



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 – October 2023

A message from Miss Cooke

The cold weather has arrived as a bit of a shock this week, but the extended good weather, into October, did mean that we were able to keep using the field a bit longer this year.

As the cold weather is definitely here now, please ensure that your child has their coat with them every day at school as we will still have playtime outside whenever we can. This included in light rain, so a coat with a hood is always preferable.

I want to take this opportunity to remind parents about the need to be punctual when collecting children at the end of the school day. For Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4, **school ends at 3.30pm** and parents should be waiting for their children at that time. If children are not collected on time they will be taken to the main office and names recorded so we can see patterns.

If late collection continues, your child will be put into After School Club, after 3.40pm and parents **will be charged £5.20** 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.

I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to parents and children who made donations to our Harvest Festival appeal at the end of September. We donated the food collection to the Bedford Food Bank. The Bedford Food Bank are always very grateful of any donations, but especially in the current economic climate donations are especially well recieved. A letter of thanmks from the Food Bank is shown later in this newsletter.

Secondly, I want to say **THANK YOU** to parents and children for their donations to our **#HelloYellow** non uniform day on 6th October. The children looked fantastic all in different shades of yellow. If as a school we can have a bit of fun and raise funds to support very worthwhile charities, it is supporting the children's learning about British Values and being a citizen in the UK in 2023. We raised £220 which again is a fantastic amount and will be forwarded to the charity.

It has come to my attention that some Year 5 and 6 children are arriving at school before 8.15am. This is far too early. Children should not be arriving at school until after 8.30am and any children younger than Year 5 **MUST** be accompanied in to school and delivered to their classrooms.

A quick reminder that children should attend school on **Tuesday 31st October. This is the first day back at school after the half term.**

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



Coats



As the weather will start to become colder and wetter, all children should be bringing a coat to school **EVERY DAY**.

We will always try to take the children outside at break and lunchtimes, including when it is raining slightly. If your child does not have a coat, they will get wet and have to sit in wet sweatshirts for the rest of the school day which is not good for them.

Wear it Pink Day

On Friday 20th October we will again be supporting Breast Cancer Awareness by inviting the children to come to school dressed in the colour Pink and making a **minimum £1** donation to the charity. This is a charity that we have enjoyed supporting regularly. Seeing the children in such varying shades of Pink and with such great ideas for wearing pink in creative ways is a great fun, a great sight and supporting a very worthwhile charity.

Children should wear at least one item that is pink, if not in uniform.

Parents can make this donation preferably on the school Parent Pay site.



Homework – Special Reward Time

Close links between home and school matter to us, as we know that parents have a vital role to play in their child's education.

Supporting with homework is a key way in which parents can

support their child's learning journey. As part of the Home School Agreement, parents are asked to *'Support my child with homework, home learning and assist them to 'hand in' on time.'*

By working together to support children to take increasing responsibility for their learning as they grow older, good habits will become established and these routines will be the foundations for future learning at Secondary school.



Each week children from Year 1 up to Year 6, will be set homework. There will be a date by which homework must be returned. If children have not returned homework by this date, it is highly likely that unless there are special circumstances, your child will miss their special reward time on a Friday, to complete the learning activities that have not been completed at home.

Advance Warning

Year 1 and Reception parents - When your child starts talking about phonics, do you wonder what an earth they are talking about? Do you think – 'that isn't how I did it at school?' Do you want to develop the way that you support your child with their reading? We are here to help you!

Tuesday 21st November – 9am & 2.45pm Please come along to our – What is phonics? session where we will show you how we teach phonics in school using the Sounds Write scheme and how you can use these methods to help you child with their reading at home. Please come along and chat with staff and other parents about phonics and early reading over a cuppa and biscuit!



Wednesday 1st November – 5pm

Is your child in Year 6? Please come along to our Y6 SAT's parents' information session.

We will explain what the Year 6 SAT's look like, how we will be preparing your children in school and what you can do at home to help as well.



Parent Pay

The school's online payment portal, Parent Pay, is a quick and easy way to pay for most costs, charges or donations to the school. From charity donations to paying for a trip, school dinners or Breakfast and After School Club. Please remember to allocate your payment to the correct payment item you are paying for.



