



# EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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

## ***Newsletter – September 2024***

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

Happy New School Year! Welcome to the 2024 – 2025 academic year. Welcome back to those children who have moved up to their next year group and welcome to those children and families who are joining us, in reception and across the school, for the first time. Myself and all the staff look forward to continuing to work with all families to support all pupils to learn, grow and achieve.

It has been great to see so many smiling faces on the playgrounds in a morning when I have been outside. What has also been so pleasing is to see how punctual most families have been and waiting in the playground before 8.45am ready for the classroom doors to open. I do hope that this continues as the year progresses. I would also encourage all parents to be just as punctual at the end of the school day. Parents of children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 should be waiting at the classroom doors at 3.30pm to collect their children. I have seen a large number of parents who are only arriving at 3.35pm or after. If you have a child who finishes school at 3.30pm and another at 3.40pm, you must collect at 3.30pm and then wait with your child for Year 5 and Year 6 to finish at 3.40pm

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. We would also strongly request that when parents collect their children from school that they are able to direct their full attention to greeting their child after a day at school rather than engaged on their mobile phones.



This academic year is going to be very special. Edith Cavell School first opened in September 1974, so we are 50 years old this year. It is our **GOLDEN** anniversary. We will be planning a range of event to mark this milestone across the academic year.

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. Emails to your child's class teacher via the class email addresses (listed at the end of the newsletter) 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*

## Little Treasures – Pre School

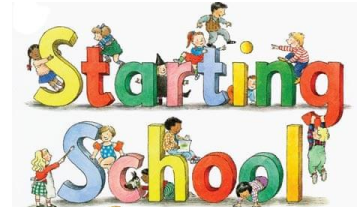


In the term after their third birthday, children can attend **either** a morning **or** afternoon session at Little Treasures Pre-school. Morning session is from 8.40am – 11.40am. Afternoon session is from 12.30pm – 3.30pm. Please advertise and share information about Little Treasures Pre-school with your friends and family.

To register for a place at Little Treasures Pre-school, please contact the main school office on [office@ecls.org.uk](mailto:office@ecls.org.uk)

## Starting School in 2025

If you have a child who you are looking for a school place for September 2025, 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)



Mon 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> October at 9.30am

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> October at 10am

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> November at 10am

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am

Thur 28<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2pm

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am

Thur 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 9.30am

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 2pm

# COFFEE MORNING

At Edith Cavell Primary School

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - 9am-10am**

Please join us for some refreshments!

The SENDCO (Mrs Stanton) and Family Support Worker (Mrs Pearce) will be on hand for an informal chat or for an opportunity to meet with other parents and carers. Little siblings are welcome too!

## 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.



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

Parents are reminded that children in Year 4 and below, **must** be supervised by an adult until their start of school time in the morning and **must** be collected by an adult at the end of the day.

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 – via email if possible to the class email addresses listed below. 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.

## Holiday requests



We have received a number of 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>



## School Uniform

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

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

## 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, or Mrs Pearce, Family Support Worker via the school office.

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.

## Coats for Kids

**To help with sustainability, are you able to donate any old or unwanted coats, in good condition, 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 Pearce in the school office.**

**Before long, we hope to have a good selection of jackets and coats should your child require one.**

## 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 hoc rate.

	Pre booked	Late Booking
Breakfast club	£4.75	£4.95
ASC 1 <sup>st</sup> hour of care	£5.25	£5.45
ASC two hours of care	£8.75	£9.15

### **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.

### **Healthy Snacks**

We would like to remind parents that children may bring a small **healthy** snack into school each day in a small container clearly labelled with their name and class. Reception and Key Stage 1 children are also provided with a free piece of fruit at break time. Healthy snacks could include fresh and dried fruit, vegetables, currants, cheese strings, or pita bread. We ask that **NO NUTS** are included as part of snacks as we have a number of children in school who are allergic to nuts. Please keep these snacks separate from lunch boxes and in small hand-held named containers, as it makes them easier and quicker to locate at break time. **No chocolate, crisps or sweets should be brought to school as these are not healthy snacks.**

### **#Hello Yellow – 11th October**



On **Friday 11th 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.

