



EDITH CAVELL LOWER SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

Tel:01234 345636 Fax 01234 356291

E-mail office@ecls.org.uk

Newsletter – December 2016

A note from Miss Cooke

As the term draws to a close, it is an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved over the long first term of the academic year. Seeing how much learning the children have enjoyed this term and what positive attitudes they have to their learning is always a joy to see. Anyone who has seen or is planning to see one of the many Christmas performances this week can't fail to be impressed and proud of all the children.

This has been the longest term of the year and we are all certainly ready for the break to rest and recharge our batteries ready to approach all the new and exciting learning that is planned for the Spring term.

May I take this opportunity to wish each and every member of our school family a very Merry Christmas, prosperous New Year and happy holidays and remind everyone that school opens again on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Miss Cooke

From FoEC

A huge thank you to everyone for all the support that Friends Of Edith Cavell has received from the whole school, parents, teachers, staff and children have all contributed a huge amount.

Next terms events include two movie nights, a Valentine disco, a brand new Clubercise evening for children & parents and some Easter surprises!

We've had a huge amount of support from local businesses including Stagsden Christmas tree shop, Sainsbury's Fairfield Park, Fancy Bakery, David Jon Butchers, Venture MK, Cineworld, Gallone's Ice Cream Parlour, Fox and Hounds pub and Wilkinsons.

A huge thank you to Cara Shaw for the very successful Art Club – more of that please!!

We hope you have a great Christmas and look forward to next terms events.

Bookings for Breakfast Club and After School Care Club (Gems)

Please ensure that you have made bookings for either of the wrap around care clubs that are provided by the school. Booking forms are available from the school office.

Parents are reminded that payment for this care should be made in advance.

We do remind parents of the need to cancel bookings if they are no longer required. If a cancellation is not made a charge will still be made for the booked place. This is necessary as we have to employ additional staff for Gems when more than 16 children are booked in on any one day to ensure that all requested places can be provided. Where ever possible we will always try and accommodate last minute, on the day bookings, this is not always possible and frustrating when places booked are not attended and not cancelled.

Breakfast Club
And
After School Care
Club (GEMS)



Building Update

As you can see if you are on the KS2 playground, the ground works in preparation for the new classroom block are well underway. After regular meetings with the onsite team and the project managers we have been informed that it is planned that the new classroom units will be craned into place on Tuesday 10th January, Wednesday 11th January and Thursday 12th January 2017.

On these days the parking layby on Manton Lane, will be closed. There will also be a narrowing of the traffic lanes and temporary traffic control measures.

The KS2 playground will not be accessible so it will also be necessary to make changes to the entry and dismissal from school for Aquamarine, Sapphire, Ruby and Garnet classes on these days.

Aquamarine class will enter and exit via their fire door.

Sapphire, Ruby and Garnet will wait in the main hall and parents should come into the main hall to collect their children.

On these days there will be two large cranes on the KS2 playground. The classroom units will arrive on large lorries, that will park in the layby on Manton Lane. One crane will then lift the units on to the playground and then the second crane will lift the units into place.

It is planned that all the children will have the opportunity to watch the classroom units being craned in to place at some point over the three days.

The builders newsletter can be viewed on the Wilmott Dixon information board on the KS2 playground.

We will keep you updated throughout the build process.

Snow Closure

We significantly hope that the Bedford area will not be adversely affected by snow this winter, but if conditions warrant the closure of the school we will report this on our web site which can be found at www.edithcavell.ik.org 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 of the situations 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!!



Holiday requests



We have received a number of requests for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday recently so it is appropriate that we share again the school policy on requesting permission to take pupils out of school to go on holiday.

Legislation came into force in September 2013 that prevents school granting 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 of any kind of holiday. Due to this change in legislation the school will not be authorising any applications for holiday in term time. It is also worth reminding parents that where a leave of absence is not granted, and the holiday in term time is taken this will be noted on the child's file. If a second leave of absence is requested in the same or subsequent years, not authorised, but still taken, a fixed penalty notice will be issued by the Educational Welfare Service when that child returns to school. 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 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/756/contents/made>

Attendance

Each week in school we award the 'Attendance Bear' to the class that has had the best attendance in the school. The children enjoy having Attendance Bear in their classroom for the week and eagerly await the results each week. Please help your child's class earn the privilege of looking after Attendance Bear for the week by ensuring that your child attends school every day. The winners of Attendance Bear in October have been



7-11 November	Garnet class
14-18 November	Ruby class
21-25 November	Aquamarine class
28 Nov – 2 Dec	Garnet class

Diary Dates – Autumn 2016

Mon 12 th	9.30am – KS1 dress rehearsal 12.30pm - Nursery performance 2.30pm - Reception dress rehearsal
Tue 13 th	9.30am - Reception performance 10.45am - KS2 dress rehearsal 2pm - KS1 performance
Wed 14 th	9.30am - KS1 performance 2pm - KS2 performance
Thur 15 th	9.30am - KS2 performance Children's parties
Fri 16 th	End of term

Spring 2017

Weds 4 th January	School re-opens but not for Nursery children
Mon 9 th	Part-time Nursery children return
Tue 10 th	New Classroom's delivered
Weds 18 th	Individual and family photographs
Mon 23 rd	FoEC Movie Club
Fri 3 rd February	NSPCC – Numbers Day
Thurs 9 th	FoEC Valentine Disco
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	School closed for Half Term holiday
Mon 20 th	School re-opens
Mon 13 th March	FoEc Movie Night
Fri 24 th	Comic Relief
Mon 3 rd April	FoEC Clubercise
Tues 4 th	End of term

Summer 2017

Weds 19 th April	Children return to school
Mon 1 st May	School Closed Bank Holiday
Mon 15 th	Class photographs
Mon 29 th - Mon 5 th June	School closed for Half term holiday
Tue 6 th June	School re-opens
Wed 7 th	Y3 Adventure Day
Thurs 15 th – Fri 16 th	Y4 Camping Trip
Tue 20 th	Ruby and Garnet Class – Sing Up at Bedford Corn Exchange
Fri 7 th July	Race for Life
Fri 21 st	End of School Year

Stars of the Week
November 2016

Aquamarine Class

Katie Roffe
Delano Thomas
Ethan Corbyn
Oscar Bateman

Sapphire Class

Saira Naeem
Felix Willmott
Freya Merryweather
Tommy Willars

Ruby Class

Melanie Burrows
Elijah Bishop
Piotr Piech
Maya Hussain

Garnet Class

Bella Caimino
Ridwan Rahman
Luca Knotte-Reed
Esha Malik

Jade Class

Yemisi Salako
Alex Buris
Joanie Harty
Amelia Viglione-Bee

Emerald Class

Julia Rogalewicz
Whole class
Nathan Pajarillo
Chido Nyandoro

Amber Class

Topaz Class