



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

Tel: 01234 345636 E-mail office@ecls.org.uk

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

Newsletter – March 2025

A message from Miss Cooke

As we approach the Easter holidays, I can reflect on the very busy Spring Term that is coming to a close. The success of our inaugural Careers Day was certainly a highlight of the term. I hope your children were able to describe and discuss with you the visitors to their class who shared information about their career, the steps that they have been through and the qualifications that they have achieved to arrive at their current Career. We are already planning for next year's event.

A reminder to all parents, that the staff car park is NOT to be used by parents at the start and end of the school day. This includes taxis. Parents MUST NOT arrange for a taxi to come into the staff car park to drop off them and their children at the start of the school day, or to collect them at the end of the school day. Going forward our site manager, Mr Shedu will refuse access to taxis.

Parental engagement in booking Parent Consultation appointments and parents granting permission for visits and events has been a huge frustration in school this term. The number of parents responding to email requests has been EXTREMELY low this term, which has necessitated repeated further emails, or class teachers placing repeated messages on ClassDojo. Please, please let us know if there is a barrier to parents responding to emails. Is the issue around the School Cloud system? Is the issue using Google Forms? Is the issue the timing of emails throughout the day? Would timing information emails to be received by parents in the early evening be a better time for parents to respond? Lack of response from parents causes significant additional workload for staff in school and may result in children missing out on opportunities or visits. I would genuinely welcome feedback from parents to work out what school can do to ensure that parents respond to requests within a few days. Please email responses to office@ecls.org.uk or catch me when I am on the playground at the start or end of a school day.

As we approach the Easter holidays, I hope all families have a restful holiday and that the weather continues to show us some signs of Spring and gets a bit warmer. We return to school for the Summer term on **Wednesday 23rd April 2025**.

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



Price Increase of school branded merchandise

We have been informed by our uniform suppliers, Price and Buckland, that as of 1st April 2025, there will be a price increase on school branded merchandise.

Royal Logo Sweatshirt £11.95

Royal Logo Cardigan £13.25

Royal PE Bag £5.00

Royal Classic Book Bag £7.45

Royal Book Bag with Strap £10.45



Advance Warning

We are planning on making a variation to our Uniform Policy in September 2025.

As many other schools have, we are planning on introducing a specific Uniform PE kit. The plan is that on days that your child has a PE lesson, they wear their Uniform PE kit in school all day - they come to school in the Uniform PE kit and return home in their Uniform PE kit at the end of the school day. This will reduce the amount of learning time lost to changing during the school day.

Parents can purchase a plain Navy tracksuit from high street retailers or available on the website of the school uniform supplier, Price and Buckland, there is already available a branded Navy tracksuit. These two items can be purchased individually, so parents can purchase a branded sweatshirt and jogging bottoms or could purchase navy jogging bottoms from any high street store. Under the Navy track suit, children can wear their regular school polo shirt or a plain white t shirt, so the sweatshirt can be removed if they get warm.

We are aware that this could be an increased financial burden on families in an already challenging financial landscape. Price and Buckland, do offer parents the opportunity to pay in instalments and school will also work with parents of children who receive Free School Meals to support them to comply with our new uniform requirements.

Also available on the Price and Buckland website, is a branded white t-shirt that could also be worn under the PE sweatshirt. Plain white polo shirts or plain white t-shirts can also be worn as part of Uniform PE kit.

P.E Kit

- ▶ Navy Edith Cavell logo sweatshirt
- ▶ Navy jogging bottoms
- ▶ Black shorts
- ▶ White t-shirt/ polo shirt
- ▶ Black trainers (black soles and no visible branding) or plimsolls



navy school logo sweatshirt

navy jogging bottoms

black trainers or plimsolls with black sole and no visible branding



white t shirt



black shorts



PE kit bag

Part of PE Kit Bundle 3 Items for £15.50

Part of PE Kit Bundle 3 Items for £15.50

Part of PE Kit Bundle 3 Items for £15.50



Edith Cavell Primary School PE T-Shirt

£6.50



Black Microtech PE Shorts

From £6.80



Edith Cavell Primary School PE Bag

£5.00

PE Kit List:

- PE Kit in a Bag £15.50
- Navy PE Joggers £11.95
- Navy Logo PE Jumper £11.95
- White Logo PE T-Shirt £6.50
- Black PE Shorts £6.80

Branded items are optional and not compulsory. Colours of uniform items are compulsory.

From September 2025 **ALL** children will need to wear Uniform PE kit in the correct colours as listed above on the days they have PE.

Early finish on Friday, 4th April 2025

We would like to give parents the opportunity to collect their children early on the afternoon of the last day of term, Friday, 4th April 2025. 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 note: Year 5 and Year 6 children will not be allowed to leave early without the school receiving a completed form from parents. Forms have been emailed to parents.