Breakfast Club and After School Club can be booked and paid for via the website up to 11.59pm the night before a session.

We hope that this will reduce the number of ad hoc sessions that children are accessing.

While Breakfast Club and After School Club are always there if needed as an emergency option to parents, it is important that children are pre booked into sessions so that we can ensure that we have the correct staffing ratios and food available to be able to safely accommodate any emergency bookings that come in during the day.

Packed Lunches

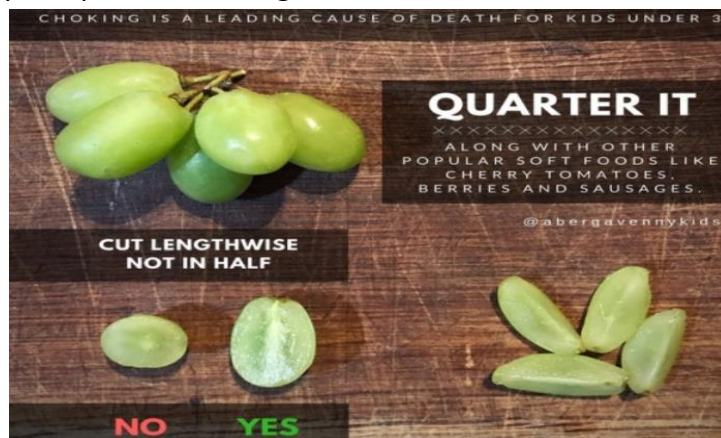
EDITH CAVELL IS A NUT FREE ZONE

Children bringing packed lunches, **MUST NOT** bring any kind of nut product, which includes peanut butter and chocolate spread, as part of their packed lunch. We have a number of children in school who have allergies to nuts and especially peanuts.



Packed lunches should also be a healthy meal and so should not have packets of sweets or large chocolate bars or large amounts of chocolate. Midday supervisors regularly check lunch boxes, and so will speak to your child about the content of their lunch box if it is considered to contain a high amount of unsuitable or unhealthy items.

In contrast, grapes are a very healthy option to have as part of a packed lunch, but we ask that any children in Reception or KS1 who have grapes as part of their packed lunch or playtime snack, that the grapes are cut length ways. This is to try and prevent choking.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023



When we return from half term on **Tuesday 31st October**, we expect that in each phase of the school, **NOT** at the school office, the children will have the opportunity to give a donation to acquire a commemorative poppy. There will also be other Royal British Legion Poppy merchandise available to purchase for set prices.

Children should bring their money to school if they wish to take part in this appeal and items will be brought to each class in each phase of the school.

Christmas Performances

We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents into school to watch our Christmas performances this year.

We have planned to present two Christmas performances this year. KS1 children will present a concert of Christmas songs and Year 3, 4 and 5 will perform their own concert of Christmas songs.

The planned dates are



Reception	Year 1 and 2	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 12 th December at 2pm	Wednesday 6 th December – 2pm	Thursday, 14 th December – 2pm
Wednesday 13 th December 9.30am	Thursday 7 th December – 9.30am	Friday, 15 th December – 9.30am

Nursery children will perform their nativity to their parents at 11am for morning session parents and 12.30pm for afternoon session parents on Wednesday 6th December

Reception – September 2023

For parents looking to apply for a place for their child for entry in to Reception in September 2024, we are offering a number of opportunities to visit and tour the school.

Thur 2 nd Nov – 2pm	Mon 6 th Nov – 2pm	Thurs 9 th Nov – 10am
Tues 14 th Nov – 10am	Thurs 16 th Nov – 4pm	Fri 17 th Nov – 10am
Tues 21 st Nov – 4pm	Fri 24 th Nov 10am	Wed 29 th Nov – 10am
Mon 8 th Jan 2024 – 2pm	Wed 10 th Jan – 10am	Fri 12 th Jan – 10am

Please contact the school office to book on to one of these tours of the school.



We are also holding an open morning on Saturday 4th November 2022 10am – 12noon.



School Open Morning

Saturday 4th November 2023 (10am - 12noon)

Is My Child Too Ill for School

At this time of year, it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep you child off school.

