



# EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing*

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

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

## ***Newsletter – September 2025***

### **A message from Miss Cooke**

A very warm welcome to the new school year! We have already had a busy, productive and enjoyable start to the school year, with many more exciting learning opportunities to come through the year.

It has been a truly wonderful first few weeks back, and the school has been buzzing with happy, familiar faces and lots of new ones too. It has been such a delight to see our returning pupils settle back into their routines with such enthusiasm, ready to embrace the learning and fun that lies ahead. We've also loved welcoming new children in to our Pre-school and Reception classes. It has been a joy to see them exploring their new classrooms and making friends.

We welcome Miss Nyamande to the teaching staff as Emerald class teacher, Mr Edwards as our new PE Teaching Assistant and Mrs James as a new TA in Lower Key Stage 2.

September always feels like a fresh start, a time of new beginnings and opportunities. The teachers and I have been so impressed by the positive energy and can-do attitude everyone has shown. We're all looking forward to another fantastic year of discovery, growth, and achievement together.

It has been great to see so many children looking smart in their new PE uniforms. We do understand that there have been some issues with orders from Price and Buckland, our uniform suppliers. It is hoped that these delivery and colour issues will soon be rectified. If any parents have not yet placed orders for PE uniform, please can these be placed as soon as possible so that the children are wearing the correct uniform on the correct days.

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. Messages to your child's class teacher via the class DoJo platform 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*

### **Mobile Phones - Parents**

When you greet your child at the end of the school day, the best welcome you can give is a warm smile and your undivided attention. Our school is a phone-free site for students, and we ask that parents and guardians consider adopting the same practice. By putting your phone away, you can make the most of those precious moments. Use this time to have a genuine conversation with your child and ask about their day. These daily chats are a fantastic way to develop their language, recount, and descriptive skills. Thank you for your support in helping us create a more connected and engaging environment for our school community.



### **Mobile Phones - Children**

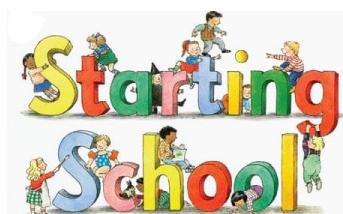
Just a reminder that no child should be seen with a mobile phone on school grounds. If phones are seen by staff, they will be confiscated and parents will need to come and collect them from Miss Cooke. This includes children looking at or playing with a parent's mobile phone.

We want to make our playground a language rich environment and a Mobile Phone Free environment.



### **Starting School in 2026**

If you have a child who you are looking for a school place for September 2026, we are offering a number of opportunities for parents to visit and tour the school. Below is the list of dates and times. Please contact the school office to book a place on one of these visits as places are limited. [office@ecls.org.uk](mailto:office@ecls.org.uk)



Wednesday 22nd October - 2pm

Friday 24th October - 10am

Tuesday 4th November - 2pm

Thursday 13th November - 2pm

Tuesday 18th November - 9.30am

Friday 21st November - 2pm

Wednesday 26th November - 9.30am

Thursday 27th November - 2pm

Wednesday 3rd December - 9.30am

Friday 5th December - 2pm

Tuesday 9th December - 9.30am

Tuesday 16th December - 9.30am

Wednesday 7th January - 2pm

Friday 9th January - 10am

Monday 12th January - 2pm

### **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.

We also wish to remind parents that they should not park in the staff car park between 8.30am and 4pm. During those times it is reserved for staff members only.



### **Safety First: Walking, Riding and Scooting to School**

As the new term gets underway, we'd like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of keeping children safe on their journey to and from school.

Whether they're walking or zipping along on a scooter or bike, it's crucial that children stay close to a parent or a trusted adult at all times ones can get ahead on their bikes or scooters quickly, and it's easy for them to veer into the road without warning, or not be aware of cars and vehicles moving off driveways. By holding hands or keeping a close eye on your child, you can ensure their safety and help them develop good road sense. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our school community safe.



### **Supervision on the playground at the start and end of the day**

Parents are reminded that in the morning before school, children in Years R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 **must** be supervised by an adult and then delivered to their classroom door.

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 £5.45** 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 – Class Dojo. 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.

### **Food Bank Vouchers**

We understand that many families face financial challenges, and we want to ensure that our school community has the support it needs. We want to make the whole school community aware that Edith Cavell is a registered referral partner for the local food bank. This means that we can issue food bank vouchers so if your family is experiencing hardship and you feel you would benefit from a food parcel, please know and we can confidentially issue food bank vouchers. There is no need to be worried or embarrassed; our only goal is to help. Please contact Mrs Dennis, Mrs Cavill or the office staff who will be able to assist you discreetly.



### **PE Uniform**

A quick reminder for all parents and carers: on days your child has PE, please ensure they come to school wearing their full PE uniform. This helps to maximize learning time by avoiding the need for pupils to get changed, ensuring we can get straight to the fun and active part of the day. A list of PE days for each class is available displayed outside their classroom.

PE uniform consists of a Navy sweatshirt and jogging bottoms, with black shorts and white t-shirt underneath. Shoes should be black trainers or plimsolls with black soles and no visible branding.



### Holiday requests



We have received some 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. **New legislation came into force in September 2024** that reinforces that schools should NOT grant 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 legislation the school will not authorise any applications for holiday in term time.

