



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 – December 2024

A message from Miss Cooke

This will be our last newsletter of 2024.

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, it is a great time to reflect on all the events, and highlights of the term.

Clear highlights of the term are all the brilliant Christmas productions that the children have performed over the past 2 weeks. All the hard work that the children, supported by the amazing school staff, have put in to each of the performances is wonderful. It has been so rewarding to see the huge smiles from all parents and family members who have attended one or more performances. Thank you to all who have attended.

Another highlight of the year is the visit from Theatre of the Widdershins. This year Andy brought his unique skills, storytelling ability and puppets to share the Tales of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the Three Little Pigs with the children on Monday 9th December. This treat for the children is paid for by the Friends of Edith Cavell from monies raised at the school disco and Christmas fair, so thank you to all parents who supported these events.

We have consulted parents about possible changes to a couple services that we currently provide. Starting from Tuesday 7th January 2025, we are extending the opening hours of After School Club. After School Club will now be available until 6pm for children in Reception up to Year 6. (unfortunately, we are unable to offer wraparound care to preschool children) Bookings should be made via ParentPay, in advance, to benefit from reduced fees.

We are also consulting parents about the possibility of extending our Preschool, Little Treasures provision to an all-day session, 8.45am – 3.30pm. If we receive positive responses to our consultation, it is likely that all day preschool sessions will be offered from April 2025. If you would like more details about places in our Little Treasures Preschool class, please contact the school office.

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/>

In the new year, we will be displaying each classes attendance on their classroom door, each week, so parents can see the level of attendance in their child's class each week.

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Our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance competition is progressing well, with the current whole school attendance for the first 7 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 £20 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.

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 2025.

We look forward to seeing all children in Reception to Year 6 back in school on Tuesday 7th January 2025. Children in Little Treasures return later in the 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

Early Finish on last day of term – Friday 20th December 2024



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 20th December 2024**. 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 20th December.

<https://forms.gle/MDCKGBhAodKvmzPa9>

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.



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 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.

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Google Classroom



Over the Covid lockdowns, we developed the use of Google Classroom to deliver remote learning. Please ensure that children in Key Stage 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.

Naming school uniform

Please can we ask parents to check their child's school 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.



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.

E- safety advice for parents

My Family's Digital Toolkit



Internet Matters have this great resource - The Family Digital Toolkit is where parents can get personalised online safety advice based on a number of factors such as age, popular apps and platforms their children use, tackling online issues and more. As a bonus parents can also be entered into a draw to win a prize bundle (including an iPhone 15).

<https://www.internetmatters.org/digitalfamily-toolkit/>



Online safety: parental controls The Guardian has published a news story on the introduction of new measures on Roblox aiming to improve protection for children on the online gaming platform. Updates include greater parental controls allowing parents to monitor their children's activity on the platform; adjustments to built-in limits around how children under 13-years-old can communicate with others; and changes to content warning labels.

warnings

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/nov/18/roblox-to-hand-parents-more-control-over-their-childrens-activity>

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

Initial Dates - Spring Term 2025

Mon 6 th Jan	Training Day
Tue 14 th	Braiswick – individual photos
Mon 20 th	Vision screening – Reception
Tue 21 st	New to EC meeting
Thur 6 th Feb	Governors meeting
Tue 11 th	Safer Internet Day
Thur 13 th	FoEC Discos
Friday 14 th	Half Term

Mon 24 th Feb	First Day back at school
Thur 27 th	Sponsored Event
Fri 7 th March	World Book Day
Tue 11 th	Ruby – Sports festival
Wed 26 th	Jade class – Sports festival
Thur 27 th	8am – Governors
Fri 4 th April	End of Term – Early finish

Academic Year 2024 – 2025

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

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.