The NHS has produced the following advice to help you decide when it is best to keep them at home or send them into school:



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Fire Safety Advice

Please see attached fire safety advice from Bedford Fire Station, at the end of the Newsletter, ahead of Halloween and Bonfire night.

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)

FOEC are looking forward to seeing all of your children at the **disco on Thursday 19th October**. Please pre book your ticket on ParentPay. There will be drinks (50p) and sweets (£1) available to buy on the night. We are also selling Halloween style temporary tattoos (2 for 50p). Volunteers for both discos are very welcome!

We also have Science Saturday on the SATURDAY 4th November at 10-12.15.

This is a lovely morning where you can drop your children off at school in the morning. We have Little Science Lab in to work their Science magic and then the children will be planting bulbs in the school garden and for the first time we will be doing some rock painting! This is always a really fun morning and the children love getting muddy at school!

Before we know it the **Christmas Fair** will be upon us. This years date is **Saturday 26th November**.

We really hope you can come along and support the fair and have lots of fun too.

We will be looking for raffle prizes as well as donations of books, clean teddies, chocolate, cakes and please if you can volunteer to help out let the office know. Look out for more details.....

Thank you as ever for your continued support.

FOEC

Harvest

A thank you received from Bedford Foodbank for all your Harvest donations:



Bedford Foodbank
71 Murdock Road,
Manton Heights Industrial Estate,
Bedford,
MK41 7PL

T 01234 268569

13TH October 2023.

Dear Edith Cavell School,

I am writing to thank you for your recent Harvest food donation which weighed 36.44 kg and would help to provide 86 meals.

Any donations we receive we are always very grateful for and never more so now in these current challenging times. Donations, such as yours, are vital to the on-going provision of food for those in our community who are in such great need. The need for help from the Foodbank continues to increase year upon year and we now regularly feed around 1900 people a month, giving them enough food for 3-4 days, or around 10 meals.

For the month of September 2023, 16 tonnes of food was given out, 945 vouchers were redeemed, 2020 people was fed, of which 704 were children.

Without the support of individuals, organisations, and communities, Bedford Foodbank could not meet the increasing need in Bedford and the surrounding villages.

Thank you all once again, for your support on behalf of everyone who uses, works, or volunteers at the foodbank.

Yours sincerely,

Maria B. Guest
Volunteer Admin Support
Bedford Foodbank

Keeping Children Safe On Line

If your child starts talking about an app or web site that you know nothing about
Use the web site

- Common sense media
- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>



On this site you can look up apps and web sites to see the recommended age rating.
Trusted ratings created with families in mind.

Does your child play a game or access an app that is recommended for older children?

- Do you know how the content of that game or app is affecting your child?
- If your child is playing, seeing parents or older siblings playing adult rated games?
They are seeing a level of violence not recommended for them.
- Would you take them to the cinema to see an 18+ rated film?

Google Family Link is a family parental controls service by Google that allows parents to adjust parameters for their children's devices. The application allows parents to restrict content, approve or disapprove apps, set screen times, and more

- © <https://families.google.com/familylink/>



Apple Family Share - Controls & Settings guide

Family Sharing makes it easy for you and up to five family members to share Apple Books, and App Store purchases, photo album, family calendar, an Apple Music family plan, and an iCloud storage plan.

It is also useful if you have children as you can set up tools such as 'Ask to Buy', locate their devices, set screen time limits for specific apps and much more. A parent or guardian can also set up an Apple ID account for a child under 13 years' old.



Samsung Kids Parental Controls

Samsung Kids is a parental feature which you can set up on your child's device which can be used to apply restrictions such as app access, downloading, screen time, privacy and more. It's really easy to set up and use and will help you to manage your child's online activity.

To learn more, including a setup guide, see [HERE](#).



Where to find more information

Internet Watch Foundation

- www.iwf.org.uk/

NSPCC – Net Aware

- www.net-aware.org.uk/

Internet Matters

- www.internetmatters.org/

UK Safer Internet Centre

- www.saferinternet.org.uk/



Supporting Young Girls' Wellbeing.

