



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

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www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Newsletter – October 2024

A message from Miss Cooke

As we come to the end of what will be the longest half term of the academic year, children and staff are ready for a break and a chance to recharge their batteries. We have had many children and staff suffering with mild infections and half term is the opportunity to recover health and catch up with sleep.

I have recently shared a copy of the Ofsted Report written after the inspection visit in July with all parents. It can also be accessed on the school Website and will be displayed on the Ofsted Website from the start of November. The report rightly outlines an overwhelmingly positive opinion of Edith Cavell and the work that the children, staff and governors do. The third paragraph totally sums up Edith Cavell

“Pupils’ behaviour is commendable. Respect and tolerance are evident in all relationships. Everyone is kept safe.

There is a culture of vigilance. Parents and carers are positive about the school and their children’s education.

Pupils are overwhelmingly positive about the school, their lessons and the wider opportunities provided. “

To read the full report please click here <https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/ofsted/>

There have been items in the press about the Governments wish that all schools will be able to offer wrap around care from 8am to 6pm. At Edith Cavell we currently offer wrap around care from 8am to 5.30pm. We would like to gather your opinions on if extending our After School Club times up to 6pm would be financially viable and something that parents will find useful and use. Please look out for the survey that will be emailed out in the next few days.

I want to take this opportunity to remind parents about the need to be punctual when collecting children at the end of the school day. For Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4, **school ends at 3.30pm** and parents should be waiting for their children at that time. If children are not collected on time they will be taken to the main office and names recorded so we can see patterns.

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.

I want to say **THANK YOU** to parents and children for their donations to our #HelloYellow non uniform day on 6th October. The children looked fantastic all in different shades of yellow. If as a school we can have a bit of fun and raise funds to support very worthwhile charities, it is supporting the children’s learning about British Values and being a citizen in the UK in 2024. We raised £220 which again is a fantastic amount and will be forwarded to the charity.

#HelloYellow

A quick reminder that children should attend school on **Monday, 4th November. This is the first day back at school after the half term.**

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



Coats



As the weather will start to become colder and wetter, all children should be bringing a coat to school **EVERY DAY**.

We will always try to take the children outside at break and lunchtimes, including when it is raining slightly. If your child does not have a coat, they will get wet and have to sit in wet sweatshirts for the rest of the school day which is not good for them.

Wear it Pink Day

On Friday 25th October we will again be supporting Breast Cancer Awareness by inviting the children to come to school dressed in the colour Pink and making a **minimum £1** donation to the charity. This is a charity that we have enjoyed supporting regularly. Seeing the children in such varying shades of Pink and with such great ideas for wearing pink in creative ways is a great fun, a great sight and supporting a very worthwhile charity.

Children should wear at least one item that is pink, if not in uniform.

Parents can make this donation preferably on the school Parent Pay site.



Homework – Special Reward Time

Close links between home and school matter to us, as we know that parents have a vital role to play in their child's education.



Supporting with homework is a key way in which parents can

support their child's learning journey. As part of the Home School Agreement, parents are asked to *'Support my child with homework, home learning and assist them to 'hand in' on time.'*

By working together to support children to take increasing responsibility for their learning as they grow older, good habits will become established and these routines will be the foundations for future learning at Secondary school.

Each week children from Year 1 up to Year 6, will be set homework. There will be a date by which homework must be returned. If children have not returned homework by this date, it is highly likely that unless there are special circumstances, your child will miss their special reward time on a Friday, to complete the learning activities that have not been completed at home.

Advance Warning

Year 1 and Reception parents - When your child starts talking about phonics, do you wonder what an earth they are talking about? Do you think – 'that isn't how I did it at school?' Do you want to develop the way that you support your child with their reading? We are here to help you!



Tuesday 22nd October – 9am & 2.45pm Please come along to our – What is phonics? session where we will show you how we teach phonics in school using the Sounds Write scheme and how you can use these methods to help you child with their reading at home. Please come along and chat with staff and other parents about phonics and early reading over a cuppa and biscuit!

Wednesday 6th November – 5pm

Is your child in Year 6? Please come along to our Y6 SAT's parents' information session.

We will explain what the Year 6 SAT's look like, how we will be preparing your children in school and what you can do at home to help as well.



Parent Pay

The school's online payment portal, Parent Pay, is a quick and easy way to pay for most costs, charges or donations to the school. From charity



donations to paying for a trip, school dinners or Breakfast and After School Club. Please remember to allocate your payment to the correct payment item you are paying for.

