £5.00** for the first hour of care. Staff well-being is affected and workload is significantly increased if they are regularly having to supervise children who are late being collected.



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 to collect your children. Anyone collecting children from school should be over the age of 16. 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.

Holiday requests



We have received a number of requests for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday 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>

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.

Home School Agreement

Each year we ask parents and children to review and sign the Home School Agreement. This agreement is a way of outlining the partnership between home and school to support the children to maximise the learning opportunities that they are given both in school and at home. The key for all the children to be successful, flourish and develop in all areas of their life is a positive, mutually beneficial partnership between the school and home, where we are working together to support the children. If all parties work together to fulfil these commitments, the children will all benefit.

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.

Parent Pay Shop

If you need to order school uniform the next order will be placed on Friday, 6th October 2023.

We will advise when the website will be live to enable parents to place their own orders directly with the manufacturer.



You can access the Parent Pay shop at

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

Second hand Uniform



We have a sizable stock of second hand uniform in an array of sizes that is available to parents to purchase at £1 an item or free of charge to those entitled to means tested Free School Meals (not Universal Infant Free School Meals). If your child would benefit from additional pieces of uniform, please contact Mrs Cavill, Learning Mentor, via the school office.

As a school community, we can all support each other. If your youngest child has grown out of any part of their school uniform (including black school shoes) and it is still in good condition with plenty of life still in it, we would be very happy to accept clean donations.

This is especially true of some larger sizes to fit children in UKS2.

Packed Lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch into 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.



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 website. 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 a reduction in the cost of school visits, instrument tuition, second hand uniform free of charge and funding to cover the cost of providing lunches during main school holidays (summer, Christmas, and Easter).

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 become able to access the additional benefits as well as allowing 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>.

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

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Please ensure that when you add money to your parent pay account you allocate the funds to a payment item and book the specific days that you require places at Breakfast and Afterschool club. Parents are reminded that all places must be booked and paid for in advance. If a pre-booking is not received, sessions will be charged at an ad hock rate.

	Pre booked
Breakfast club	£4.50
ASC 1 st hour of care	£5.00
ASC two hours of care	£8.50

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 from the School Shop for £1.60 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.

Healthy Snacks

We would like to remind parents that children may bring a small **healthy** snack into 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, crisps or sweets should be brought to school as these are not healthy snacks.**

Harvest

Each year we hold a Harvest Festival assembly and we ask parents for donations for Bedford Food Bank. In the current cost of living crisis, we are well aware that families are using food banks more than ever before. We would like to support, where people are able to do so.



So **on Thursday 28th 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 such as breakfast cereals, pasta sauces, tinned veg, tomatoes, tinned meat, rice and sponge pudding, UHT milk, UHT fruit juice and tinned fruit, that can then be passed on to the charity 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 has 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.

#Hello Yellow – 6th October



On **Friday 6th 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.

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' acronym, 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

Working dogs

As part of our emotional and well-being strategy, we have arranged for a weekly visit from a working dog to work, initially, with a group of children in Lower Key Stage 2.

This intervention group will use the dog as a focus for thinking about emotional literacy, resilience and responsibility. The sessions will take place within the school day and on the school site.

If your child has a recognised allergy to dogs, please inform the school so that we can put in arrangements to ensure that there is no contact between your child and when the dog comes into school.

These sessions have been fully risk assessed and the children will be advised about protocols for if they see the dog around the school and their behaviour towards it.

Online Safeguarding Update for Parents

Each month when I send out Newsletters I will continue to try and include advice and information to parents about Online or e-safety. As all aspects of our lives becomes increasingly digitalised, keeping children safe online is imperative. We place a very high emphasis on this in school. In all year groups, Reception to Year 6, we directly teach about being safe online and discuss scenarios constantly to raise awareness about keeping safe when using the internet. Online safety also extends to the use of mobile phones, gaming, the use of social media and email and these are all topics that are covered in our teaching. The online world is very fast moving and to support parents, children, and schools, Internet Matters have created dedicated hubs on their website for early years, primary and secondary aged children. These hubs are full of information and resources, including common issues, top apps, and platforms, resources, and advice. The hubs are updated regularly. Direct links to these hubs are:



Early Years - <https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/pre-school/>

Primary - <https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/>

Secondary - <https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/secondary/>

Discord Family Center

Discord used to be popular with gamers, now it's hugely popular amongst non-gamers too. Historically Discord has been very lax regarding features that are available for parents to help keep their children safe, but this has recently changed, albeit the changes are a minuscule step in the right direction, at least it's something.

Essentially, like many other apps, Discord now has a Family Center. Once set up parents can see:

- What servers (chat rooms) their children have joined or participated in.
- Everyone they've messaged.
- New users they've connected with.

