

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term

01234 740100

office@cottonendforestschool.co.uk

12th September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Our term has got off to a flying start and it has been wonderful to see the children immersing themselves in their learning with such enthusiasm.

This week, we were delighted to welcome our new Reception children into Oak and Willow classes. They have settled quickly into their new learning environment, and it has been a pleasure to see them already beginning to thrive.

In our celebration assemblies, children have been sharing their new knowledge with great confidence. For example, I was very impressed to hear some fascinating facts from their Stone Age history topic and to see how keen they are to talk about their learning.

We are also pleased that a number of children have signed up for Rocksteady this term. They have thoroughly enjoyed trying out the bass, drums, guitar and keyboards, and I very much look forward to their polished performance at the end of term.

Thank you for sending your children into school in the correct PE for their allocated days, the arrangement seems to be working well and they all look very smart.

I have had the pleasure of hearing some children read this week- please remember to log into Learning with Parents and record when you read with your children at home, thank you!

We are already arranging our residential trips for the older children in school, please ensure that you sign up to secure your child's place. If you have any questions about these please speak with Miss Grey.

At the end of the school day, we often have several children waiting in the office area for their allocated transport. May I kindly ask that, unless you specifically need to speak with a member of our office staff, families leave via the school gates rather than cutting through the Reception area. This will help us to keep children safe and avoid congestion.

A polite reminder about parking: please use the large car park at the side of the school. The front area is strictly for blue badge holders and staff only. Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that some drivers have been parking on the zebra crossing in the front car park. This is extremely dangerous as it puts pedestrians at risk. Please support us in keeping our school community safe by using the designated parking areas responsibly.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Mrs Headland

Keep in Touch

If you need any support outside of school hours, please feel free to contact Mrs. C keepintouch@cottonendforestschool.co.uk.



We aim to provide our children with opportunities to become confident, happy children valuing and respecting diversity and who are proud of their achievements.

Term Dates

Autumn Break

Staff training day - 1st

September 25

Return to school - 2nd

September 25

Last day before half term - 23rd October 25

Teacher Training—24th October 2025

Return to school - 3rd November 25

Christmas Break

Last day before Christmas - 18th December 25

Teacher Training—19th December 2025

Return to school- 5th January 2026

Spring Break

Last day before half term - 13th February 26

Return to school - 23rd February 26

Last day before Easter break - 27th March 26

Teacher training—13th April 26

Return to school—14th April 26

Summer Break

Bank holiday- 4th May 26

Last day before half term - 22nd May 26

Return to school - 1st June 26

Last day of term - 17th July 26



Attendance

W/C 8/9/25

Oak	N/A
Willow	N/A
Owl	95.3%
Wagtail	99.3%
Skylark	96.2%
Woodpecker	97.1%
Kingfisher	97.3%
Nightingale	98.5%
Eagle	96.9%
Falcon	95.8%
Osprey	94.0%
Harrier	98.4%
Kestrel	97.5%
Kite	95.6%

Well done to Wagtail class this week from EYFS and KS1 with 99.3% and Nightingale class from KS2 with 98.5%.

The whole school attendance is 96.3% But we are aiming for 98%.



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Extra Curricular

DT Club - Year 3-6
Wed 10th Sept 25 -
Wed 8th Oct 25

Lego Club—Year 1-6
Thur 11th Sept 25 -
Thur 23rd Oct 25

Football Club—Year 3-6
Thur 11th Sept 25 -
Thur 23rd Oct 25



Any Other Business

Calendar Dates

For any dates, letters or information that you may have missed, please make sure you head over to the school website at

<http://cottonendforestschool.co.uk/>

You will also find a list of the academic term dates for your reference.



Magazines

For the SEPTEMBER issues of BedsLife and Amptill & Flitwick Life magazines please use the following website address:-

www.bedslifemagazine.co.uk

Bedford Junior Aquathlon

The Bedford Junior Aquathlon is back!



Psychoeducation Workshops

We would like to share details of forthcoming virtual psychoeducation workshops which Chums will be offering over the Autumn/Winter term to families and young people.

Dates/times and workshop details can be found at:

<https://chums.uk/emotional-wellbeing-service/#workshops> -



Any Other Business Continued:-

Harvest

We will be acknowledging Harvest Festival in school on Friday 3rd October and hence we are asking for donations to support both the Bedford Foodbank.

Suggested items for donation include tinned meat or fish, tinned vegetables or fruit, cooking sauces, coffee, UHT or powdered milk, cereals, long-life fruit juices, tinned puddings, jam, instant mashed potato. Any other long-life items including toiletries are also very welcome. Please send donations into school during the week **beginning Monday 29th September** - Thank you.



Free School Meals

All children in Years Reception to year 2 are automatically entitled to a free school meal in line with government guidelines for Universal Free School Meal entitlement. However, for year 3 and above, if you believe your family is entitled to means tested free school meals, you can check your eligibility and apply for these by using the following link:

https://bedford-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals

School Dinners



Year 6 Secondary School Applications

The window of opportunity to apply for secondary school opens on **Friday 12th September** and runs until **Friday 31st October**.

Bedford Borough Council are using a new platform this year so to enable you to do this please use the following link:

www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions



Message From Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum

Are you a parent or carer who wants to better understand your child's development? **Early Concerns** virtual session will give you the tools and confidence to recognise early signs of additional needs, find out where to access help and support and advocate for your child with confidence.

Thursday 25th September 7pm—9pm. To book please use the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-concerns-tickets-1431651842199?>



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