<https://forms.gle/FRsABfe3cPyB47HR8>

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Parents may collect their child/ren at the early finish time from their normal class. Any children not collected at the early finish time, will be cared for in their phase groups until the normal end of day.

GEMS – Afterschool Club

The after school club will be available **until 4.30pm on Friday, 4th April 2025** and bookings should be made in the normal way via Parent Pay.

HAF vouchers – Holiday and Food Vouchers

Eligible families will have now received their HAF vouchers and instructions on how to redeem the vouchers to book sessions.

We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of the available bookable activity sessions.

More information about the scheme can be found on the Local Authority website at:-

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/site.page?id=321OWcrtr7g&localofferchannel=0>

SSG is delivering one scheme and will be operating out of Ursular Taylor Primary School in Clapham. SSG Active Care programme is open to children aged 5–12 years and will operate on selected dates throughout the Easter holidays. Parents have the option to choose either half-day or full-day sessions. The programme offers a safe and supportive environment for children to engage in physical activity, enjoy new experiences, and build new friendships. Each day features a range of activities, including inflatable fun, multi-sports, outdoor adventure and challenge, team building games, arts and crafts, and much more.

How to book:

Parents should be encouraged to book via the E-Vouchers booking platform using their unique booking code, by searching for 'SSG Activities-Active Care'.



Parking on Knellor Close

I have again had contact from concerned residents about the actions of parents when coming to school, in their cars, to drop off their children. Residents report that parents are not parking considerably, are just pulling up in the middle of the road, are using and blocking resident's driveways.



When I am able to stand up on Knellor Close, or the borough parking attendants are in attendance, parents seem to remember that they should park considerately, but as soon as either I or parking attendants are not present, parents revert back to parking without consideration or according to the highway code.

This is an ongoing issue, and I can only urge all parents who park on Knellor Close to examine their own conscience about the actions they take and the example that they are setting their children.

Breakfast and After School Clubs



Our Breakfast and After School Clubs are both very popular clubs with many children attending each day. Payment for any sessions required at Breakfast or After School Club **MUST** be booked and paid for prior to the session being taken. Sessions must be booked and paid for via Parent Pay. A guide on how to make a booking on Parent Pay can be found on our school website at

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/For-Parents-How-to-make-meal-or-event-bookings.pdf

If you need to make an emergency booking for After School Club, during the school day, please phone the school office and make the payment for the session as soon as possible.

If you have any problems with using the Parent pay system, please contact the school office for support.

If parents are late collecting their children, there is an advertised Late Fee that we will be applying to parents accounts and future sessions will not be able to be booked until the late fee is paid.

Parent advice and support for Online Safety – From Alan Mackenzie – online safety specialist - <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/>
For Parents - Under 5's



As more and more younger children get access to their own or borrowed tablets it's important to make sure these devices are set up correctly and children are using age-appropriate apps/games. Internet Matters have a great set of resources for parents of these younger children which you can find [HERE](#).

For Parents - New TikTok Features

During the 2nd week of march TikTok released some new features which will help with supervision. These new features include Time Away, a feature to decide when it's time for children to take a break and a reoccurring schedule. There's also a feature which allows parents to see who their children are following on TikTok.

More information about these new features can be found [HERE](#) and the full range of TikTok Family Pairing features can be found [HERE](#).

For Parents: TikTok, Teens, Social Media and You

MediaSmart have released a wonderful new resource for parents whose children are using TikTok. Designed for 13+ (as you have to be 13 to use TikTok), the resources will help parents better understand their young person's online world and support them through conversation and participation.

There's a campaign film, downloadable guide with practical tips, a school to parent letter and more. Full details can be found [HERE](#).

Resource - Know your Emojis

Do you know your eggplant from your snowflake? How about a horse or a stick of dynamite?

If you watched the Netflix drama series, Adolescence, you may have been confused by the talk about the different emojis that are used in messaging to convey a message. Some of these will be obvious, others not so much.

Richard Pomfrett, a safeguarding consultant runs his Boyz 2 Men programme in schools and he has put together a quick guide to some of the different emojis that are used.

You can download Richard's guide [HERE](#) and his main website is [HERE](#).

For Parents - How to Talk About Misogyny

The Netflix short series 'Adolescence' has got a lot of people concerned and talking about misogyny, the manosphere, incels and much more. For parents this can be a difficult conversation to have especially when you don't know where to start.

Thankfully, Internet Matters have a fantastic guide all about this subject, things you need to know, understand the pressures and more. You can find all the information [HERE](#).

