

Newsletter – December 2025

A message from Miss Cooke

This will be our last newsletter of 2025. We are quickly heading towards the end of the Autumn Term, but there is still so much happening in school.

Please see the dates later in this newsletter that outline the Christmas performance schedule. For **EVERY** performance can I stress to parents the importance of **being on time**. If we advertise the time that the performance starts – this is the time it will start. Parents who are late, disrupt performances and this is not fair for the children, staff and other parents who have arrived on time. Children are looking out for you, disappointed when you are not present and lose concentration if you arrive late.

There is **NO PARKING** in the staff car park for parents to attend Christmas performances. If you are parking on the local streets, please ensure that you park considerately and do not block residents drives.

Thank you to the Friends of Edith Cavell and all parents for attending the Christmas Fair. The event was a great success and that is because so many people attended and had fun. The money raised will support future projects across the school.

Our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance competition is progressing well, with the current whole school attendance for the first 4 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 a £30 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. Please see the posters around school for further information.

We have had significant child and staff sickness since October half term all across the school, so I sincerely hope that the Christmas holidays are an opportunity for the whole school community to rest, get well and recharge their batteries. While children should not attend school if they are unwell, attendance at school is a high priority for the government, local authority and school. As reported in previous newsletters, no holidays in term time will be authorised and the NHS advice about judging if your child is well enough for school can be found here:

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

I wish all families a safe, happy and joyful winter break. If your family are celebrating Christmas, I wish you a Merry and Peaceful Christmas. To all families I wish you a prosperous and successful New Year for 2026.

We look forward to seeing all children in Reception to Year 6 back in school on Tuesday 6th January 2026. Children in Little Treasures return the following week.

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

Christmas Post Box – Tuesday 2nd December

Our annual Christmas Post box will open on Tuesday 2nd December 2025.

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 Wednesday 17th 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.

School staff will not be able to provide lists of children’s names in classes in 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 | Years 1 and 2 | Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Thursday 11th December at 2pm | Wednesday 10th December – 2pm | Tuesday, 16 th December – 2pm |
| Friday 12th December 9.30am | Thursday 11 th December – 9.30am | Wednesday 17 th December – 9.30am |

Nursery children will perform their nativity to their parents at 9.10am on Tuesday, 9th December and Thursday 11th December.

Reception – September 2026

For parents looking to apply for a place for their child for entry in to Reception in September 2025, we are offering a number of opportunities to visit and tour the school.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Wednesday, 3 rd December – 9.30am | Friday, 5 th December – 2.00pm | Tuesday, 9 th December – 9.30am |
| Tuesday, 16 th December – 9.30am | Wednesday, 7 th January – 2.00pm | Friday, 9 th January – 10.00am |
| Monday, 12 th January – 2.00pm | | |

Please contact the school office to book on to one of these tours of the school – 01234-345636

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/2jyEG8ozYFRfKrsz9>

or

log on to the Ofsted Parent View online

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

Christmas Dinner



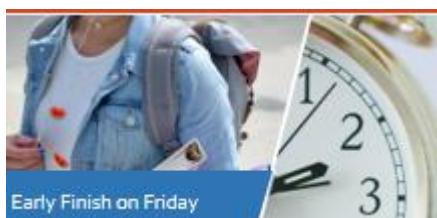
School Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 17th December 2025. Parents may send a packed lunch if they do not wish their child to have a Christmas dinner. The cost of school dinners is **£2.85 for Year 3/4s and £2.95 for Year 5/6s**. Please ensure that payment is made on ParentPay in advance. Please ensure that **all parents** have pre-booked the Christmas dinner through ParentPay.

Christmas Jumper – Wednesday 17th December 2025

On Christmas Dinner day, Wednesday 17th 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.



Early Finish on last day of term – Friday 19th December 2025



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, **Friday 19th December 2025**. 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 Friday 19th December.