You can read more about these functions and limitations

[https:// www.parents.com/discords-familycenter-helps-parents-keep-kids-safe7562225](https://www.parents.com/discords-familycenter-helps-parents-keep-kids-safe7562225)

This page will show parents how to set up Family Center.

<https://support.discord.com/hc/en-us/articles/14155043715735-Family-Center-for-Parents-and-Guardians>

Fake calculator apps: What they are and how to spot them?

Children seeking to keep things private is nothing new – but did you know that now, there's an app for that? Secret vault apps have been around for years, but children are now using them to store personal, private information such as images that could even have legal consequences if found.



Here's everything you as a parent should know about calculator vault apps, what using them means for your child, and how to spot a fake calculator app on a child's phone.

<https://www.qustodio.com/en/blog/howto-spot-a-fake-calculator-app/>

Message from FoEC

FOEC are back this new term and welcome all new children, parents and carers to our events this coming Autumn.

We have sent out a volunteer request letter. If you can get involved however big or small please get in touch. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch already.

We are looking for gardeners and someone to volunteer in the new library.

We have started this term by selling lollipops on a Thursday. This money has already paid for the new fridge freezer so we look forward to providing freezer treats on warmer days.

Over the summer we have purchased £500 worth of books for the library and we have been donated some beautiful books from past students and their families - thank you!

If anyone would like to talk through what we do and what we provide please contact the office.

Many thanks

FOEC

Volunteers Needed!

Friends of Edith Cavell (FOEC) relies on volunteers to run the events at school.

Currently we are hoping to run the following:

- **Lego club** - years 1-4 - 4 x Wednesday's every half term 3:30-4:30)
- **Science Saturday** - open to all years. A wonderful morning of science and gardening. This term it's on Saturday 4th Nov.
- **The Disco** - Again all years in two time slots on Thursday 19th October from 5:30.
- **Christmas Fair** - Saturday 25th November.

We are also looking for a parent / carer/ grandparent to help us out in the library and the school garden.

Do you know someone who has some time and loves gardening or books?

We raise money to give the children the extras and enhance their already wonderful school.

Please, please, please if you can volunteer please get in touch.

Thanks

FOEC

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	Email address	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
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk	Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk
Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk		

Dates - Autumn 2023

Wed 20 th	Lego Club Y1 – Y3
Wed 27 th	Lego Club Y1 – Y3
Thur 28 th	10am – School Harvest Assembly - Sports Festival – am – John Bunyan
Wed 4 th Oct	Pearl – sports festival – am - Biddenham Lego Club Y1 – Y4
Thur 5 th	9am – EYFS Parents Communication workshop 2.45am – EYFS parents Communication workshop
Fri 6 th	Hello Yellow Day – Non uniform day
Wed 11 th	Lego Club Y1 – Y4
Tue 17 th	No Falcons Gym
Thur 19 th	Garnet Sports Festival – am - Scott FoEC – Disco
Fri 20 th	Wear it Pink Day – Non uniform day Half Term
Mon 30 th	Training Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tue 31 st	1 st Day back for Children No Falcons Gym SEND sports festival – am – John Bunyan
Sat 4 th	FoEC – Science Saturday Reception Open Morning
Tue 7 th Nov	Falcons Gym Aquamarine – Sports Festival – pm – St Thomas Moore
Wed 8 th	Lego Club Y1 – Y4
Mon 13 th	KS1 & Reception Parent Consultations – Including SEND coproduction - 2pm – 6pm – face to face
Tue 14 th	KS2 Parent Consultations – Including SEND coproduction - 2pm – 6pm – face to face
Wed 15 th	All year groups – Parent Consultations – Including SEND coproduction 4pm – 6pm (online or face to face) Lego Club Y1 – Y4
Fri 17 th	Children in Need – non uniform day
Sat 25 th	FoEC Christmas Fair
Mon 27 th	Sports festival – John Bunyan
Wed 29 th	Lego Club Y1 – Y3
Thur 30 th	Y5/6 sports festival – am – Bunyan Sports Hall
Fri 1 st Dec	Y3/4 Sports festival – am – Bunyan Sports Hall
Mon 4 th Dec	Bikeability Level 1 Theatre of Widdershins
Wed 6 th	2pm – KS1 performance to parents
Thur 7 th	9.30am - KS1 performance to parents
Fri 8 th	9.10am – Celebration Assembly
Tue 12 th	2pm - Reception performance to parents
Wed 13 th	2pm - Reception performance to parents
Thur 14 th	2pm - KS2 - performance to parents
Friday 15 th	9.30am – KS2 performance to parents
Mon 18 th	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Tue 19 th	9.10am – Celebration Assembly End of Term – Early finish at 1.45pm