



# EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing*

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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

## Newsletter – January 2026

### A message from Miss Cooke

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2026. We are motoring through January, the daylight each day is extending and hopefully we have seen all the winter's extremely cold weather for this season.

The start of the Spring term brings new themes of study in each phase of the school along with refocus on the basics of reading, writing and maths. Parents can continue to play such an important part in their child's progress and development by ensuring that they listen to their child read very regularly and supporting their children to complete and return homework on time.

At the start of February, we have the Spring Term Parent Showcases organised for parents to come in to school so they can share and discuss with their children, the learning that they have been completing along with showing the evidence in their exercise books. At the Phase Showcases, parents will be able to see the progress that their children are making and will be able to further discuss achievement with class teachers at Parent Consultations after half term.

Since the introduction of our PE uniform in September, it is great to see how smart the children look in their tracksuits. When classes go out of school on PE competitions and festivals they look so smart in their PE uniforms. For the colder months, the Friends of Edith Cavell have purchased for the school, class sets of school branded fleeces which can be worn over PE uniform. Thank you to FoEC for supporting the school with these fleeces.

We have many exciting events planned for this term, all are outlined on the diary dates at the end of this newsletter. Please note down the dates for Parent Consultations and Parent Showcases so you do not miss them.

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. Also, if you are not able to access your mobile phone while at work, please ensure that we have the contact details of someone who can be contacted and could come and collect your child if they are unwell. We have had a number of instances recently when we have not been able to contact either parent and unwell children have had to remain in school until the end of the day, distressing the child and increasing the possibility of illness being spread to children and staff.

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*



### **Damaged Reading Books**

We have had an increasing number of reading and library books returned to school from home either ripped, wet or damaged. While we understand that accidents can happen, we kindly ask that parents and children take extra care with school reading and library books, that they are not left where younger siblings can access them and that they are protected from water bottles.

The school does not have the funds to be continually replacing damaged reading books.

We would also ask that you are honest about any damage that has occurred and point it out to school staff.

If a reading book or library book has been damaged, we will ask families to pay towards the replacement of that book.

Families will be sent a note asking for payment via ParentPay.

### **Parent Showcases – February 2026**

Our popular Parent Showcases, will take place again this term. The showcase is an opportunity for parents to come into school to view their children's school books, see art work, presentations and have discussions with staff and children about the learning that the children have been engaged with this term.

These Key Stage Showcases will take place in the hall from 2.30pm. The children will choose their favourite or piece of work that they are proudest of to be on display in the hall and will show that to their parents along with explaining how the particular piece of learning fits in to the programme of learning that they have been engaged in this term. (slightly different for Reception)

Reception – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

KS1 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

LKS2 – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

UKS2 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Children and siblings may go home with their parents after they have visited the Showcase



### **Parent Lunch – UKS2 Parents**



Building on the success of previous Parent's Lunches in June and November 2025, Caterlink, the company who provide our onsite school dinners, are offering the parents and carers of children in Year 5 and 6 the opportunity to come into school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 12.30pm to share a school lunch with their children.

Any parents who wish to take up this opportunity should book, select a meal option and pay for a school dinner on Parent Pay before Midnight on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Parents should arrive at school at 12.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 when they will join their children in the school dining hall to eat their school lunch. Parents will be asked to leave the school once they have eaten their lunch and spent time with their child.

## PE Uniform

As a new year resolution, we ask that all families ensure that children wear their full and correct PE uniform on their publicised PE lesson days. This includes correctly fitting footwear.



Navy branded sweatshirt

Navy jogging bottoms

Black trainers or plimsolls with black sole and no visible branding

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 MUST be tied up and away from the face so that it does not obscure vision.**

## Chums – Shine Bright – Wear Bright

To support Children's mental health week 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 we will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026



National Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 online to an adult. The theme for this year's campaign is **'Smart tech, safe choices –**

**Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'**. Further information about Safer Internet Day

can be found via the following link

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

## Sponsored Run/Jog/Walk - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Last year's Sponsored Skip was such a success that we have decided that our sponsored event this year will be a sponsored Run/Jog/Walk.

We will set up a 'track' that will go around the KS2 playground, across the back of the school and then around the KS1 playground. The children in KS1 will have 15 minutes, KS2 children will have 30 minutes to complete as many 'laps' as possible in that time. They may run, jog or walk at any point in that 15/30 minutes. We are looking to raise funds this year to further update, extend and replace damaged books in our reading book collection.

Sponsor forms will be sent out before half term and we ask that all children attempt to raise some money to support this event as all children will benefit from the new books that we will be able to purchase. Please look out for the sponsor forms.



### **Snow Closure**

We significantly hope that the Bedford area will not be adversely affected by snow again 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](http://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk) and the Bedford Borough Web Site that can be found at [www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://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 of the situations so please ensure that we hold a current mobile phone number for you, especially if you were fortunate enough to receive a gift of a new mobile phone from Santa!!



### **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 8.45am - 9am to listen to your child read. Just go along to your child's classroom.

### **Advice from DfE and NHS**

As expected in the winter months, seasonal illnesses are circulating and to support parents, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published [advice](#) on how to reduce their spread. Schools should continue maintaining high attendance expectations and refer parents to NHS [guidance](#) to know when a child is too ill for school. Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea and/or vomiting.



Please see poster below.

### **Advance Warning**

Parent Showcases – From 2.30pm

Reception – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

KS1 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

LKS2 – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

UKS2 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

### **World Book Day - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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.

