



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 – November 2023

Message from Miss Cooke

When we change the clocks in October, it always makes it seem as if winter is really taking hold and this year has been no different. With the amount of rain that we have been having over the past few weeks the need for good coats and shoes cannot be underestimated. Please ensure that your child has their coat, preferably with a hood, in school with them every day and wears correct school shoes. If the weather is poor and children are wearing wellies or boots to come to school, please ensure that they have their school shoes with them so they do not stay in their wellies all day.

Over half term, some parents may have received a letter, via email, asking them to pay dinner money debts and then saying that unless the debt was paid they would not be able to access breakfast and after school clubs. This letter was sent by Caterlink, our catering school meal provider, and **not** the school. While the debt that was quoted in the letter does have to be paid, the Caterlink staff had selected and sent an incorrect template letter and so I can only apologise if the tone of the letter as well as the content caused any concern or upset. We are working with Caterlink to ensure that communication is clear and accurate going forward.

Parent Consultation meetings have been arranged for next week, and these are a **VITAL** communication tool where parents can discuss how their child is progressing at school. For any child to be successful and fulfil their true potential it is **ESSENTIAL** that there is good communication between home and school. These focused 10-minute meetings enable dialogue around how home and school can work together to support **your** child with their learning journey.

ALL PARENTS MUST BOOK A CONSULATION APPOINTMENT WITH THEIR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER.

If parents have appointments, before the end of the school day, they may collect all their children early. If parents have made appointments after 3.30pm, they must collect their children before attending their planned consultation meeting.

During half-term week we had an exciting visit from Fun & Active Playgrounds who came to install some new playground markings for our outdoor play area. We now have an abundance of educational markings to help with maths and English including a colourful number grid, number ladder, and learning clock, plus an alphabet snake, and a phonics pond!

It's been great to see the children enjoying their new playground games and we're pleased to have been able to introduce more opportunities for physical activity at our school, encouraging our children to get their recommended daily exercise.



We are coming into a very busy period in school with many different events that parents can attend in school. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at the different events. If a parent can't attend due to work commitments, we are always very happy to see grandparents or different family members coming to support the children. Please note if it is a grandparent or other family member is attending the school event, they will not be able to take the child home, unless parents have given specific permission by speaking to the class teacher or office **before** the event.

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

Parent Consultations – 13th, 14th, 15th November 2023

Autumn Term Parent Consultations, will also incorporate SEND Parent Co-production consultations, and will be offered as either face to face or virtual meetings. However, please note that **ALL** bookings are to be made via School Cloud using the following link. <https://edithcavellprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

ALL PARENTS MUST BOOK A CONSULATION APPOINTMENT WITH THEIR CHILD’S CLASS TEACHER.

The table below outlines when class teachers will be available for consultation meetings. We respectfully ask that parents make all efforts to be available on these days and times as having to arrange additional alternative dates to meet with parents significantly adds to teacher’s workload.

Phase	Class	Face to face in school	Time	Virtual/ on line or Face to Face	Time
Reception	Amber-H Amber-W	Monday, 13 th November	2pm – 6pm	Wednesday, 15 th November	4pm – 6pm
Key Stage 1	Emerald	Monday, 13 th November	2pm – 6pm		
	Jade				
	Aquamarine				
Lower Key Stage 2	Sapphire	Tuesday, 14 th November	2pm – 6pm		
	Ruby				
	Garnet				
Upper Key Stage 2	Quartz	Tuesday, 14 th November	2pm – 6pm		
	Opal				
	Pearl				

All appointments MUST be booked via the School Cloud system for a face to face or virtual consultations. This system allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

Parental Opinions

Every year we ask for parent’s views about the school.

You can either complete the paper copy of the questionnaire available from class teachers at Parent Consultation meetings

or

Complete the electronic version

<https://forms.gle/ivj5Zt75FdTibk6f8>

or

log on to the Ofsted Parent View online

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Attendance at school

Edith Cavell Primary School is committed to giving our pupils the best education available. This is why we want to highlight to all parents the link between good attendance and education achievement. Our aim is to promote regular attendance and good punctuality in order to ensure all students achieve their full potential.

- ⦿ 90% attendance= ½ day missed every week
(Would your boss like you to be off work so much?)
That's practically part-time!
- ⦿ Absent half a day every week
- ⦿ 1 school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons MISSED!!!

Attendance Matters



Your child **MUST** be in school on time every day.