From managing screen time, the fear of missing out and body image. All these and more can affect the wellbeing of children. Internet Matters have put together a great series of articles for parents and although aimed at 9-10-year-old girls I would say it is worthwhile for all older and younger children, boys and girls.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/supporting-9-10-year-old-girls-digital-wellbeing/>

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

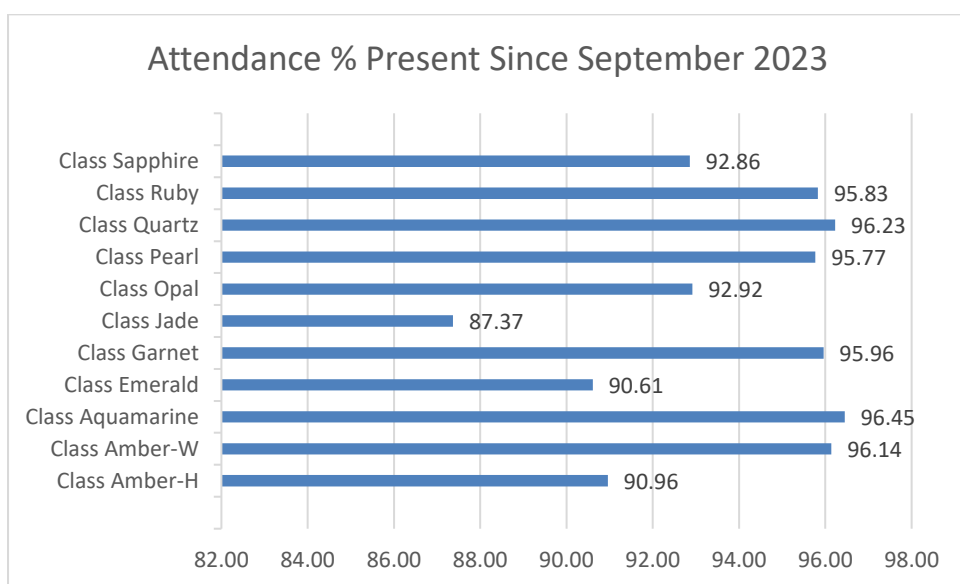
Class emails

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	Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk	Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@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



Dates – Autumn 2023

OCTOBER

Thur 19th Garnet Sports Festival – am - Scott
FoEC – Disco

Fri 20th Wear it Pink Day – Non uniform day
Half Term

Mon 30th Training Day – **SCHOOL CLOSED**

Tue 31st 1st Day back for Children
No Falcons Gym

NOVEMBER

Wed 1st Y6 SAT's parents information session

Sat 4th FoEC – Science Saturday
Reception Open Morning 10am – 12noon

Tue 7th Nov Falcons Gym
Aquamarine – Sports Festival – pm – St Thomas Moore

Wed 8th Lego Club Y1 – Y4

Mon 13th KS1 & Reception Parent Consultations – Including SEND coproduction - 2pm – 6pm – face to face

Tue 14th KS2 Parent Consultations – Including SEND coproduction - 2pm – 6pm – face to face

Wed 15th All year groups – Parent Consultations – Including SEND coproduction 4pm – 6pm (online or face to face)
Lego Club Y1 – Y4

Fri 17th Children in Need – non uniform day

Tue 21st 9am & 2.45am – What is phonics

Sat 25th FoEC Christmas Fair

Mon 27th Sports festival – John Bunyan

Wed 29th Lego Club Y1 – Y3

Thur 30th Y5/6 sports festival – am – Bunyan Sports Hall

DECEMBER

Fri 1st Y3/4 Sports festival – am – Bunyan Sports Hall

Mon 4th Bikeability Level 1
Theatre of Widdershins

Wed 6th 11am Pre-School Christmas performance to morning session parents
12.30pm Pre-School Christmas performance to afternoon session parents
2pm – KS1 performance to parents

Thur 7th 9.30am - KS1 performance to parents

Fri 8th 9.10am – Celebration Assembly

Tue 12th 2pm - Reception performance to parents

Wed 13th 9am - Reception performance to parents

Thur 14th 2pm - KS2 - performance to parents

Friday 15th 9.30am – KS2 performance to parents

Mon 18th Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Dinner

Tue 19th 9.10am – Celebration Assembly
End of Term – Early finish at 1.45pm



Bedfordshire
Fire & Rescue Service

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS SAFETY

We would always recommend attending an organised bonfire or firework display, but if you do host your own...

