



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
[Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing](#)

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

Newsletter – January 2024

A message from Miss Cooke

Happy New Year

Welcome back to the Spring term. I do hope everyone had a happy and restful holiday and is ready and eager for the new term. The new year is a time to make resolutions or extra effort with something. I have been talking to the children about resolutions and the power of YET. We may not be able to do something YET, but we can work really hard towards that goal that we have. Goals can take many forms, improving our handwriting, learning our tables or reading more for the children. Exercising regularly, watching what we are eating or improving our time keeping for adults. Whatever goals we set ourselves, having a positive mental attitude to achieving those goals is vital in working towards them.

One of the goals that we have as a school is to improve the level of school attendance across the school. This is something that as a whole school community we need to work at together. Especially at this time of year, children do become unwell, but please take note of the Government guidance 'Is my child too ill for school?' which can be accessed on the school website – For Parents – Attendance and here https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

The pace of learning in school is constant and so even one day absent will result in gaps in learning that your child will have to work very hard to fill. A common misconception is that missing school for a very young child is not as important as someone in secondary school. This is not true. If a child does not have good attendance during their early schooling, they are missing essential foundations in learning that will be built on throughout their school life. As with any building, strong foundations in learning are vital to be able to build successfully and securely upon. If your child only has 90% attendance this year that means that they have effectively missed a half day every week. Employers will not accept such poor attendance so it is vital that we develop good attendance habits in children from the start of their school careers.

Following the success of the Parent Showcases that took place in December, we will be repeating these events later in the term, please look on the dates for your diary at the end of this newsletter.

Please can I request that if you have changed your contact details in any way in the last couple of months that you inform the school office. It is vital that we have up to date contact details for all parents so that we can make contact if your child is unwell in school.

As ever, if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to make contact and make arrangements to meet with me.

Miss Cooke

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 6th February 2024



National Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 6th February and in school we will be marking this day by undertaking a number of activities that remind the children about how they can be safe online, their responsibilities to report anything that concerns or worries them that they see on line to an adult. The theme for this year's campaign is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. Further

information about Safer Internet Day can be found via the following link

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>

Chums – Shine Bright – Wear Bright

To support Children's mental health week 5th – 19th February 2024 we will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 9th February**. On this day we encourage the children to come to school dressed in bright clothing and make a **minimum donation of £1** to the CHUMS Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People. Over the week, each class will be thinking about mental health, emotional well-being and how each individual is responsible for their own well-being and mental health.



If a child is not coming to school in uniform, **THEY SHOULD MAKE A MINIMUM DONATION**. This donation can either be made in cash on the day or via Parent Pay.

Winter clothing

During the winter months we very much want children to wearing appropriate clothing for the weather and so hats, gloves, and scarves are an essential. Please can hats, scarves and gloves be named so that when they have been dropped in the cloakroom there is a chance for returning them to their rightful owners as younger children do not always recognise them as their own when asked.



Children will still go outside for playtime, even if it is raining lightly, so a coat with a hood or a hat available would be preferable.

PE Kit

As a new year resolution, we ask that all families ensure that children have their full and correct PE kit in school every day. This includes correctly fitting footwear.

In recent weeks there have been more and more children without correct PE kit and this is restricting learning. Children may also be having PE lessons outside, so please ensure that they have clothing both suitable to wear indoors and wear outdoors.



If you are having difficulty providing your child with PE Kit, please come and talk to staff so that we may offer support.

Any children with pierced ears should have earrings removed at home on PE days as no earrings should be worn during PE lessons for Health and Safety reasons. Also all long hair should be tied up and away from the face so that it does not obscure vision.

Head Lice

Every school in the country, at some point, will have children who suffer an outbreak of Head lice. Edith Cavell is no exception. To this end we ask that parents are extremely vigilant and check their child's hair on a weekly basis. Combing with a small toothed comb is advised to check and treat an outbreak. Advice from the NHS advises that the whole family be checked regularly and treated if an outbreak is detected in any family member.



To help limit the spread of head lice, advice is that any long or shoulder length hair be tied up during the school day. We encourage all parents and children to comply with this advice.

School has a small number of head lice combs available for purchase.

Further information and advice can be found on the school web site and at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Parent Governors

We will soon be looking for additional Parent Governors to join the governing body of the school. If you feel that this is a role that you could consider, but would like to know a little bit more about the role then please look at the information on the borough website at

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/school-governors/school-governors-what-they-do-and-how-apply>

Please look out for further information and nomination forms in the near future.

Dress up Clothes/ Costumes



If any families have any dress up clothes or Christmas costumes that are in good condition and they feel will be of no further use in the family, please consider donating to the school. Our Pre-school and reception enjoy role play and dressing as different characters, people as part of their learning and being able to wear a costume adds to the learning experience.

Second hand Uniform



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 immensely grateful for your clean donations. Specifically, we are currently in need of jumpers, PE shorts, and T-shirts.

Snow Closure

We significantly hope that the Bedford area will not be 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 of the situations 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!!



Bedford Music Hub

Bedford Music Hub have asked that we share this information



We have a new activity we're starting this month on Thursdays at 5:45-6:45pm. I know many primary schools have had whole class Steel Pans delivered by us over the years so many of your students have played them before or are currently playing them in school.

