



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 – November 2024

Message from Miss Cooke

Thank you to the parents that attended the recent Parent Consultations and Parent Showcases. It is lovely for the children to be able to share their books with their parents and demonstrate how proud they are of their learning. We will be organising Parent Consultations and Showcases again next term.

We have had a considerable amount of pupil and staff sickness throughout November. It has been necessary to send home many children from school because they are unwell in one way or another. We do follow the NHS guidelines on recovery times. If a child has been sick or suffering with diarrhoea, they should not return to school until 48 hours after their last bout of illness. This is to prevent the spread of highly contagious germs and protect all members of the school community. We respectfully request that all parents observe this time scale and do not try to send their child back to school too soon.

When your child is going to be absent from school, all parents should contact the school either via telephone or email to inform us of the reason for absence. If we do not receive an explanation for your child's absence then this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

We are coming into a very busy period in school with many different events that parents can attend in school. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at the different events. If a parent can't attend due to work commitments, we are always very happy to see grandparents or different family members coming to support the children. Please note if it is a grandparent or other family member is attending the school event, they will not be able to take the child home, unless parents have given specific permission by speaking to the class teacher or office **before** the event.

We ask that all adults that are attending performances are **PROMPT**. If adults are coming in late, it disrupts the performance and also distresses the children if they can't see an adult they thought was coming to see their performance. All start times are outlined in the section later in the newsletter.

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



Parental Opinions

Every year we ask for parent's views about the school.

You can either complete the paper copy of the questionnaire from class teachers at Parent Consultation meetings or

Complete the electronic version

<https://forms.gle/DNTYSP9UgrRg6iVx5>

or

log on to the Ofsted Parent View online

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

Slade Walk – Pedestrian Zone

I have been asked by the head teacher at Livingstone Primary School, Mr Thornes, to remind all parents of children at Edith Cavell that at school pick up and drop off times, Slade Walk is a vehicle free, pedestrian zone. No parent vehicles are allowed to drive up Slade Walk. This is for the safety and protection of all the children, families and staff that attend both Edith Cavell and Livingstone Primary Schools.

Parking on Knellor Close and Raynolds Close

School has continued to receive complaints from residents who live in Knellor Close, rightly complaining, about the unacceptable actions of drivers, taxi drivers and parents who are using Knellor Close particularly to drop off children, park to drop off and collect children from Edith Cavell.

When Bedford Borough Parking Control Officers or Miss Cooke are out on Knellor Close, drivers will observe the rules of the Highway code, not block residents' drives or park in NO PARKING areas. When Parking Control Officers or Miss Cooke are not present, some drivers think that it is OK to ignore NO PARKING markings – this is putting everyone at risk. The road users, pedestrians and local residents. If residents cannot get out of their drive and along the road if there is a medical emergency, or an emergency vehicle can not get along the road, someone's life could be at risk.

PLEASE will all parents and carers observe the Highway Code, park correctly and not block driveways AT ALL TIMES.



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 vomiting.

Christmas Tree Festival



As a school we have entered the St Paul's Church in Bedford annual Christmas Tree Festival.

This year the school will again be decorating a Christmas Tree for the festival. Children across the school produce decorations around a theme that are displayed on the tree.

If you wish to visit the Christmas Tree Festival held at St Paul's Church to see the Edith Cavell decorated tree along with all other entries, the festival is open

Wednesday 4th December to Saturday 7th December 10am till 5pm and Sunday 8th

December noon till 4pm. Admission £3 but children under 16 are free.



12 Days of Christmas Attendance

Attendance Matters
Twelve Days of Christmas



Every Day Counts

Last year we ran a very successful Attendance Challenge – 12 days of Christmas Attendance and so we have decided to run this competition again this year. To reward good attendance over the last 12 days of the term, (5th – 20th December 2024) we are holding a 12 days of Christmas attendance competition.

- 1) All children who have 100% attendance for the final 12 days of the term will be entered into a prize draw for a £20 gift voucher for Vue Cinemas.
- 2) The class with the best attendance for these 12 days will earn a movie afternoon with popcorn in January 2025
- 3) If the whole school has attendance of over 93%, everyone will get double playtime on two mornings in the Spring Term.

Last year the whole school pulled together and did manage the whole school target and children received their rewards in the Spring term.

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, 5 and 6 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.

Photography Policy

A reminder to all parents that our photography policy clearly states that any photographs taken during productions MUST be for family use only and not uploaded to the internet or social media sites.

To read the full policy, please see the school website at

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

Christmas Post Box – Monday 9th December

Our annual Christmas Post box will open on Monday 9th December 2024.

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 Friday 20th 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.

No school staff are able to provide lists of children’s names in classes in school.



Christmas Dinner



School Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 18th December 2024. Parents may send a packed lunch if they do not wish their child to have a Christmas dinner. The cost of school dinners is **£2.82 for Year 3/4s and £2.92 for Year 5/6s**. Please ensure that payment is made on ParentPay in advance. Please ensure you have pre-booked the Christmas dinner through ParentPay.

Christmas Jumper – Wednesday 18th December 2024

On Christmas Dinner day, Wednesday 18th 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.



Advance Warning



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.

