



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 – December 2023

A message from Miss Cooke

The Autumn term is the longest term of the school year and so when we get to the Christmas holidays it is a very welcome break for pupils, parents and staff after so many events have taken place in school. The Parent Showcases, were a highlight of the term. To see so many parents having interesting, informative and positive conversations with their children about their learning was amazing and one that many parents have commented so positively about. We have not yet set dates for the Spring Term Showcases, but look forward to parents continuing to attend and discuss learning with their children.

Thank you to all parents who have completed the parental survey that was circulated around parent consultation evenings. One of the areas of feedback that has come out of this survey is that some parents are not aware of what their children will be studying across the academic year in each curriculum subject. This information is available on the school website in the section 'Our Curriculum'. In that dropdown you will find the 'Progression Maps by Subject' section which is information about the progression of individual subjects across the school, In the 'Foundation subjects by Year' section you will find information about the two year rolling programme for foundation subjects. If anyone would still like to complete the parental survey the link is <https://forms.gle/ivj5Zt75FdTibk6f8>

Also displayed on the school website is the three weekly menu followed by our school kitchen caterers, Caterlink. In the 'For Parents' tab you will find a section 'School Dinners and Milk'. Please review the menu with your child and discuss with them what they might choose for lunch each day. The link to our school website is shown as a footer at the bottom page 2 onwards of this newsletter and at the top of this first page of the newsletter.

Our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance competition is progressing well, with the current whole school attendance for the first 5 days being 93%. If your child has 100% attendance for the final 12 days of the term, their name will go in a draw for one of two £20 gift vouchers for Vue cinemas. Even if your child is unwell at any point over the final 12 days of term, their attendance is still important, so once well, please ensure that they return to school.

Attendance at school is so important and the link between a child's attendance at school and their academic progress is undeniable. 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.



A gentle reminder to parents that if your child is too unwell to attend school, please make contact with the school each day to inform us of the reason why your child is not attending school. There has been a new section added to the school web site regarding attendance. Please see this section under the 'About the School' tab.

Even in this time of the cost of living crisis, I am sure all families will do their best to enjoy spending time together over the holiday period. But equally for some families I am sure it will also be a stressful and worrying time. As a school we have a number of avenues that we can support families, so if there is something that you are struggling with, please approach myself, Mrs Stanton, Mrs Cavill, Mrs Dennis or any of the class teachers and we will do our best to support and signpost you to other services.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday and a peaceful new year. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school at 8.45am on Thursday 4th January 2023.

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

Early Finish on the last day of term – Tuesday, 19th December 2023



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.

If you have not already done so, please complete the link below if 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.

After School Club will finish at 4.30pm on Tuesday, 19th December.

<https://forms.gle/rzswEKKPbbov5t4S7>

Parents' Guide to Technology

As Christmas is approaching many children and young people will be asking for new devices. It's important that parents think carefully about these devices and the parental features that are available. It's equally important parents think about what the device will be used for, e.g. an all-singing-all-dancing smartphone when it will only be used for messaging and the odd phone call, would a dumb phone be better?

Internet Matters has put together a couple of really good guides for parents:



How to choose the right phone for your child - [HERE](#) and Children's tech guide 2023 - which has guides on a huge range of tech from laptops to gaming consoles, smart TV's and much more. The guides can be found [HERE](#).

Contact Numbers -

If parents or other family members, for whom we have contact details, are lucky enough to receive a new phone from Santa, please ensure school is supplied with any new phone numbers immediately in January.



www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Snow Closure

We significantly hope that the Bedford area will not be further adversely affected by snow this winter, but if conditions warrant the closure of the school we will report this on our website which can be found at www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk and the Bedford Borough Web Site that can be found at www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures Please be assured that through any bad weather I will do all that I can to keep the school open and operational so long as it is safe to do so. Even if other schools in the local area are closed, children from Edith Cavell should make every effort to attend school. We will also use the school text service to keep you updated on the situation so please ensure that we hold a current mobile phone number for you, especially if you are fortunate enough to receive a gift of a new mobile phone from Santa!!



If the school is forced to close due to snow, we will do all we can to move to online learning immediately.

Google Classroom



Over the Covid lockdowns, we developed the use of Google Classroom to deliver remote learning. Please ensure that children in Key Stage 2 are able to access their school email account and therefore their Google Classroom.

Should the weather in Bedford deteriorate and we have a large amount of snow which means that it is not safe for children and staff to come into school, we will move to online remote learning via Google Classroom.

Please check that previously used accounts still work, before they are needed. If your child is new to the school or in Key Stage 1 they will be issued with their log on to their Google accounts. For children in Reception, any remote learning will be issued through your child's Tapestry account, so please ensure that you have access to your Tapestry account.

If any parents have a problem supporting their child to access their Google account, please make contact with your child's class teacher for support.