Breakfast Club and After School Club can be booked and paid for via the website up to 11.59pm the night before a session.

We hope that this will reduce the number of ad hoc sessions that children are accessing.

While Breakfast Club and After School Club are always there if needed as an emergency option to parents, it is important that children are pre booked into sessions so that we can ensure that we have the correct staffing ratios and food available to be able to safely accommodate any emergency bookings that come in during the day.

Caterlink School Dinner Changes

After half-term Caterlink will be moving to a system, still on ParentPay, where parents will choose and book their child's school dinner either daily or weekly. Payment will continue as normal where appropriate.

Please look out for an email that will explain how to do this. Any queries please speak to the office or email office@ecls.org.uk.

Packed Lunches

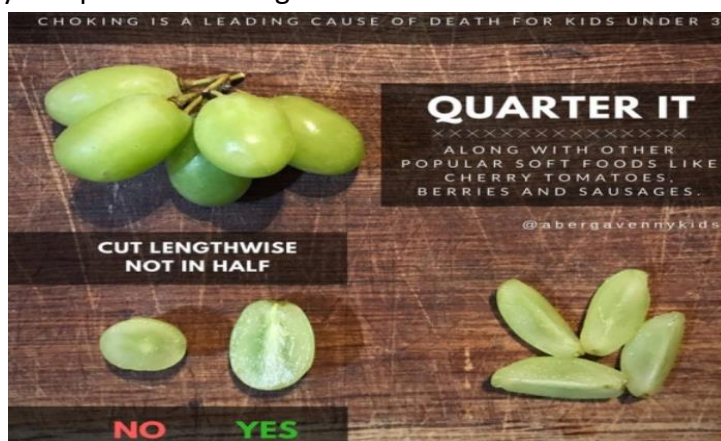
EDITH CAVELL IS A NUT FREE ZONE

Children bringing packed lunches, **MUST NOT** bring any kind of nut product, which includes peanut butter and chocolate spread, as part of their packed lunch. We have a number of children in school who have allergies to nuts and especially peanuts.



Packed lunches should also be a healthy meal and so should not have packets of sweets or large chocolate bars or large amounts of chocolate. Midday supervisors regularly check lunch boxes, and so will speak to your child about the content of their lunch box if it is considered to contain a high amount of unsuitable or unhealthy items.

In contrast, grapes are a very healthy option to have as part of a packed lunch, but we ask that any children in Reception or KS1 who have grapes as part of their packed lunch or playtime snack, that the grapes are cut length ways. This is to try and prevent choking.



Message from the Police



Bedfordshire Police want to ensure that Halloween is a happy and safe time for everyone, whether young or old and as always we are asking for your support in assisting with this.

If possible, parents and guardians should go out trick or treating with their children, sticking to well-lit areas and only knocking on the doors of people they know. Some people may have 'No trick or treat' posters up at their

doors, we ask that these are respected.

Bedfordshire Police is also reminding children and parents to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may feel intimidated by people calling at their doors and appeals to all residents to look out for their neighbours who may feel frightened during this time.

Extra patrols will be on hand over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period to ensure that the evenings can be enjoyed safely.

Have fun and stay safe this Halloween

Our tips –

- As Halloween approaches Bedfordshire Police is reminding parents and guardians to keep their children safe.
- If possible, parents and guardians should go out trick or treating with their children, sticking to well-lit areas and only knocking on the doors of people they know. Some people may have 'No trick or treat' posters up at their doors and we ask that these are respected.
- Bedfordshire Police is also reminding children and parents to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may feel intimidated by people calling at their doors and appeals to all residents to look out for their neighbours who may feel frightened during this time.
- Extra patrols will be on hand over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period to ensure that the evenings can be enjoyed safely. If you do have any concerns during Halloween, it's important that you call 101 in order to keep 999 free for genuine emergencies - 31 October is one of the police's busiest nights of the year!

For more advice about Halloween please visit www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Parent Showcases – November 2024

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 Showcase – Monday 18th November from 2.30pm

LKS2 Parent Showcase – Tuesday 19th November from 2.30pm

KS1 Parent Showcase – Wednesday 20th November from 2.30pm

UKS2 Parent Showcase – Thursday 21st November from 2.30pm

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



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 12th December at 2pm	Wednesday 11th December – 2pm	Tuesday, 17 th December – 2pm
Friday 13th December 9.30am	Thursday 12 th December – 9.30am	Wednesday 18 th December – 9.30am

Nursery children will perform their nativity to their parents at 11am for morning session parents and 12.30pm for afternoon session parents on Thursday 12th December.