Please look out in the next couple of weeks for a link to a form to inform us 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.

Reception – September 2025

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, 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

News from the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC)

A massive thank you to the whole school community for the generous donations and time that everyone gave to make the fair a great success!

It's always so lovely to see everyone turn up and the children all looked so happy in their Christmas jumpers.

Thank you to everyone who baked or cooked food. It really is amazing to see all the wonderful treats and thank you for taking the time to do this.

We would also like to thank the year 6 children who worked hard to plan their stall at the fair.

The Theatre of Widdershams will be performing at school on 9th December - FOEC cover the cost of this and this year's disco raised the money to pay for it.

All the money we raise goes back into school to pay for the 'extras' so thank you for making that possible.

The new books are making their way to the library. And we thank: @tescostrongerstarts; @Tesco and @groundworkuk for making this possible.

Lastly, we appreciate the support you give FoEC! Thank you and have a great December. We look forward to seeing you in January for more fun!

Information from Family Lives

Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

Keeping Children Safe On Line

Roblox Major Safety Updates.

Last week Roblox, the game used by 90 million people daily, announced some major updates which are available to users and parents. The rollout has already started and will be fully implemented by March 2025. These safety updates include:

- Limits to how children under 13 can communicate.
- Parental controls accessible from the parents phone rather from the child's device (remote management).

There's too much detail to include within this newsletter so to see an explanation of all the new features visit the Roblox website [HERE](#).

You can also see the full guide to Roblox parental controls on the Internet Matters website [HERE](#).

Second-Hand Devices Guide

Often when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's a hand-me-down, for example when a parent gets a new device on contract. This can be a real positive, mobile devices are very expensive and the latest/greatest devices often have very limited additional functionality over older devices.

But it's really important these devices are configured correctly for younger users. thankfully Internet Matters have a full guide to help parents navigate all the different features and settings, plus how to choose the right second-hand device, safety concerns and much more.

All information and guidance can be found [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.

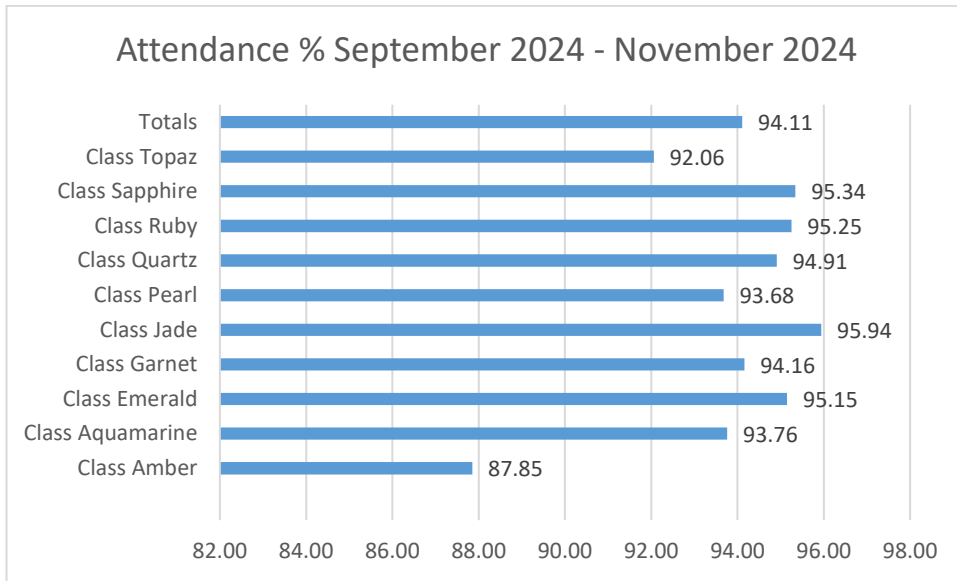
The school office can be contacted on 01234 345636 or office@ecls.org.uk

Class

Email address

Pearl	pearl@ecls.org.uk	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	Topaz	topaz@ecls.org.uk
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk	Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk
Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk		

Attendance



Dates – Autumn 2024

December

Tue 3 rd Dec	Last Gym session
Wed 4 th	FoEC – Lego Club
Mon 9 th	Theatre of Widdershins
Tue 10 th	PM – KS1 dress rehearsal to rest of school
Wed 11 th	AM - Reception dress rehearsal to rest of school PM – 2pm - KS1 to parents
Thur 12 th	AM – 9.30am – KS1 to parents 11am – Little Treasures Morning children performance 12.30pm – Little Treasure Afternoon children performance PM 2pm – Reception to parents Preschool nativity at 11am for morning session parents and 12.30pm for afternoon session parents
Fri 13 th	AM – 9.30am – Reception to Parents PM – 2.30pm – Celebration Assembly
Mon 16 th	PM – KS2 dress rehearsal to rest of school
Tue 17 th	PM – 2pm – KS2 to parents
Wed 18 th	AM – 9.30am – KS2 to parents Christmas dinner – Wear your Christmas Jumper
Thur 19 th	Christmas Parties
Fri 20 th	End of Term – Early finish at 1.45pm

Spring Term 2025

Tues 7th Jan Children return to school

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.