We have a nice new shiny set of chrome pans which are housed at Goldington Academy. Please could you advertise this club to your students or target any students that you think may really enjoy it. No previous experience is needed.

Sign up is on our website <https://bedfordmusicclub.org.uk/get-involved/bedford-steel-pan-academy/> and I have attached a poster if you wish to share in your newsletter or parentmail.

Advance Warning

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March 2024

We will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting children to dress up as their favourite book character. The costumes that the children wear should represent a character that appears in a book. This is not just a general dress up day.

Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 8th March 2024

We invite all children to bring their mum, step mum, foster mum, grandma, nanny, important female figure in their life to join us for breakfast on Friday 8th March.

Attendance

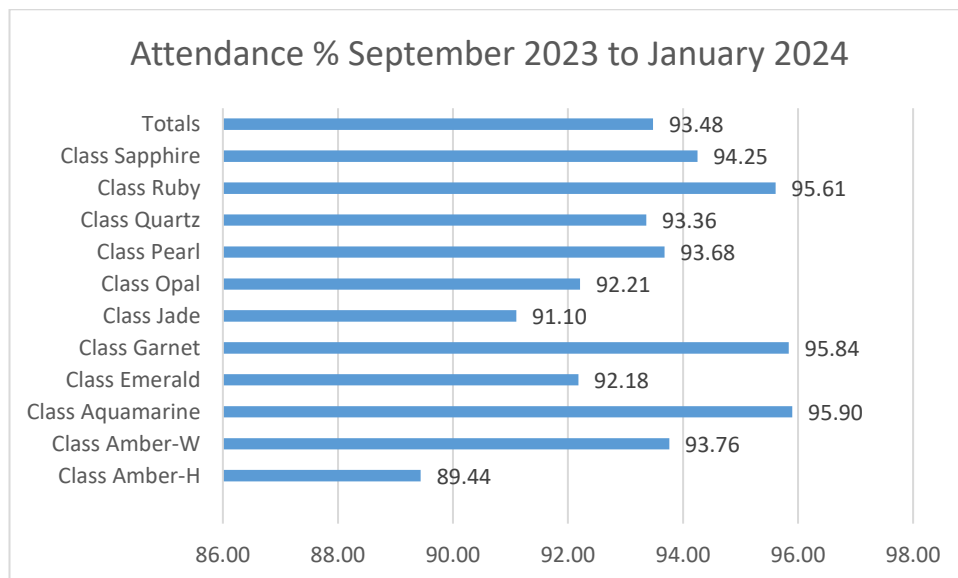
Each week in school we award the 'Attendance Bear' to the class that has had the best attendance in the school. The children enjoy having Attendance Bear in their classroom for the week and eagerly await the results each week. Please help your child's class earn the privilege of looking after Attendance Bear for the week by ensuring that your child attends school every day. The winners of Attendance Bear so far in January have been:



1st – 5th Jan Sapphire Class

8th – 12th Jan Aquamarine Class

Attendance



Stars of the Week
Dec. 2023/Jan. 2024

Amber-H
Whole Class
Oakley

Amber-W
Whole Class
Chester

Pearl
Mollie
Ayaan

Emerald
Artur
Wahab

Jade
Layla
Chassidy

Opal
Whole Class
Damanpreet

Ruby
Whole Class
Shayden

Garnet
Cameron
Adelina

Quartz
Whole Class
Esther

Aquamarine
Archie T.
Fadelah

Sapphire
Mikolaj
Willem

Parent Showcases

Reception – Thursday 21st March

KS1 – Tuesday 19th March

LKS2 – Monday 25th March

UKS2 – Wednesday 27th March

Dates – Spring 2024

Thur 18 th	UKS2 visit to space centre
Wed 24 th	Lego club
Wed 31 st	Aqua class – Harpur Trust art competition day with artist
Mon 5 th Feb	Bikeability Y 5& 6 Children’s mental health week
Tue 6 th	Safer Internet Day
Wed 7 th	Lego club
Thur 8 th	8am – Governors Meeting
Fri 9 th	Shine Bright, Wear Bright – non uniform day
Thur 15 th	FoEC discos
Fri 16 th	Half term
Mon 26 th	1 st day back for children
Wed 28 th	LKS2 Faith tour Lego club
Thur 29 th	Lego club
Thur 7 th	World book day
Fri 8 th	8am - Mother’s Day Breakfast
Mon 11 th	The Big Legal Week 2pm - KS1 & Rec Parent consultations including SEN co-production meetings
Tue 12 th	2pm - KS2 Parent consultations including SEN co-production meetings
Wed 13 th	Year 1 visit to Higgins Museum 3.45pm - Parent consultations including SEN co-production meetings Lego club
Fri 15 th	Red Nose Day
Sat 16 th	FoEC Science Saturday
Tue 19 th	2.30pm - KS1 – Parent Showcase
Thur 21 st	8am – Governors Meeting 2.30pm - Reception – Parent Showcase
Mon 25 th	2.30pm – LKS2 – Parent Showcase
Wed 27 th	2.30pm – UKS2 – Parent Showcase
Thur 28 th	End of term – early finish

Academic Year 2023 – 2024

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