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.



Dress up Clothes/ Costumes/Toy cars/Playground appropriate toys



If any families have any dress up clothes, Christmas costumes, toy cars, my little pony type figures, playground appropriate toys that are in good condition and they feel will be of no further use in the family, please consider donating to the school. Our Reception children always enjoy role play and having an appropriate costume or uniform to wear supports the role play. Our children enjoy playing with toy cars, figures and balls in the playground and any donations in good quality would be gratefully received.

Christmas Jumpers

If your child's Christmas Jumper, is still in good condition, but will not fit them again next year, we would be very grateful if you could donate it to the school, so that we can hold a stock of Christmas jumpers to be able to support children and families who are not able to purchase a jumper for their child to wear for Christmas performances.



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.

Reception – September 2024

For parents looking to apply for a place for their child for entry in to Reception in September 2024, we have the following dates available to visit and tour the school:

Monday, 8th January at 2pm

Wednesday, 10th January at 10am

Friday 12th January at 10am

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

Applications for Reception school places for September 2024 must be made to Bedford Borough Council by 15th January 2024.

Head Lice advice

As in every school, we regularly have children who suffer a case of head lice. If a child in any class is suspected of suffering with a case of head lice, the whole class will be advised via the usual letter. We strongly request that every parent is vigilant with their child and regularly checks for any head lice. The most effective treatment for a case of head lice is outlined on the information found at <https://www.chc.org/for-parents/>

To support parents with keeping on top of treatment and detection of head lice, school is able to sell the fine toothed combs that can be used with conditioner to treat and prevent head lice. The combs are priced at 50p each and can be obtained from the school office.



Greet with a smile not a mobile.



As your children come out of school, please try and give them your whole focus and not be distracted by your mobile phone.

Communication skills, discussion and explaining can all be developed through a conversation with your children as they come out of school. Through talking with your children about what they have been learning that day and any reading or homework that has been set will aid your child with their learning and development.

Creative Sports Coaching – Community Action Project

Throughout the Autumn Term Creative Sports Coaching have been working closely with some of our partner schools, their families and their pupils in a community action project. The community action saw just over 75 pairs of footwear collected from sports shoes to school shoes, ranging from size 10K to size 7. We have now uploaded all the footwear to our website which can be accessed and viewed by the link below;

<https://creativesportscoaching.co.uk/commu/>

We are asking schools to share the attached information with their families. Any families wishing to request an item can come directly to ourselves via email at info@creativesportscoaching.co.uk.

These items will then be taken to one of our local training centres for collection or to their school.



News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)

A huge thank you to all those who came to the Christmas Fair it was lovely to see all the families, ex-students, grandparents and staff! We had a wonderful fun morning in the sunshine and this wouldn't have been possible without the huge donations from all of you. Whether that was in your chocolate donations, books, toys, DVD's, cake baking or time ! We raised £1000!!!! Which is incredible.

This money has paid for the annual visit from Theatre of Widdershams which the children and staff enjoyed on Monday.

The rest of the money will go towards a new path way to the library so that it is easily accessible in all weathers!

This term we have had 64 children attend Lego club, 24 children attended Science Saturday and countless children dancing away at the disco!

Thank you for continuing to support FOEC!

Message from the School Governors

The governors have been carrying out their schedule of work in a different way since September. In previous years we fulfilled our roles and responsibilities across three committees and met as a full governing body once a term. The work of the committees has now been incorporated into an increased number of full governing body meetings which are planned for every half term. After our morning meeting in November, the governors were invited to accompany Miss Cooke on a learning walk and experience some of the fantastic work that happens daily in school. It is always a privilege to meet and talk to the children and staff and we look forward to joining them in school at the end of term for Christmas dinner.

As we approach the end of 2023, on behalf of the governors I would like to thank all the staff, parents, volunteers and friends of the school for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a very happy holiday.

Gillian Bishop
Chair of Governors

Advice for parents from Alan Mackenzie (esafety-adviser)

[Useful Links for Parents](#)

Advice by age:

Younger children need different advice and guidance than older children. Older children need different advice and guidance than teens. It can be really difficult keeping up with everything that is online and what risks and issues may affect children of different ages, so on these pages there is some age-related advice and guidance for parents and carers:

Pre-school - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

6 - 10 year olds - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/>

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

11 - 13 year olds - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/11-13/>
14 plus - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/>

Setting up devices:

It can be difficult knowing all the different settings that are available on different devices to help protect children, this includes allowing or disallowing chat, friends, spending money, content filters and much more. On these pages you will find the details, as well as non-technical instructions, which will help you understand what is available to you and how to set up your child's devices.