***This new updated legislation has also extended the fines that can be imposed on parents.***

*It is also worth reminding parents that where a leave of absence is not granted, and the holiday in term time is taken the school can request a fixed penalty notice at a cost of £160 if paid within 28 days. This reduces to £80 if paid within 21 days. If a second leave of absence is requested in the same or following 2 years, not authorised, but still taken, a second fixed penalty notice will be issued by the Educational Welfare Service when that child returns to school at a fixed cost of £160. A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.* 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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

### 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.

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.



## School Uniform

Please use the link below to order school uniform from the Price and Buckland website:

<https://price-buckland.co.uk/edith-cavell-primary-school>



## Coats for Kids

**Can you donate any old or unwanted coats to help keep children of Edith Cavell Primary school stay warm this winter?**

**All sizes wanted.**

**Please could they be cleaned prior to donation  
Coats can be dropped off to Mrs Cavill in the school office.**



## Healthy Snacks at Break Time



As we focus on our pupils' well-being this term, we would like to remind everyone about our school's healthy eating policy. Please send your child to school with a healthy snack for break time. Fresh or dried fruit, vegetables, and rice cakes are all great options that give children the energy they need for a busy day of learning.

Please help us by ensuring that snacks do not include chocolate, sweets, crisps, or biscuits. Thank you for your support in keeping our pupils healthy and ready to learn.

## 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 and second hand uniform free of charge. Your child would also receive a small carton of milk daily.

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](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](http://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	£4.75
ASC 1 <sup>st</sup> hour of care	£5.25
ASC two hours of care	£9.75
ASC one and a half hours of care	£7.50
ASC two and a half hours of care	£12.00

### **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.**

### **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.

### **#Hello Yellow – 10th October**



On **Friday 10th 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.

### **Show Racism the Red Card – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

On Friday, October 10th, we'll be holding a special non-uniform day to support **Show Racism the Red Card**. For just a **£1 donation** per child, students can come to school dressed in their own clothes. We encourage everyone to wear something **red** to show their support for this fantastic charity, which works to educate and raise awareness about racism. All donations will go directly to the charity, helping them continue their important work.



## **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' acrostic, 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](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule)

## **Message from FoEC**

### **Hello from the Governing Board**

We hope this message finds you well as we begin a new school term. We're delighted to introduce ourselves, Suad and Abi, as the new Co-Chairs of the Governing Board. It's a real privilege to take on this joint role and we're both looking forward to continuing working closely with the school community to support the continued success and wellbeing of all children at Edith Cavell.

As we step into our Co-Chair roles, we also want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Gillian and Sharon, who stepped down from the board at the end of last term. Both have given their time, energy and thoughtful contributions to the school over the years, and we're incredibly grateful for their dedication and service.

We're excited about the year ahead and look forward to hearing from you - whether through parent surveys, school events or informal conversations, your feedback and involvement are invaluable.

Best wishes,  
Suad & Abi

**Stars of the Week  
September 2025**

**Amber**

**Topaz**

**Pearl**

Isheunesu  
Whole Class  
Brandon  
Whole Class

**Emerald**

Ellie  
Shai  
Olly  
Medeia

**Jade**

Chester  
Hollie  
Whole Class  
Sarah

**Opal**

Damian  
Tola  
Blessing  
Joe

**Ruby**

Eljoina  
Luka  
Daria  
Alice

**Garnet**

Whole Class  
Iyla  
Whole Garnet

**Quartz**

Miller  
Meggie  
Franklina  
Whole Class

**Aquamarine**

Caleb  
Tyler  
Oakley  
Whole Class

**Sapphire**

Ire  
Tudor  
Jack



## **Dates - Autumn 2025**

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Lego Club
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lego Club
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Hello Yellow# - Non-uniform day
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm - Supporting communication Parent Workshop
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Non-uniform Day – Show Racism the Red Card
Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup>	FoEC Disco
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	1 <sup>st</sup> Day back for children
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	After school Gym Club
	5pm – Y6 SAT's parents Evening
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-bullying week – Power for good
	EYFS and KS1 Parent Consultations 2pm – 6pm
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Vaccinations - 8.30am - Noon
	KS2 parent consultations – 2pm – 6pm
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parent consultations 3.50 – 6pm (NO LKS2 Gym or ASC Gym club)
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	2. 30pm – EYFS Parent Showcase
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm – KS1 Parent Showcase
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	After School Gym club
	FoEC – Lego club
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Non-uniform Day – Christmas Fair
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm - UKS2 Parent Showcase
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm – LKS2 Parent Showcase
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 – Parent Lunch
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Last Curriculum Gymnastics
	FoEC – Lego club
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup>	Flu vaccine Mop up – 10.30 – noon
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Theatre of Widdershins
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	2pm – KS1 Dress Rehearsal
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – Reception Dress Rehearsal
	2pm – KS1 performance to parents
	FoEC – Lego club
	Last After School Club Gymnastics
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – KS1 performance to parents
	2pm – Reception Performance to parents
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – Reception performance to parents
	2.30pm – celebration assembly
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	2pm - KS2 dress rehearsal
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	2pm – KS2 performance to parents
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – KS2 performance to parents
	Christmas dinner
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas parties
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Early finish at 1.45pm
	End of Term

## **Academic Year 2025 -2026**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

Training days – Monday and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Children return – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Half term – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Children return – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Term ends – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Spring Term 2026**

Training day – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Children return – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half term – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Children return – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Term ends – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Summer Term 2026**

Training Day – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Children return – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

May Day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Children return – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Term Ends – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026