



# EDITH CAVELL LOWER SCHOOL

*Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing*

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## ***Newsletter – February 2017***

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

As we approach half term, we are half way through the school year. Much has been achieved already with lots of exciting learning and activities still to come before the end of the school year.

A new feature to the newsletter this month is the overall attendance for the year to date of the school and individual classes. We have included this information so that parents can see how the attendance of each class and the school as a whole can fluctuate. As a school we are set an attendance target by the Local Authority for the academic year, this year the target is set at 95.5%. The whole school attendance levels also have influence on the school's Ofsted grade. To the end of January, the whole school attendance figure is 95.1%. The government have set a floor target of 95% attendance for primary schools, if we fall below that figure it will be reflected in our Ofsted grade. All sickness absence, unauthorised absence and requests for holidays within term time that are subsequently taken impact on the attendance figure. Your child's individual attendance will have been shared with you at consultation evening.

Last month and again this month we have included with the newsletter a flyer about the impact of attendance on achievement and grades. The fact that a child with 95% attendance over 5 years equates to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a year schooling missed. If attendance in the school can improve by 1% it is recognised that the result is 5-6% improvement in attainment. Please consider these facts when considering booking holidays in term time, if your child has a sniffle, or you need to book a dental or optician appointment for your child.

*Miss Cooke*

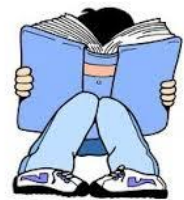
### **Silent Read**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we are undertaking our sponsored event for this year. Our sponsored silent read. Key Stage 2 will be aiming to read in silence for 30 minutes, Key Stage 1 for 20 minutes, Reception for 10 minutes and Nursery 5 minutes.

We would like the children to bring in from home their favourite book to read, that will occupy them for the allocated time.

The attempt at being silent will take place in the hall as a key stage and so that the children can be comfortable during their time in the hall they are encouraged to bring a cushion or pillow from home. These will be used while the children are in the hall and will be returned home at the end of the day.

All children will be taking part in the attempt at being silent and we hope that all children will be able to contribute to the collection of funds after the sponsored event as all children will benefit from the planned purchase of new trim trail equipment. If you require a second sponsor form, please see your child's class teacher or the school office.

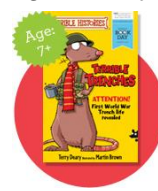


## **World book day**

World Book day is being held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March this year and as a school we will be marking this day by inviting the children to come in to school dressed as a character from a book. This could be an elaborate costume that depicts your child's favourite book character or as simple as dressed as a child from a story.

The children will be completing activities around books on World Book Day and talking about their favourite books. We look forward to seeing the costumes that the children come up with. Please remember that your child still needs to be warm and able to move around freely during the day and they will be outside at playtime.

The theme for World Book Day this year is 'We are doing something bookie.'



## **Snow Arrangements**

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](http://www.edithcavell.ik.org) and the Bedford Borough Web Site that can be found at [www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://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 have recently updated your mobile phone.



## **Tissues**



At this time of year many children suffer with coughs and colds and therefore if you are able to we would be very grateful if you could donate a box of tissues to your child's class.

## **Open Afternoon**

We will be holding an Open Afternoon on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 2pm. At this event you are invited to come into school, where your child/ren will be able to show you around, show you the new classrooms and share their school work and learning with you.

We ask that all children return to their classrooms at 3.15pm so that they can the regular procedures for dismissal can be followed. Children will be dismissed at the normal time from their usual doors.

## **KS2 tennis coaching**

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school at all times so they are able to participate in PE and tennis lessons. May I just your remind you of the importance to include correctly fitting trainers/plimsolls and a tracksuit as these coaching sessions take place outside.

## **An update from FOEC**

We thought this would be a great opportunity to let you all know what we are all raising money for this year. Our big project is the outside areas of the school, of which the Trim Trail is currently the main focus. But if we can raise enough money we are looking to paint the playgrounds, create a nature reserve, paint the wall, add benches and hopefully even a new play area for the little ones!