<https://forms.gle/dGpPuepeWyapWfdT9>

School Shoes

Since introducing the new PE uniform in September, it has been great to see so many children wearing their smart new uniforms. One area that now needs to catch up is the footwear that children are wearing to school. Starting in the Spring term, staff will be questioning children specifically about their footwear and asking for it to be compliant with the uniform policy. If you will need to purchase new footwear for your child, please ensure that it complies with our school uniform policy.

Our uniform policy – displayed on the school website at

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/about-edith-cavell-primary-school/school-policies/>

clearly outlines the expectations on footwear, both for PE uniform and the main school uniform.



Plain black shoes with no visible branding

School shoes should be plain black – no branding, no coloured patterns or flashes.

If parents buy shoes carefully, both boys and girls should be able to wear the same pair of shoes for both Main and PE school uniform.

Specifically, coloured trainers, should not be worn with PE uniform.

Contact Numbers -

If parents or other family members, for who 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.



Naming school uniform

Please can we ask parents to check their child's Main school and PE 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 unless named.



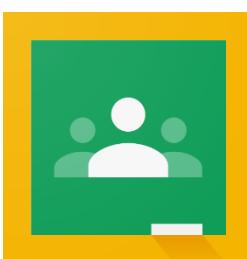
Snow Closure

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 and Class DoJo 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 1 and 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. If any parents have a problem supporting their child to access their Google account, please contact your child's class teacher for support.

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



If any families have any dress up clothes, Christmas costumes, toy cars, Barbie or 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.

Best Start in Life Campaign



The [Best Start in Life website](http://www.beststartinlife.co.uk) brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents.

You can find information about

- the 15 and 30 hours of childcare.
- Universal Credit Childcare
- Baby and toddler Teeth Care
- Learning to Talk
- Tax-Free Childcare
- Early learning and development
- Childcare and Early Years Education
- Starting school website

Please have a look at the website for a range of other advice and ideas.

E-safety advice for parents

Protect Neurodivergent Children from Scams in Games

As we all know, neurodivergent children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Those with ADHD, autism or other divergent ways of thinking might not recognise when someone intends to do harm.



Internet Matters have put together a brand new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games.

You can download the free guide [HERE](#).

Cyberbullying Advice

Children being bullied online, particularly in games and via messaging apps, remains one of the top concerns of many parents and their children. Internet Matters have a range of guides and articles to support parents and carers which I have listed below:

- Talking to children and conversation tips for ages 6-10, 11-13, 14-17 and vulnerable children - [HERE](#)
- What is cyberbullying and what are the signs - [HERE](#)
- Helpful ways to prevent cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- How to deal with cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- Parents experiences of cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- Useful resource - [HERE](#)



Screen time

There has been much controversy over the last few years about the recommended amount of screen time for children, with many different opinions being expressed. Based on the research by Arabella Skinner from Health Professionals for Safer Screens, the Speech and Language Team have produced advice and guidance for parents. The leaflet has been added to Dojo for parents to read the full article, but essentially

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends:

Ages 0–2: No screen time, except for video calls.

Ages 2–5: No more than 30 minutes per day.

Ages 6–17: Limit to 1–2 hours per day and a maximum of 2–3 hours on weekends



This advice leaflet has also been uploaded to the school website in the E Safety Tips and Advice in the For Parents section

News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)

A MASSIVE thank you to everyone for supporting, attending, donating, running a stall, sweeping up and having fun at the Christmas Fair.

It was so lovely to see so many happy faces!

