



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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Newsletter – September 2017

A message from Miss Cooke

Welcome back to the Autumn term, seems a bit old at the end of September and week 4 of the new school year, but it does not change the welcome to the new parents and staff that have joined us this term. Miss Prior has joined us as Aquamarine class teacher, Mrs Lewis as Amber class teacher, Mr Bennett as Topaz class teacher and Mrs Jepps teaching in Garnet class in the afternoons.

It is an exciting time in the life of the school as we move towards being a full primary school. I do hope that you have spotted our new school sign that was put up last week. The year 5 children have settled in to the new building and it is exciting to see the hall so full for assemblies when the whole school gets together. The resurfacing of both playgrounds over the summer and subsequent playground markings that have been laid have also added to the development of the school.

As well as many exciting learning opportunities that we have planned for this year will be some familiar events. We would ask for all parents support and attendance at parent consultation events so that the key partnership between home and school can be reviewed and shared to ensure that all children have the best support from all involved in their education. Open afternoons are an ideal opportunity for the children to proudly share their books and learning with family members. The Autumn term Open afternoon is Tuesday 28th November from 2pm.

We look forward to working with all parents and families this year and further developing the Edith Cavell family.

Miss Cooke

Value for this half term

The value for this half term is **Happiness**.

The children have been thinking about what makes them happy, how they show they are happy as well as what they can do to try and make other people happy.



esafety

At the start of every term we remind the children about our esafety rules in school and how they should ensure that they are safe on line be that in school or at home.

With ever changing technology, apps, online games and chat rooms available to children, being vigilant to the amount of time children are looking at a screen and what they are looking at is a constant need.

To support and help parents to monitor and support their children on line, school has ordered copies of a magazine called Digital Parenting for each family and these should be arriving soon. In the meantime a previous issue can be accessed at

<https://parentzone.org.uk/digital-parenting-issue-5-online-edition>

This publication is aimed at parents of children of all ages, which may be of interest to parents with older children, but some sections about apps that are suitable for under tens and articles enabling you to check if your family is cyber secure will be of interest to all families.



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.

Even if your child has packed lunch and never has school dinners, you could still apply for FSM and allow the school to access the additional funding.

Even if your child is in Reception or KS1 and they receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), please still complete the eligibility form if you feel your circumstances have changed and you may now qualify for FSM.

P.E. Kits

For P.E. lessons, we request that your child has the appropriate kit in school each day. Every child should have a white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls or suitable footwear that fits. No jewellery of any kind should be worn and we ask that all long hair is tied back. If your child has pierced ears, we would request that if they are unable to remove and replace earrings themselves, that parents remove the earrings at home prior to coming to school and replace them at the end of the day.

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>

Healthy Snacks

We would like to remind parents that children may bring a small **healthy** snack in to school each day in a small container clearly labelled with their name and class. Reception and Key Stage 1 children are also provided with a free piece of fruit at break time. 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 and in small hand held named containers, 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.**

Packed Lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch in to school, please ensure it is healthy (no chocolate spread sandwiches please). We ask that **NO NUTS** are included as we have children in school with severe nut allergies.

Any rubbish or left over food is then sent back home with your child so you can monitor how much of their lunch your child has eaten.

Road safety and children's seat belts

It has come to my attention that a number of parents are parking on the grass verges opposite the school on Manton Lane at the start and end of the day and on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school gate. These are **NOT** designated parking areas and parents who park here are risking the possibility of a parking fine from the mobile parking vans. It also concerns me that parents are attempting to cross Manton Lane, a very busy road, between parked cars with their children in order to get back to their cars. Please refrain from parking on the grass verges and yellow zig zag lines. There has been a cctv camera installed to monitor this and several fines have already been issued.



Uniform

May I take this opportunity to remind you that girls are not allowed to wear knee length boots in school. They can be very uncomfortable and make it very difficult for the girls to sit on the floor during assembly, carpet time etc. If they wear them to walk to school please ensure that you bring their school shoes with them to change in to.

Harvest

Our Harvest Assembly is on Wednesday 18th October, and once again we will be giving any donated food to The Prebend Day Centre and The Bedford Food Bank..

The people who work there are always very grateful for tinned and packet food especially tinned vegetables, tinned fruit and items which just require hot water eg. Pot Noodles, soups

They are also very grateful for toiletries.

Please could you start sending in your donations as soon as possible so we can display them in the hall.

Please could you delay sending any fresh produce until Tuesday 17th October.

This is an internal assembly for the children only which takes place during the school day, it is not open to parents

Colder Weather Clothing



The wintertime is fast approaching and with the change in the weather it is vital that the children are dressed appropriately. Wherever possible the children will be going outside for playtime so it is important that they have the correct clothing to keep them warm. This will probably include wellington boots, hats, gloves and scarves. Please make sure that items are named so that they can be returned to the correct owner if they become separated from

them.

We have some lovely warm hats available to buy from the office at a very reasonable price. They are in our school colour of Royal blue but as they have the old logo we are selling them for the bargain price of just £1!!

NSPCC Underwear Rule

In our PSHE lessons this term, we will be discussing the NSPCC's Underwear Rule. This is designed to teach pupils how to stay safe from sexual abuse without giving explicit information or telling scary stories or even using the term "sexual abuse". In the lesson, children will learn about the 'PANTS' acrostic, which stands for

- Privates are Private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help



The lesson will be delivered in a way that's fully age appropriate.

More information about the Underwear Rule, including a short film and a parent guide can be found at nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule.