Gaming consoles and devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>
Smartphones - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>
Broadband & mobile networks - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>
Entertainment and search engines - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Safety/privacy settings on social media:

With many children and young people using social media it is important to understand what features are available to you to help protect your children. This is also important because for the most part, all privacy settings are default off when a new account is created, but also because some social media providers change their features quite frequently, e.g. TikTok.

Take a look at this link to see what is available to you and how to set up your child's social media. We would also advise doing this with your child so that you can discuss the features together.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

Useful new features on YouTube and YouTube Kids

YouTube is hugely popular with all age groups but historically parents haven't had a lot of control over what their children can/cannot watch. But things have changed and YouTube now gives parents a greater degree of control. It isn't perfect but it is a step in the right direction. Take a look at the page below where you will see a few short videos of newer features that can help you on YouTube and YouTube Kids.

<https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/>

Gaming

Finding good games, as well as knowing what is appropriate for the age of the child isn't easy, particularly when there can be lots of peer pressure to play the more popular games that are not always appropriate. Taming Gaming is a great resource for parents to find new games for children as well as lots of advice about content, suitability etc.

<https://www.taminggaming.com/>

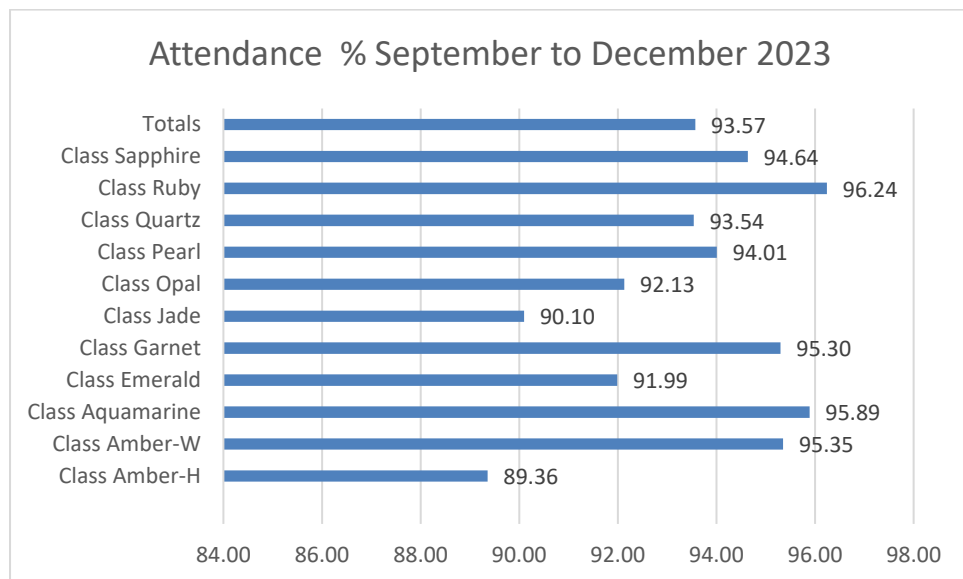
Class emails

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	Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk
Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk	Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@ecls.org.uk	Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarines	aqua@ecls.org.uk	Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk

Attendance



Stars of the Week
November/December 2023

Amber-H
Whole Class
Yousra
Whole Class
Jamal
Mohammad-
Raheem

Amber-W
Whole Clas
Raeleigh
Eric
Bilal

Pearl
Przemyslaw
Whole Class
Ismaeel
Emilio
Maks

Emerald
Aarav
Lyla
Jaleigha
Anugraha

Jade
Kastle
Davina
Loghan
Martinus
Whole Class

Opal
Etienne
Whole Class
Jenna
Kife
Safaah

Ruby
Rion
Kyra
Macey
Rion
Freddie

Garnet
Joe
Tola
Dora
Athce.

Quartz
Kelvin
Kenzo
Ibrahim
Yahya
Archer

Aquamarine
Ona
Dawid
Paulina
Whole Class

Sapphire
Aadhav
Hajirah
Jessica
Aleemah
Denis

Important Dates - Spring Term 2024

Thu 4 th January	First Day of Spring Term for children
Thur 5 th	2pm – New reception (Sept 24) visits
Mon 8 th	Pre-School Children return
Tue 9 th	New Pre-School Children start
Tue 16 th	Braiswick Photography in school – Individual photos
Thur 18 th	UKS2 visit to Space Centre - Stevenage
Mon 5 th Feb	Children’s Mental Health week
Tue 6 th	Safer Internet Day
Fri 9 th	Shine Bright – Wear Bright – No uniform Day
Fri 16 th	Children finish for Half term

Mon 26 th	First Day back for children after half term
Thur 29 th	Sponsored Skip
Thurs 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th	Mother’s Day breakfast
Mon 11 th	Sapphire Sports Festival
Wed 20 th	Jade Sports Festival
Thursday 28 th	Last Day of Spring Term

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

The school term dates for 2024 – 2025 are available on the school web site.