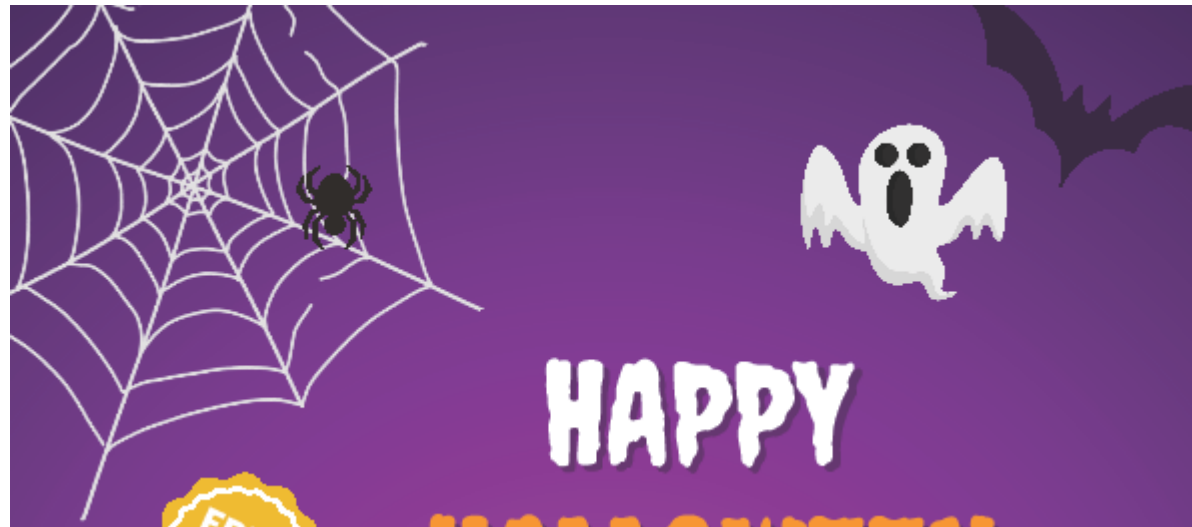
- Build the bonfire away from houses, sheds, fences etc.
- Never use flammable liquids like paraffin or petrol to light the fire
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby
- Don't leave the bonfire unattended
- Keep children and pets away

You must be 18 years or over to buy and set off fireworks

- Store fireworks in a closed box and take them out one at a time
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light fireworks at arm's length, using the taper provided
- Never go back to a lit firework – even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode!
- Don't drink alcohol if responsible for setting off fireworks
- Only buy fireworks which carry a CE mark.

**FREE
SAFETY
TIPS**





HAPPY HALLOWEEN



- Keep all fancy dress costumes away from naked flames.
 - Use LED candles in pumpkins - they don't blow out and they are much safer.
 - Check the labels on any fancy dress outfits you buy for fire resistance and a registered trademark.
 - Remember, cheaper products are more likely to be counterfeit and could burn quickly if they catch fire.
- Burns and scalds last a lifetime. Remember if clothing does catch fire, **stop, drop and roll** until the fire is out.
- In an emergency cool any burns with large amounts of water and get urgent medical assistance.



Bedfordshire
Fire & Rescue Service



Stars of the Week
September/October 2023

Emerald

Whole Class
Roha
Matei
Theo
Joel

Pearl

Louis
Charlotte
Daren
Piotr
Chloe
Whole Cl.aass

Jade

Whole Class
Olivia
Faliha
Luka

Opal

Naveed
Bentley
Elsina
Tiana
Stefania
Kaio

Ruby

Zephy
Sufyan
Richard
Smayani
Jason
Dalton

Garnet

Angad
Sully
Rithighaa
Freddie
Eliza R.
Jessica H.

Quartz

Jhene
Rishon
Michelle
Amelia

Aquamarine

Ethan
Lily
Yokshita
Nivan
Carmela

Sapphire

Mateo
Sean
Julien
Arshdeep
Esmae
Isla