- ⦿ If they are not in school, they are not learning.
- ⦿ 1 school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons MISSED !!!
- ⦿ Poor or patchy attendance can cause gaps in knowledge and understanding and so hinder future learning.
- ⦿ **Only grant days** at home for genuine illness (you will know!) Send them to school and if they are really ill we will send them home.
- ⦿ **Miracle Recovery**—If your child improves after the school day has started we are happy for you to bring them into school at any time during the day.
- ⦿ **Phone School** as soon as possible as to the reason why your child is absent from school and when you expect them to return to school or we will phone you later to follow up.
- ⦿ Putting the school number in your phone, it will save you time.
- ⦿ **Avoid Medical/Dental Appointments** in term time where possible—book well in advance
- ⦿ **Know the routine** of the day to avoid issues e.g. have they got their PE kit and everything they need for the day
- ⦿ **Concerns for the day** if your child is worried about coming to school for any reasons talk to a member of staff and we will try and help
- ⦿ **Avoid taking holidays** in term time they will not be authorised.

Holidays in Term Time

- ⦿ No requests for holidays in term time will be approved.
- ⦿ Leave of absence, for up to ten school sessions (5 days), may be granted in exceptional circumstance, **but not for a holiday**.
- ⦿ Any requests for leave of absence must be made in advance of the requested leave of absence. If the child has poor attendance, the child is often late for school, the request is around assessment periods or it is a second request, the request will not be authorised.



Non Uniform Day – Friday 10th November

We are inviting the children to wear their own clothes to school on Friday, in exchange for bringing a donation for the Christmas Fair. Donations such as a bottle for Miss Cooke's bottle stall, some chocolate that can be included on the chocolate tombola or a Jam Jar filled with a treat, such as sweets, bath salts or lego! The alternative is to make a donation of £1.

The FoEC Christmas Fair is on Saturday 25th November 2023 – 12pm – 2pm

and all the money raised will be used to install a path to the new library log cabin that was bought and installed last year.



Non Uniform Day - Friday 17th November for Children in Need

Spotacular

The children are invited to dress in spots or spotty clothing on Friday 17th November to support BBC's Children in Need.

We are asking for a minimum donation of £1 per child to support the charity. Donations can be made via Parent Pay or in cash on the day.



What is Phonics?

Parent information sessions

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 your 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!

Parent Showcases

- KS1 - Wednesday 22nd November
- Reception - Thursday 23rd November
- LKS2 - Monday 27th November
- UKS2 - Tuesday 28th November

Parents are invited to school at 2.30pm

Children will have chosen an exercise book, a piece of work that they wish to share and discuss with parents. (Slightly different for Reception)

Class teachers will also be available to have discussions with.

Parents may take children, and siblings home early after the showcase.



News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)

FoEC are really looking forward to the Christmas Fair this year.

We are holding our Mufti Day on Friday 10th November. This year's donations are as follows:

- Washed Teddies
- Children's Books
- Raffle prizes
- Bottles for Miss Cooke's Famous bottle stall
- Chocolate for the Chocolate tombola.
- If you would like to donate a cake please can you let us know but bring it to the fair!

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 12pm-2pm

We have a storytelling Father Christmas this year and remember our Grotto is FREE!

We really hope you can support this event.

We will be accepting cash on the day and as usual we sell tokens to be redeemed on the stalls.

Raffle tickets will be sold in the playground the week before.

Lastly, if you would like to volunteer please get in touch with the office.

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

Christmas Post Box – Monday 4th December

Our annual Christmas Post box will open on Monday 4th December 2023.

Children will be able to 'post' their Christmas cards to their friends in our school ONLY in to this post box and they will be delivered to their classrooms each day up until Friday 15th December.

If you are supporting your children to write their Christmas cards, please ensure that you include the class that the recipient child is in, clearly on the envelope.

No school staff are able to provide lists of children's names in classes in school.



Christmas Dinner



School Christmas dinner will take place on Monday 18th December 2023. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a choice from the Christmas Dinner menu on Monday 18th December 2023. Parents may send a packed lunch if they do not wish their child to have a Christmas dinner.

The cost of school dinners is **£2.82 for Year 3/4s and £2.92 for Year 5/6s**. Please ensure that payment is made on ParentPay in advance. Please use this link to the Google form to show if your child will be having Christmas dinner. The Google form needs to be completed by Thursday 8th December.