### **Careers Day**

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding our now annual Careers Day. The children will be thinking about the different careers that they might like to consider when they are older. We want to inspire and enthuse the children to think about the different jobs that could be open to them in their future and the paths that they can take to achieve their aspirations. We hope that the children will have the opportunity to meet, talk with and question visitors who are working in a huge range of professions about their career paths, what they enjoy about their work as well as the down sides, unknown or unseen impact or consequences of their jobs. If you can help with this, please get in touch with Miss Cooke.

### **Parent Consultations**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - 2pm – 6pm – Little Treasures, Amber, Topaz, Emerald, Jade and Sapphire

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - 2pm – 6pm – Ruby, Garnet, Sapphire, Pearl, Opal, Quartz

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – 3.50pm – 6pm – all classes

## Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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 13<sup>th</sup> March from 8am.



### **For Parents - Updated Android Controls**

From the beginning of December 2025 Google released new and updated parental controls for Android devices. These include:

- Set the amount of screen time that can be spent on a device each day to help establish healthy habits.
- Set downtime schedules to automatically lock the device at night to ensure restful sleep without distraction.
- Control app usage by limiting time spent on specific apps, or blocking apps entirely.
- Add more time by granting extra minutes when a time limit is reached, or to extend a scheduled break.

You can find further details about these updates on the Google blog [HERE](#) and Internet Matters have a handy Android guide for parents which you can find [HERE](#).

### **The Children's Commissioner**

The Children's Commissioner has recently published a new guide titled 'What I wish my parents or carers knew. A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.'

This guide emphasises **Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society.** For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

We have placed a copy of this document on the school website on the website in the parents drop down in the 'e safety tips and advice' tab. It can also be accessed via this link

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

### **News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)**

Our big event this term is the disco on Thursday 12th Feb. We look forward to seeing your children all dressed up and ready to party! If you have song request please email the school office.

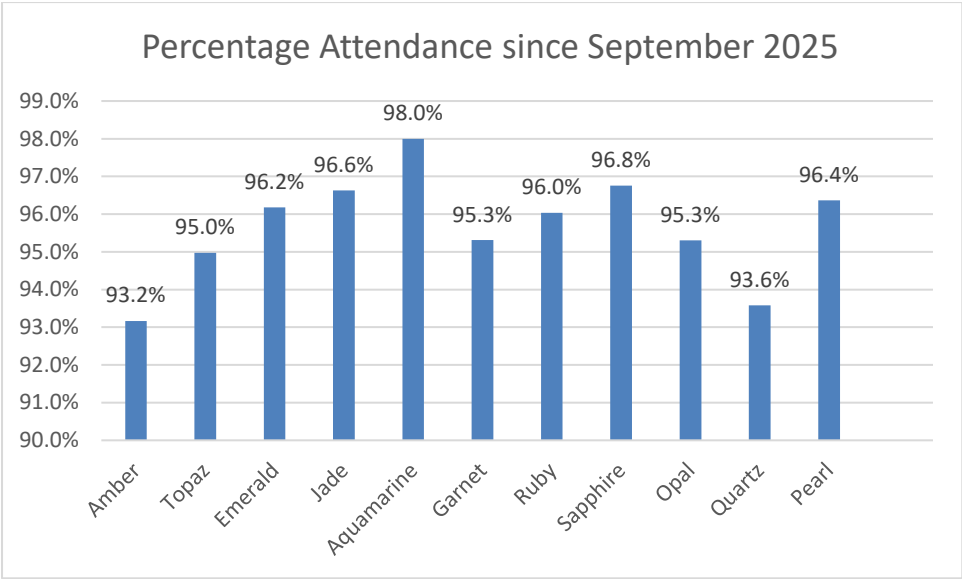
As always, we are looking for volunteers to help us run the disco on the night but also to pack sweets. Please get in touch with the school office.

A reminder also that we will be looking for a Chair Person from September 2027 so if anyone is interested in talking to me (Abi) about the role please get in touch.

Many thanks

FOEC

**Attendance**



## Stars of the Week 2026

### Amber

Shaban  
Ivy  
Sofia

### Topaz

Levi  
Whole Class  
Kulrai

### Pearl

Whole Class  
Macey  
Stefan

### Emerald

Rahman  
Nicole  
Harry

### Jade

Whole Class  
Yousuf  
Santina

### Opal

Whole Class  
Elizabeth  
Zephy

### Ruby

Mikayla  
Tudor  
Isla

### Garnet

Carmela  
Whole Class  
Kaelon

### Aquamarine

Raeleigh  
Whole Class  
Patrick

### Quartz

Athce  
Whole Class  
Rosalee

### Sapphire

Zayan  
Anitah  
Carys



### **Important Dates – Spring 2026**

Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	2.30pm - Reception Showcase
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm - UKS2 Parent Lunch Lego club
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm LKS2 Showcase
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day – Smart Tech – safe choices 2.30pm – UKS2 showcase
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Showcase
Thur 12 <sup>th</sup>	UKS2 visit to Discovery centre in Stevenage FoEC Disco
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Shine Bright – Wear Bright – Non-uniform day Half Term

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	1 <sup>st</sup> Day Back Well-being week
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Reception – vision screening
Thur 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored Event
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Careers Week
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Careers Day Lego Club
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	2pm - KS1 & EYFS Parent Consultations
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	2pm - KS2 Parent Consultations
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	3.45pm – Parent Consultations Lego club
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Breakfast
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lego Club
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Comic Relief
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Termly Music Showcase
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	LKS2 – Sing on concert @ Corn Exchange Lego Club
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – Early Finish 1.45 pm

### **Academic Year 2025 -2026**

#### **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

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

[www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk](http://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk)





# Should I keep my child off school?

## Yes

### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.