Reception – September 2024

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.

Monday, 21 st October – 9.30am	Friday, 25 th October – 10.00am	
Wednesday, 6 th November – 9.30am	Tuesday, 19 th November – 9.30am	Thursday, 28 th November – 9.30am
Friday, 15 th November – 10.00am		
Monday, 2 nd December – 2.00pm	Friday, 6 th December – 2.00pm	Tuesday, 10 th December – 9.30am
Thursday, 9 th January – 9.30am	Friday, 10 th January – 2.00pm	

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

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

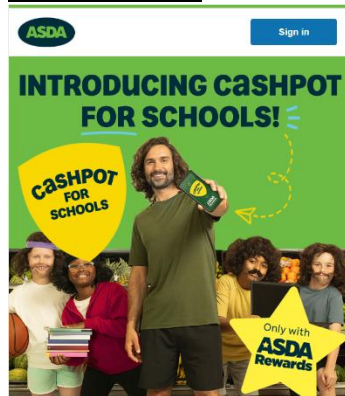
At this time of year, it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school.

The NHS has produced the following advice to help you decide when it is best to keep them at home or send them into school:



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

Asda Cashpots



Edith Cavell have teamed up with Asda, please see the link below for further information:

[https://view.emails.asda.com Cashpot for schools](https://view.emails.asda.com/Cashpot%20for%20schools)

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Family Hubs – We have been asked to share this information by Bedford Borough

We have exciting news, our new Family Hubs website is live! You can find the website here <https://familyhubs.bedford.gov.uk/> with loads of information to help you and your family, including a searchable 'What's on' in Bedford Borough section which we will be adding to all the time. If you'd like to take a look and feedback please do using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHwebsitefeedback2>, we'd love to hear your thoughts and if you have any suggestions for things we have missed please let us know!



There will be a free family fun day on Wednesday 30 October to launch the brand new Family Hubs website.

This fun day will be a celebration of all things Family Hubs. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the services we offer and the local support available for your family.

Activities for all ages will be on offer, such as:

- Climbing wall
- Spiral Freerun
- Inflatables
- Face painting
- Food activity
- Soft play
- Games
- Bubbles

From 9-10am it will be SEND friendly, followed by fun for all families from 10am-3pm.

Bedford Junior Park Runs

Junior parkrun is a **free** timed 2k event for 4-14 years which takes place at 9.00 am every Sunday. There are now two in the Borough - Jubilee Park ([Bedford junior parkrun](#)) & Great Denham Country Park ([Great Denham junior parkrun](#)).

These events are very much about community and families coming together outdoors as is taking part in the 2km run, jog, walk. Despite its name, walking at a parkrun is very much welcomed and it is not just for speedy legs.

Some more information can be found here - <https://www.parkrun.com/about/join-us/junior-parkrun/> including a lovely explanation video

Message from the School Governors

It's hard to believe that it's the end of October and we are already halfway through the Autumn term. The Autumn term is always a very special time, in particular for the children, families and staff who are new to the school community. If you joined the school in September, we hope you've had a fantastic first half-term and continue to thrive and enjoy your time at Edith Cavell. We look forward to seeing you at some of the many occasions and events taking place in school over the rest of the Autumn term.

Looking back to the end of the summer term, the governors said goodbye to Andy who has stepped down from his role after four years as a governor at Edith Cavell. We are very grateful to Andy for his work and commitment and wish him all the very best for the future.

Wishing everyone a happy half-term break

Gillian Bishop

Chair of Governors

parents will have the ability to see some limited information such as number of video uploads, comments etc.

I think some parents may be disappointed that this is quite a limited set of features and I would agree. You can read more about this [HERE](#).

[For Parents - My Family's Digital Toolkit](#)

There are so many really good resources out there for parents/carers about how to help keeping children safe online, but it can quickly become really overwhelming.

Internet Matters has a really great resource for parents called My Family's Digital Toolkit. This is a personalised resource which gives age-specific advice, advice to deal with specific concerns, recommendations for digital tools to support children's interests and more.

The toolkit is free and you can find more details [HERE](#).