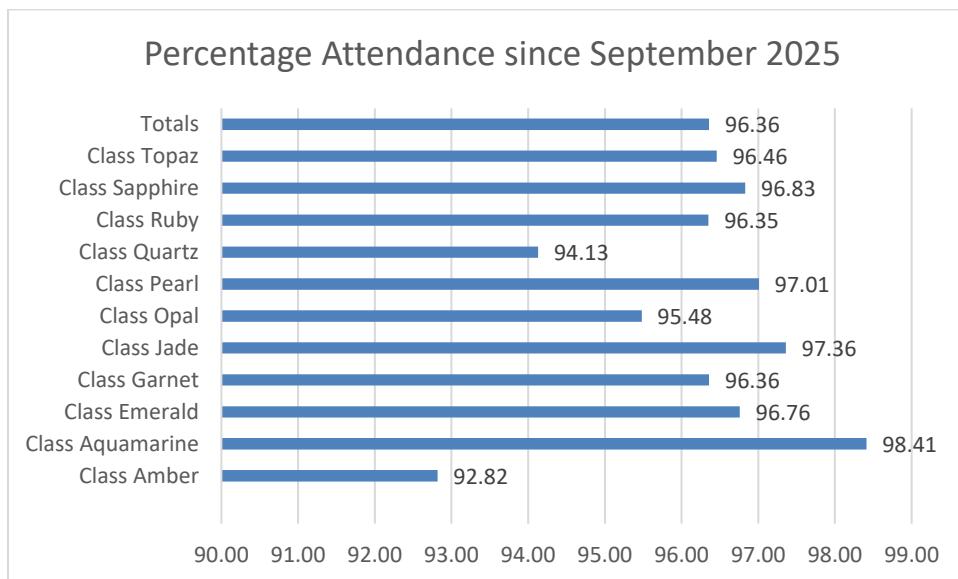
Typically, having made the decision to be inside the sun was shining but at least Father Christmas had his usual spot in the Grotto outside.

The money we raise all goes back to supporting the children and this year we have been able to do the following with the monies raised at the events run by FOEC:

- New picnic benches for the playground
- Theatre of Widdershins performing
- 90 new fleeces for all ages to add to the existing stock
- Supplies for the Christmas Tree festival
- Cooking equipment for Cooking club

It is vital that this charity continues so if anyone would like to get involved please get in touch with the office. As September 2027 a new Chairperson will take the reins and continue to raise funds for the school by putting on events for the children!

Attendance



Stars of the Week 2025

Amber

Reo
Freya
Phoenix

Topaz

Emmanuel
Jenson

Emerald

Shameel
Izzy
Arianna

Jade

Whole Class
Sienna

Pearl

Angad
Jess J
Sufyan

Opal

Roman
Josh

Ruby

Berdzhan
Ashley
Bilal
Lucyanne

Garnet

Jaleigha
Jacob

Aquamarine

Caiden
Erik
Anaya

Quartz

Clay
Mia
Aaryan
Sebi

Sapphire

Kenzo
Ethan

Dates - Autumn 2025

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Tue 9 th Dec | 2pm – KS1 Dress Rehearsal |
| Wed 10 th | 9.30am – Reception Dress Rehearsal |
| | 2pm – KS1 performance to parents |
| | FoEC – Lego club |
| | Last After School Club Gymnastics |
| Thur 11 th | 9.30am – KS1 performance to parents |
| | 2pm – Reception Performance to parents |
| Fri 12 th | 9.30am – Reception performance to parents |
| | 2.30pm – celebration assembly |
| Mon 15 th | 2pm - KS2 dress rehearsal |
| Tue 16 th | 2pm – KS2 performance to parents |
| Wed 17 th | 9.30am – KS2 performance to parents |
| | Christmas dinner |
| Thur 18 th | Christmas parties |
| Fri 19 th | Early finish at 1.45pm |
| | End of Term |

Academic Year 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025

Training days – Monday and Tuesday 1st and 2nd September 2025
Children return – Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half term – Monday 27th October 2025
Children return – Monday 3rd November 2025
Term ends – Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Training day – Monday 5th January 2026
Children return – Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half term – Monday 16th February 2026
Children return – Monday 23rd February 2026
Term ends – Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Training Day – Monday 13th April 2026
Children return – Tuesday 14th April 2026
May Day – Monday 4th May 2026
Half term – Monday 25th May 2026
Children return – Monday 1st June 2026
Term Ends – Friday 17th July 2026

2026 – 2027 Term dates are published on the school website.