It all takes lots of money but all your amazing support so far means we're on the way.. let's keep going and create imaginative, inspiring and unique spaces for all our children to stay for, healthy and active in!

## **NSPCC Numbers day & Autism Bedford wear it silver day – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

It was wonderful to see all the children dressed in something silver last Friday to raise money for Autism Bedfordshire. We raised £186.25 which is fantastic, so thank you all for your contributions this will be a great help for this worthwhile organisation.

## **Easter Egg Raffle –**



FOEC will be holding an Easter Egg raffle in school on the last day of term, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Any donations of Easter Eggs nearer the time will be very greatly received.

## Attendance

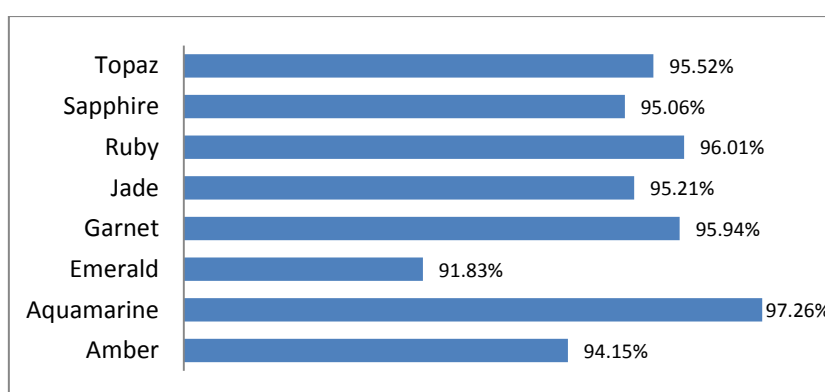
Each week in school we award the 'Attendance Bear' to the class that has had the best attendance in the school. The children enjoy having Attendance Bear in their classroom for the week and eagerly await the results each week. Please help your child's class earn the privilege of looking after Attendance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



4-6 January	Aquamarine class
9-13 January	Topaz class
16-20 January	Garnet class
23-27 January	Garnet class

Attached to this letter is some information about why we feel regular attendance is important and how we can help and encourage you and your child to achieve this.

## Whole School attendance to the end of January



## Dates – Spring 2017

Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Finish for half term
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school
Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sponsored Silent Read
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tennis Coach in KS2
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	World Book Day
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tennis Coach in KS2
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	SEND parents consultations
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	Garnet sports festival
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tennis coach in KS2
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Science week
	FOEC – Movie night
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Aquamarines class assembly
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tennis Coach in KS2
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sapphire class assembly
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Comic Relief
	Tennis Coach in KS2
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Jade Sports Festival
Thur 30 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school walk to St Martins Church
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	KS2 visit to St Albans
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Open Afternoon from 2pm
	FOEC – Clubsize
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term

*Stars of the Week*  
*January 2017*

**Aquamarine Class**

Rachael Lehain  
Aimee Lindop  
Diya Sandhu  
Joshua Manton

**Sapphire Class**

Alessio Marotta  
Mathew Johnstone  
Alfie Keggan  
Mateusz Supera

**Ruby Class**

Zaynah Naseer  
Zanita Roberts  
Sanah Yasin  
Agata Neumann

**Garnet Class**

Lenae Hawking  
Joe Bowering  
Kyra-Leigh Carter-Halling  
Tom Lindop

**Jade Class**

Zakery Fullilove  
Kayla Manley  
Marlon Acogo Solomon  
Owen Mukuru

**Emerald Class**

Nathan Pajarillo  
Paulina Dul  
Kevin Bacaoanu  
Mikolaj Szczepanik

**Amber Class**

Rabiya Hussain  
Kevinas Sautkulis  
Reuben Doherty  
Elodie Watson

**Topaz Class**

Aisha Khan  
Phoebe Mann  
Ben Buris  
Carter Bickerton