Governors

Message from the School Governors:

The governors visit the school throughout the year and most have a link to areas such as Safeguarding, Finance and Curriculum. This is an important opportunity to see the school in action and learn about what makes Edith Cavell special.

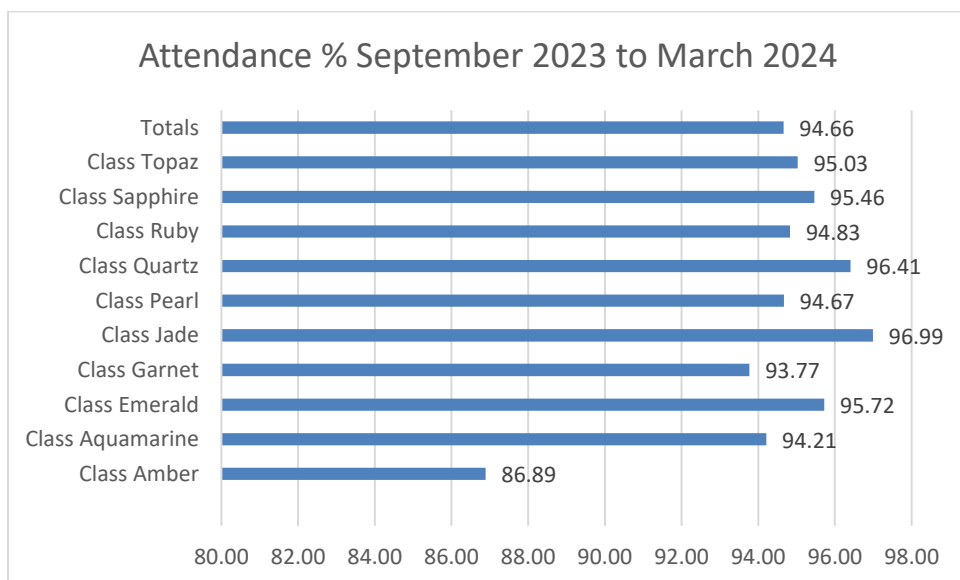
This year we are meeting every term with the school council and finding out about their role, their opinions and their learning experiences. The children were curious about the role of governors as well, so there have been interesting discussions which we have all learnt from in the process. It is always clear during these visits that the children feel proud to be part of the school and enjoy and appreciate the range of learning opportunities.

The school's latest Ofsted report reflects the contributions of all the Edith Cavell community in providing a good education for the children. As well as a dedicated and caring staff, the school has fantastic volunteers who support and enrich the children's experiences in so many ways, such as the 'Friends of Edith Cavell' and those who come into school to read to the children. This month it was wonderful to see the children meet visitors from the local community and find out about their various careers. All of these opportunities and contributions help make Edith Cavell and the children's learning journey as good as it is.

With thanks for your ongoing support of the school.

G Bishop - Chair of Governors

Attendance



Important Dates

Dates - Summer Term 2025

Wed 23 rd April	1 st Day back for children
Fri 25 th	UKS2 Swimming lessons start
Wed 30 th	Falcons Gym Club – after school club starts 3.45pm – Y4 Parents Camping meeting – in Ruby classroom
Thur 1 st May	Quartz sports festival Y2 to Pilgrim School
Mon 5 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED – MAY DAY
Thur 8 th May	Garnet sports festival
Mon 12 th	Y6 SAT's week
Fri 16 th	Rearranged 1970's Day
Wed 21 st	Pearl Sports Festival
Thur 22 nd	Y3 & 4 Visit to Elstow – John Bunyan Life Path
Fri 23 rd	Pyjamarama School Closes for Half Term

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

Academic Year 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025

Training days – Monday and Tuesday 1st and 2nd September 2025
Children return – Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half term – Monday 27th October 2025
Children return – Monday 3rd November 2025
Term ends – Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Training day – Monday 5th January 2026
Children return – Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half term – Monday 16th February 2026
Children return – Monday 23rd February 2026
Term ends – Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Training Day – Monday 13th April 2026
Children return – Tuesday 14th April 2026
May Day – Monday 4th May 2026
Half term – Monday 25th May 2026
Children return – Monday 1st June 2026
Term Ends – Friday 17th July 2026

Stars of the Week
March 2025

Amber

Arianna
David

Topaz

Whole Class
Whole Class

Pearl

Whole Class
Whole Class

Emerald

Sarah
Ranya

Jade

Caleb
Lyra
Agudie

Ruby

Archer
Whole Class
Eljoia
Miller

Garnet

Lily
Whole Class
Chikamso
Atche

Quartz

Cameron
Stefan
Sufyan

Aquamarine

Ozzie
Ollie
Emilia
Layla

Sapphire

Clay
Whole Class
Zahrah