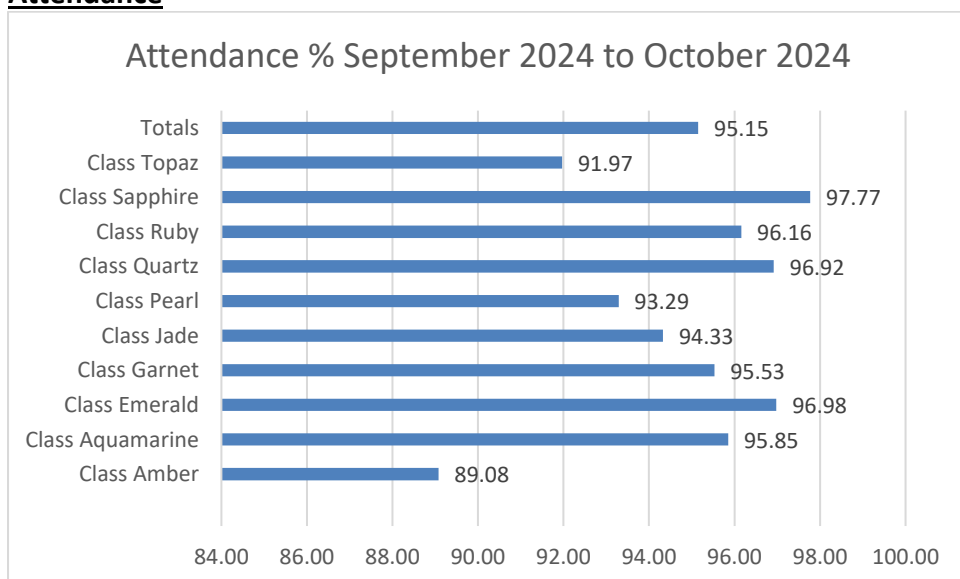
Class emails

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
Quartz	quartz@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarines	aqua@ecls.org.uk
Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk
Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Jade	jade@ecls.org.uk
Amber	amber@ecls.org.uk
Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk
Topaz	topaz@ecls.org.uk

Attendance



Dates - Autumn 2024

Fri 25 th Oct	Wear it Pink Day – Non uniform day Half Term
Mon 4 th Nov	1 st day back with children
Wed 6 th	Y6 parent's SAT's evening
Mon 11 th	EYFS and KS1 Parent Consultations from 2pm
Tue 12 th	KS2 Parent Consultations from 2pm
Wed 13 th	Parent consultations from 3.45pm FoEC – Lego Club
Thur 14 th	Aqua sports festival – am – Mark Rutherford
Fri 15 th	Children in need – non-uniform day
Mon 18 th	2.30pm – Reception Showcase
Tue 19 th	2.30pm – LKS2 Showcase
Wed 20 th	2.30pm – KS1 Showcase FoEC – Lego Club
Thur 21 st	2.30pm – UKS2 showcase
Wed 27 th	FoEC – Lego Club
Sat 30 th	FoEC Christmas Fair
Wed 4 th Dec	FoEC – Lego Club
Mon 9 th	Theatre of Widdershins
Tue 10 th	PM – KS1 Christmas Performance - dress rehearsal to rest of school
Wed 11 th	AM - Rec Christmas Performance - dress rehearsal to rest of school PM – 2pm - KS1 Christmas Performance - to parents
Thur 12 th	AM – 9.30am – KS1 Christmas Performance - to parents PM 2pm – Reception Christmas Performance - to parents
Fri 13 th	AM – 9.30am – Reception Christmas Performance - to parents PM – 2.30pm – Celebration Assembly
Mon 16 th	PM – KS2 Christmas Performance - dress rehearsal to rest of school
Tue 17 th	PM – 2pm – KS2 Christmas Performance - to parents
Wed 18 th	AM – 9.30am – KS2 Christmas Performance - to parents Christmas dinner – Wear your Christmas Jumper
Thur 19 th	Christmas Parties
Fri 20 th	Last day of term – Early Finish

Academic Year 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term 2024

Training Day – Monday 2nd September 2024
Children return – Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Half term – Monday 28th October 2024
Children return – Monday 4th November 2024
Term ends – Tuesday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Training Day – Monday 6th January 2025
Children return – Tuesday 7th January 2025
Half term – Monday 17th February 2025
Children return – Monday 24th February 2025
Term ends - Thursday 4th April 2025

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Summer Term 2025

Training Day – Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Children return – Wednesday 23rd April 2025
May Day – Monday 5th May 2025
Half term – Monday 26th May 2025
Children return – Monday 2nd June 2025
Term ends – Friday 18th July 2025

The school term dates for 2025 – 2026 are available on the school website.