Library books

If you have found any library books or reading books over the summer holidays which you think may belong to school, we would be very grateful if you could you return them

School milk

All children under the age of 5 are entitled to free school milk. If your child would like to continue having milk after their fifth birthday it can be ordered through "Coolmilk" either via our school app or at www.coolmilk.com

Water bottles

As part of our healthy eating programme children are encouraged to bring their water bottles. It has been scientifically proved that keeping hydrated and maintaining blood sugars assists children to concentrate for longer periods of time. They are available to buy from the office for £1 if you do not have one. Please also ensure it is named. Children should bring them into school every morning with water only in them and take them home at night to wash and refill.



The number of children without water bottles in school every day has been steadily rising and this means that those children are not able to keep as readily hydrated, which hinders their learning.

PLEASE PLEASE make sure that your child as a water bottle in school every day.

Our new school app

Please download our new school app!

If you have a smartphone you can download OurSchoolsApp for FREE. It is a personalised app for our school and will allow us to keep you all updated with school information, news, calendar events and contact information. It provides you access to school information at the touch of a button.

Instructions for download:

- Using your device (iPad, iPhone, smart pad, tablet or android phone), visit the relevant marketplace for your product (Apple Store or Google Play).
- Search for 'OurSchoolsApp' and download the app.
- Once downloaded, use the search bar within the app and enter the postcode or the name of the school. Hit the search button.
- Once you see the school name displayed, just touch the screen on the school name.
- Confirm your choice by pressing 'OK'.
- You will now be presented with the correct app for your chosen school which contains news, information, calendar events, contacts and any other relevant details.

A note from FOEC

It was so good to have your support for our uniform and cake sale recently, thank you to all who 'Bought, Brought and Baked!'

This term we have our brand new Lego Club starting. It will run each half term for a different year group - First up is year 4. But don't worry - everyone gets a turn... The Lego has been bought and we are ready to go!

We are also going to be running a movie club showing 'Smurfs - The Lost Village'

We'll be hosting a fancy dress disco, selling hot chocolate in the playground & running a Christmas Prezzie Shop on Wednesday 13th December.

The Glorious Christmas Fair will be on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd December .

As ever we are looking for support running our events. If you would like to get involved then please do get in touch!

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

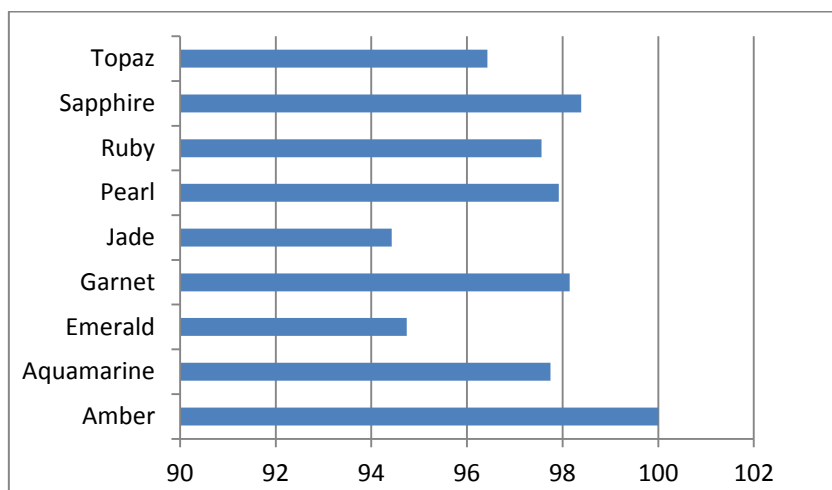
Attendance

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 May have been



4-8 Sept	Aquamarine and Garnet Class
11-15 Sept	Amber class
18-22 Sept	Amber class

Class Attendance graph



Dates – Autumn Term 2017

Mon 2 nd Oct	Black history month 2pm KS1 Parent consultations
Tue 3 rd	2pm KS2 parent consultation
Mon 16 th	Ruby sports festival
Wed 18 th	Harvest Festival 2.30pm EYFS parent consultations
Thur 19 th	FoEC disco
Fri 20 th	Wear it Pink day Half term
Mon 30 th	Training day
Tue 31 st	1 st day back for children – No Gymnastics for Y3 &4
Wed 1 st Nov	FoEC – 3.30pm - Hot chocolate & a biscuit
Mon 6 th	Emerald Sports Festival
Mon 13 th	Anti Bullying week – All different All equal 3pm SEND parent consultations
Fri 17 th	Children in Need
Tue 28 th	Open afternoon – 2pm
Wed 29 th	Y3 & 4 sports festival – selected children
Thur 30 th	Ruby Class – Violin concert
Sat 2 nd Dec	FoEC Christmas Fair
Mon 4 th	Theatre of Widdershins
Tue 5 th	Y5 sports festival
Mon 11 th	9.30 – KS1 dress rehearsal 12.30 - Nursery performance 2.30pm - Reception dress rehearsal
Tue 12 th	9.30 - Reception performance 10.45 - LKS2 dress rehearsal 2pm - KS1 performance
Wed 13 th	9.30 - KS1 performance 10.45 – UKS2 dress rehearsal 2pm - LKS2 performance 3.30pm - FoEC Christmas Shop
Thur 14 th	9.30 - LKS2 performance 2pm – UKS2 performance
Fri 15 th	Christmas dinner Wear your Christmas Jumper to school
Mon 18 th	Children's parties
Tue 19 th	End of term