<https://forms.gle/A7CKHE7UrQVoDAGX9>

Christmas Jumper – Monday 18th December 2023

On Christmas Dinner day, Monday 18th December, we invite the children to swap their normal school uniform sweatshirt or cardigan for a Christmas jumper. The rest of their school uniform should remain unchanged including school shoes. If children choose not to wear a Christmas Jumper, they should wear their normal school uniform sweatshirt or cardigan.



Christmas Tree Festival



As a school we have entered the St Paul's Church in Bedford annual Christmas Tree Festival. Last year our decorated tree was judged by visitors to be best school decorated tree. This was quite an honour for the school and we are very proud of the award that was presented to us.

This year the school will again be decorating a Christmas Tree for the festival. Children across the school produce decorations around a theme that are displayed on the tree.

If you wish to visit the Christmas Tree Festival held at St Paul's Church to see the Edith Cavell decorated tree along with all other entries, the festival is open Wednesday 6th December to Saturday 9th December 10am till 5pm and Sunday 10th December noon till 4pm. Admission £3 but children under 16 are free.



Advance Warning



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, **Tuesday 19th December 2023**. 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.

Please look out in the next couple of weeks for a link to a form to inform us 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.

Keeping Children Safe On Line

Please see information at the end of the newsletter. Parental guides to X and TikTok. Both platforms having a 13+ age guidance.

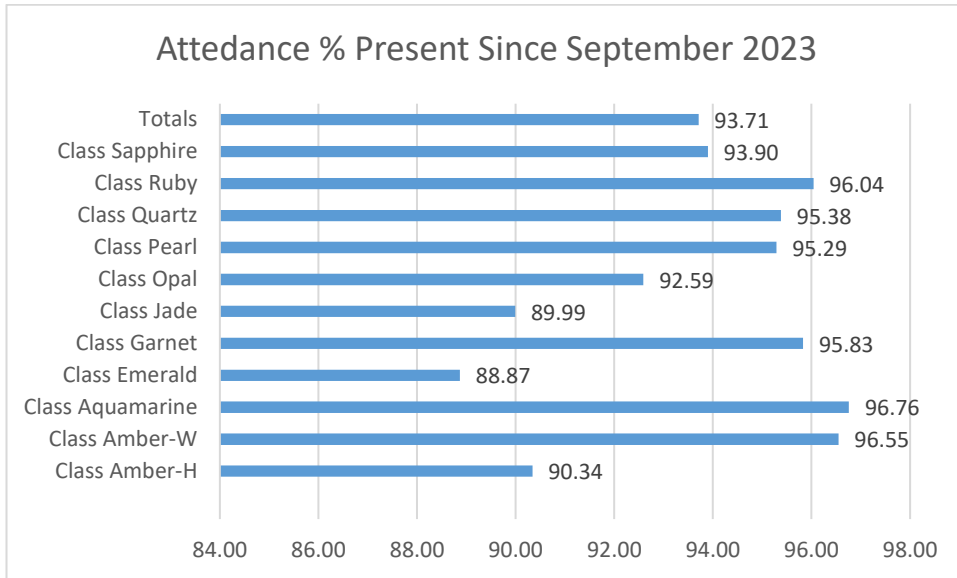
Class emails

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	Little Treasures	treasures@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		

Attendance



Dates – Autumn 2023

November

Fri 10 th	Non Uniform Day – donation to the Christmas Fair
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
Tue 21 st	9am & 2.45am – What is phonics
Wed 22 nd	KS1 – Parent Showcase – 2.30pm
Thurs 23 rd	Reception – Parent Showcase – 2.30pm
Sat 25 th	FoEC Christmas Fair
Mon 27 th	Sports festival – John Bunyan LKS2 – Parent Showcase – 2.30pm
Tue 28 th	UKS2 – Parent Showcase – 2.30pm
Wed 29 th	Lego Club Y1 – Y3
Thur 30 th	Y5/6 sports festival – am – Bunyan Sports Hall

December

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	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 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	9.30am - 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

Spring Term 2024

Thur 4 th Jan	Children return to school
--------------------------	---------------------------

Academic Year 2023 – 2024

Autumn Term 2023

Training Day – Friday 1st September 2023
Children return - Monday 4th September 2023
Half term – Monday 23rd October 2023
Training Day – Monday 30th October 2023
Children return – Tuesday 31st October 2023
Term ends – Tuesday 19th December 2023