## **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)

## **Local Authority SEND Inspection**

You may be aware Bedford Borough is due its next Local Area SEND Inspection imminently. Below is an information guide and video link to explain more about the process, opportunities to give feedback via surveys and other parts of the inspections you may be requested to support:

[Area SEND inspection explained - information for parents and carers \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

The local Authority have created a page on the Local Offer to support this also, so please refer and signpost to this, and the regular updates we share on our Local Offer social media pages:

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/advice.page?id=4IWvBOSmG8c>

## **Online Safeguarding Update for Parents**

### **NEW Resources from the NSPCC**

Techosaurus is a new character from the NSPCC which aims to help parents and carers have positive conversations about online safety with young children.

The Techosaurus Activity Pack helps to make conversations with young children, about staying safe online, as easy as possible for parents and carers, with a colouring in activity, dot-to-dot and maze game. Each pack includes:

- Four Techosaurus activities designed to teach about online safety,
- An Online Safety Family agreement to complete together
- A digital certificate to celebrate completion of the training
- A parents guide to the activities, and how to talk about staying safe online

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/>



## **Message from FoEC**

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who took time to vote for us with their blue tokens in Tesco for 'Books for the Book Nook'.

As a result of all your hard work we came first and have secured the top prize of £1,500 to be spent on brand new books for the library!

This is a grant from Tesco Stronger Starts in partnership with Groundwork UK, to give children across the UK a stronger start in life.

Thank you, Tesco, and all of you too!

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

FoEC are back this new term and welcome all new children, parents and carers to our events this coming Autumn:

Lego Club

Disco – Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Christmas Fair – Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### **Class emails**

Class email addresses for your child's new class teacher are listed below and can be used to communicate with class teachers as face-to-face meetings are highly discouraged. 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](mailto:office@ecls.org.uk)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Email address</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Opal	<a href="mailto:opal@ecls.org.uk">opal@ecls.org.uk</a>	Ruby	<a href="mailto:ruby@ecls.org.uk">ruby@ecls.org.uk</a>
Quartz	<a href="mailto:quartz@ecls.org.uk">quartz@ecls.org.uk</a>	Emerald	<a href="mailto:emerald@ecls.org.uk">emerald@ecls.org.uk</a>
Pearl	<a href="mailto:pearl@ecls.org.uk">pearl@ecls.org.uk</a>	Jade	<a href="mailto:jade@ecls.org.uk">jade@ecls.org.uk</a>
Aquamarines	<a href="mailto:aqua@ecls.org.uk">aqua@ecls.org.uk</a>	Amber	<a href="mailto:amber@ecls.org.uk">amber@ecls.org.uk</a>
Garnet	<a href="mailto:garnet@ecls.org.uk">garnet@ecls.org.uk</a>	Topaz	<a href="mailto:topaz@ecls.org.uk">topaz@ecls.org.uk</a>
Sapphire	<a href="mailto:sapphire@ecls.org.uk">sapphire@ecls.org.uk</a>	Little Treasures	<a href="mailto:treasures@ecls.org.uk">treasures@ecls.org.uk</a>



## Dates - Autumn 2024

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Sept FoEC – Lego Club  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Triple P parenting session  
Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct FoEC – Lego Club  
Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> EYFS Parent session – supporting communication at home – 9am and 2.45pm  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Triple P parenting session  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup> FoEC – Lego Club  
Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Hello Yellow - non-uniform day  
Triple P parenting session  
Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Sapphire sports festival – am – Scott  
Wed 16<sup>th</sup> FoEC – Lego Club  
Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Wear it Pink Day – Non uniform day

### **Half Term**

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

## **Academic Year 2024 – 2025**

### **Autumn Term 2024**

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

### **Spring Term 2025**

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

### **Summer Term 2025**

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

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