



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 –September 2016

Welcome back to the 2016/2017 academic year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday, but are now ready to face the new school year with enthusiasm and a smile every day.

We have new staff that have joined us this term and we welcome them all to the school. Mrs Stanton has joined the school as Assistant Head and Garnet Class teacher, Mr Howard is our new PE support and Mrs Ali joins the Early years team.

This year will be one of a number of changes and development in the school. Starting after October half term will be the planned building of three classrooms to enable us to move to being a full primary school. The building work will create the need for some adaptations to accessing to the building. We would ask for your co-operation and patience as we adapt our routines for coming in to school in the morning and dismissal at the end of the day. Please be assured that the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community will be paramount during the building works. We will keep you informed of the necessary changes as we approach and through the build period.

I look forward to working with every child and every family over the coming year and further developing the family of Edith Cavell.

Miss Cooke

Value for this half term



The value for this half term is **Respect**. The children will be thinking about how we show respect in many different situations.

- ❖ It is vital that we all respect one another and show respect in all that we do, say and demonstrate.
- ❖ We might not always agree with everyone in school but that does not mean that we don't respect them.
- ❖ We have respect for others, and we should also have respect for ourselves.

Flu vaccine

Pupils in Years 1,2 and 3 have been offered a Flu vaccination in the form of a nasal spray during October or November. This will be administered here in school by a specially trained Boots Pharmacist. If you would like your child to receive this vaccination, please return your permission slip by Friday 23rd September.



Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents that children may bring a small **healthy** snack in to school each day. Healthy snacks could include fresh and dried fruit, vegetables, currants, cheese strings or pita bread. We ask that **NO NUTS** are included as part of snacks as we have a number of children in school who are allergic to nuts. Please keep these snacks separate from lunch boxes as it makes them easier and quicker to locate at break time. **No chocolate or sweets should be brought to school as these are not healthy snacks.**

Lunches

The cost for School Diners is £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week, £75.25 until October half term or £148.35 until Christmas. **Please send dinner money in a named, sealed envelope with your child's name and class clearly written on the front** and hand it to your child's teacher or the school office. **Please make cheques payable to "Caterlink Ltd"**. Please be aware that the school office are unable to give change for dinner money as it is all processed by Caterlink staff and not the school.

Eligibility to Free School Meals.

If you feel that your circumstances have changed and as a result your child may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) we would **STRONGLY** request that you complete the eligibility form in school. Even if you are only eligible for a short time, but register, the school receives vital extra funding for a number of years. We would also be able to offer you to a reduction in the cost of school visits.



This possible extra funding is becoming extremely important to the school in this time of decreasing school budgets.

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 go on holiday.

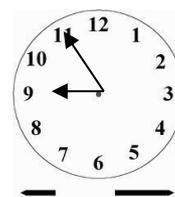
Legislation came into force in September 2013 that prevents school granting requests for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday. Leave of absence, for up to ten school sessions (5 days), may be granted in exceptional circumstance, but not for a holiday. Due to this change in legislation the school 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/ukxi/2013/756/contents/made>

Punctuality

At the end of last year the number of children that were arriving at school after the 8.55am bell when classroom doors are closed was increasing. This is a very worrying trend and we ask that you make concerted efforts to ensure that your child is in school and ready for registration at 8.55am. Being late regularly has a negative impact on your child's learning. We will be keeping careful records of children that are late and the reasons for lateness. These will be passed on to the Education Welfare Officer in cases where there is persistent lateness.



We would like to remind all parents that children should NOT play on the outside play equipment, or field at the start or end of the day and that scooters and bikes should not be ridden on the school grounds.

First Day Contact

It has been necessary for a number of children to be absent from school recently due to illness. We kindly ask that parents contact the school on the first day of the child's illness so that a reason for absence can be recorded in the registers. Also please note that if your child has suffered with sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school for 48 hours after their last instance of illness. This helps to stop the spread of the germs that spread this nasty bug.



Good attendance at school enables your child to fully participate in all learning opportunities offered at school and as such we would request that appointments, such as dentist, optician or other appointments be made outside school times. We fully understand that in emergency situations this is not always possible, but would request that parents make every effort to make appointments outside the school day.

Permission to collect

If you as a parent do not collect your child every day, please supply the school, in writing, a list of people who may collect your child on occasions. This may be grandparents, aunts and uncles, or just friends of the family, but in order to keep your child safe we must know who has your permission collect your children. If you know in the morning that someone other than a parent will be collecting your child that evening, please inform the class staff. If there is a change of collection arrangements over the day please phone the school office to inform us and we will pass that information on to the class staff and your child.

Parking and blocking drives



May I remind you that parking is not permitted in the school grounds at any time of day unless you have prior permission. This includes those who drop off or collect their child during the day from Nursery.

Please also remember to park considerately and legally. We have previously had a number of complaints from neighbours who are rightly upset at their drives being blocked.

We have also had a number of parents who have received parking tickets as a result of parking, even for a very short period of time, on the yellow zig zag lines at the front of school.

Before school Supervision

Can we please remind parents that they are responsible for the supervision of their own children in the playground before school. All parents should be vigilant to the activities of their child and monitoring and supervising them. School assumes responsibility for the children from when the child comes in to the school building.

We are aware that games are taking place on the playground before school, but parents retain responsibility for the behaviour and supervision of their own children during these games and until they come into school.



Dates – Autumn 2016

Tue 13 th September	9am & 3pm KS2 Parent meetings 1 st Gym lesson for KS2
Thur 15 th	9am & 3pm KS1 Parent meetings 1 st Open the Book Assembly
Fri 16 th	Premier Sport sessions start
Fri 23 rd	Jeans for Genes day – Wear your Jeans
Mon 26 th	Nursery start FOEC - Movie Club
Thur 29 th	2pm McMillan Coffee Afternoon
Mon 3 rd October	October – Black history Month 2pm – KS1 Parent consultations
Wed 5 th	2pm – KS2 parent consultations
Fri 14 th	Harvest Disco - FOEC
Tue 18 th	2pm – Reception parent consultations
Wed 19 th	10.25am Harvest Festival
Fri 21 st	Wear it Pink Day – Wear Pink Half Term
Mon 31 st	Training Day – School Closed
Tue 1 st November	First day back for children
Mon 7 th	FOEC Movie Club
Mon 14 th	Anti-bullying week
Thur 17 th	3pm – SEND parents consultations
Fri 18 th	Children in Need – Spotacular
Weds 23 rd	Emerald class assembly
Thur 24 th	Open afternoon from 2pm
Fri 25 th	Non uniform day for Christmas Fair
Fri 2 nd December	Christmas Fair – No Premier Sport
Fri 9 th	Christmas Jumper and wear your slippers to school day Christmas dinner Last Premier Sport
Mon 12 th	9.30 – KS1 dress rehearsal 12.30 - Nursery performance 2.30pm - Reception dress rehearsal
Tue 13 th	9.30 - Reception performance 10.45 - KS2 dress rehearsal 2pm - KS1 performance
Wed 14 th	9.30 - KS1 performance 2pm - KS2 performance
Thur 15 th	9.30 - KS2 performance Children's parties
Fri 16 th	End of term