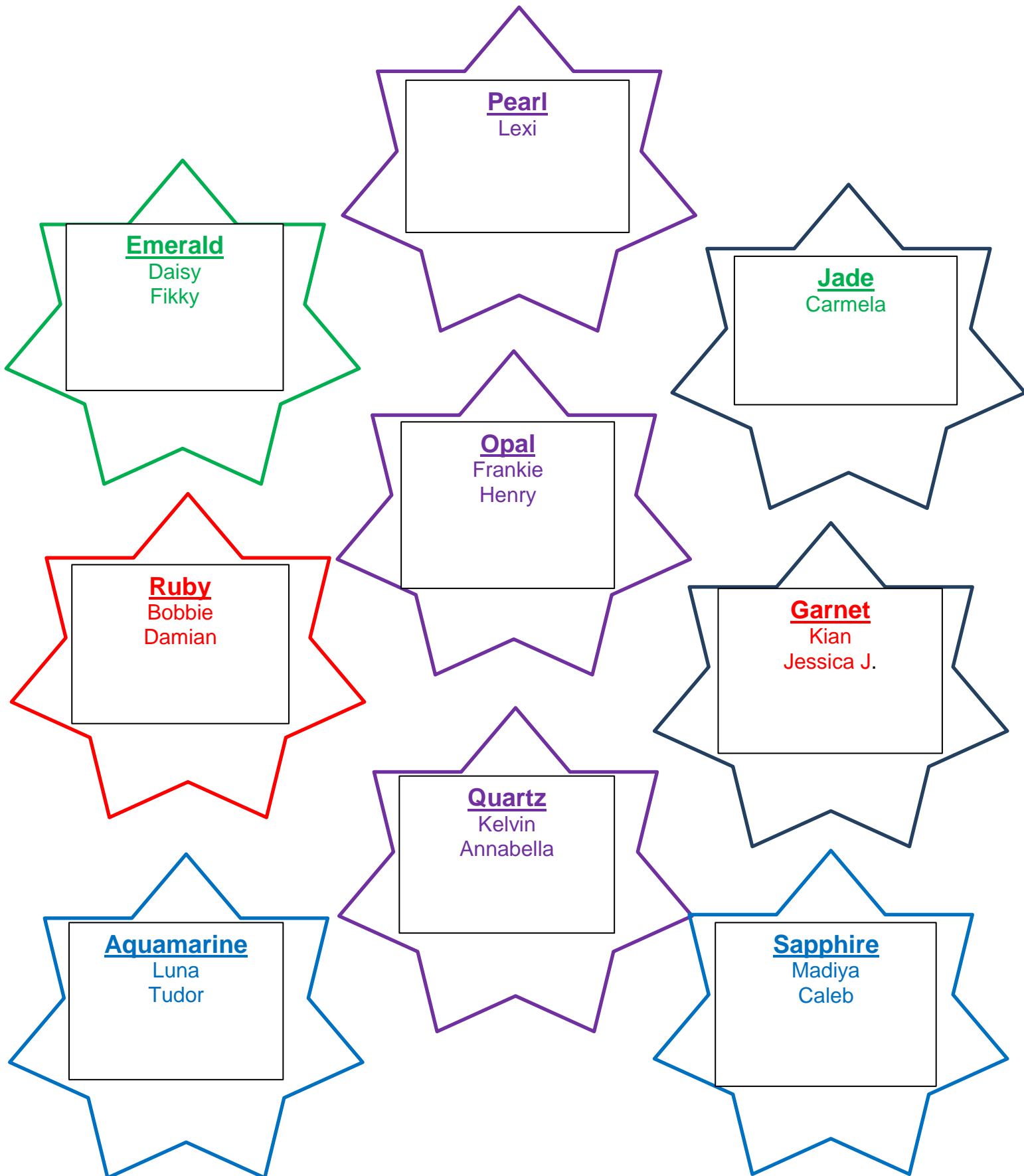
Spring Term 2024

Training Day - Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Children return – Thursday 4th January 2024
Half term – Monday 19th February 2024
Children return – Monday 26th February 2024
Term ends - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Training Day – Monday 15th April 2024
Children return – Tuesday 16th April 2024
May Day – Monday 6th May 2024
Half term – Monday 27th May 2024
Children return – Monday 3rd June 2024
Term ends – Friday 19th July 2024

Stars of the Week
October/November 2023



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification, certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.11.2023

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs: increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.03.2023