



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

Tel:01234 345636 E-mail office@ecls.org.uk

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Newsletter – January 2021

A message from Miss Cooke

Is it still acceptable to say Happy New Year at the end of January? Well as this is my first newsletter of 20-21 I think it is OK to still express the good wishes!

Well what a start to 2021 we have had at Edith Cavell! Certainly not the start that anyone wanted – but we work with the hand that we are dealt! After having to close bubbles over the past few weeks, and the whole school on week commencing 18th January, it is lovely to have some children back in school now. Closing bubbles is never what we want, but due to a considerable number of staff contracting Covid 19 it was necessary. Fortunately, staff are recovering and starting to return to school. You may have seen on the news in recent weeks that school staff are now completing regular Lateral Flow Tests each week to test if they are asymptomatic for Covid 19. This could mean that it may be necessary to close bubbles again, should any member of staff test positive in this way.

Again, you will have seen in the media that the date for possible full re-opening of schools has been further pushed back by the government. Full re-opening will not be before 8th March at the earliest. Schools do not get advance warning of information from the Government, I get to hear about dates and plans in the same way you do – from the BBC. So when we have a further update of how the full re-opening will take place, be that different year groups at different times, I will of course update you on the plans for Edith Cavell.

I am well aware that home learning is a challenge for families and I can assure you that every teacher in school would far rather have every child in school than working with this blended learning situation. What I ask parents to remember is that teachers are supporting all the children in their class. This means that they are teaching in school as well as preparing, delivering, marking and responding to children who are learning at home. I am aware that other local schools are able to organize their blended learning in different ways. Comparison between offers made by different schools, is not always helpful as schools are organized in very different ways that cannot be replicated by others.

One highlight of the week in school has been our weekly Celebration Assembly that I have been conducting via Google Meets. It has been so wonderful to see so many children joining the assembly and see the surprise on faces when children have been recognised for different awards. If you have not managed to join an assembly, please try to do so. I hold assembly at 10.15am on a Monday morning and 9.15am on a Friday morning. The links are posted on Google classrooms by class teachers on the morning of the assembly.

Please stay safe.

Miss Cooke

Chums – Shine Bright – Wear Bright

Each year we hold a non-uniform day on the Friday at the end of Children's Mental Health week. Even in lock down we would like to still hold this event. Children who are attending school are encouraged to wear something bright to come to school next Friday – 5th February. Children learning at home are encouraged to wear something bright to join celebration assembly at 9.15am.

On Parent Pay we have set up a donation option for any parents who feel that they could make a donation to the local Children's mental health charity – Chums. Any children in school will be able to bring a £1 donation. We completely understand that the Pandemic has caused financial hardship for many families, but if any families are in a position to make a donation then the facility is there to do so.



Contact from school



All teachers will be attempting to call any family who has not been engaging with learning or returning evidence of learning. Please look out for these calls from school and please answer. The school office will not necessarily know which teachers have been trying to contact you so will be unable to put you through to that teacher should you phone the school. Please be assured that teachers will try to call again.

Loan of devices from school

We will have a small number of devices that we may be able to loan to some families to enable children to complete remote learning activities. If any family is struggling to access home learning activities and feel that they would benefit from loaning a device from the school, please make contact with the school and make a request to loan a device.



February Half Term

School will be fully closed during February half term which is Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February. Any key worker families who may require child care for that week might like to consider the service available from SSG. Please see flyer attached to the end of the newsletter.

Bedford Borough Council Consultation on Children's Centres

"Bedford Borough Council has reviewed its current children centre offer and proposes that changes could be made to ensure the services remain relevant and meet the changing demands in the Borough.

We are consulting with key stakeholders, service users and anyone with an interest in children centres.

We are particularly interested in people's views on:

- The current children centre offer and ideas for new services
- Offering more digital services
- Increasing the flexibility of the children centre offer, using community venues in new communities
- Meeting the demand of universal services by charging for some services

To contribute to the consultation please follow this link: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/consultations/children-centre-consultation/> "

COVID 19 Advice - Reminder

No child should attend school if **they or any member of their household** are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid 19 which are:-

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child starts to display these symptoms, we ask that you inform the school why your child is not in school and obtain a test for Covid 19. **Once the results of the test are obtained, we ask that you communicate this to the school.**

The Bedford Borough flowchart to assist parents in making decisions about when to send a child to school is attached to the end of this newsletter and displayed on the school web site.

Snow Closure

We significantly hope that the Bedford area will not be further 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.edithcavellprimary.co.uk 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!!



Eligibility to Free School Meals. (FSM)

We are very aware that some families may be facing changing financial circumstances due to the Coronavirus outbreak. If, through change of circumstances, you feel your child may have become eligible for free school meals, we would urge you to consider applying for this benefit. Details of those who may now be eligible for FSM can see eligibility criteria on the school web site at

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/free-school-meals/>

An application for free school meals can be made at

[https://bedford-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free School Meals.](https://bedford-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals)



If any family are eligible, even for a short time, the school will receive financial support for six years, so any applications that are successful will support you and the school.

Class emails

If you need to communicate with the school office, we would prefer if this could be done via phone or email and as this would be preferable to physically visiting the office. Class email addresses for your child's class teacher are listed below and can be used to communicate with class teachers as face to face meetings are highly discouraged. A phone call can also be made by a class teacher after the end of the school day.

The school office can be contacted on 01234 345636 or office@ecls.org.uk

Class	Email address
Opal	opal@ecls.org.uk
Quartz	quartz@ecls.org.uk
Pearl	pearl@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarines	aqua@ecls.org.uk
Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk
Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Jade	jade@ecls.org.uk
Amber	amber@ecls.org.uk
Topaz	topaz@ecls.org.uk
Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk

Dates – Spring 2021

Fri 5 th Feb	Chums – Shine bright, wear bright day
Mon 8 th	Safer Internet Week – An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world
Tue 9 th	Safer Internet Day
Fri 12 th	Finish for half term
Mon 22 nd Feb	1 st Day back for children
Mon 8 th	Science and engineering week
Fri 12 th	World Maths Day
Fri 19 th	Comic Relief
Fri 26 th	End of Spring term

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January 2021 – Friday 9th April 2021

Half Term: Monday 15th February 2021 – Friday 19th February 2021

Summer Term 2021

Tuesday 13th April 2021 – Thursday 22nd July 2021

Half Term: Monday 31st May 2021 – Friday 4th June 2021

May Day bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May 2021 – School Closed

Polling Day – Thursday 6th May 2021 – School Closed - proposed

School Term Dates 2020 – 2021 [https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2020-2021-Approved-March-2019 .pdf](https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2020-2021-Approved-March-2019.pdf)
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/schools-and-collegescadem/school-term-and-holiday-dates/>

Stars of the Week
January 2021

Amber

Rafe
Montgomery
Remel

Topaz

Dalton
Nella
Areez

Pearl

Sharez
Jesse
Antonio

Emerald

Bobbie
Hareem

Jade

Kelvin
Isla
Amelia
Georgia

Opal

Deshauna
Harvee
James
Maciej

Ruby

Michelle
Nathan
Abigail
Ibrahim

Garnet

Anaaiya
Maria
Daren
Etienne

Quartz

Elizabeth
Tommy
Emaan
Holly Jo

Aquamarine

Dejonie
Felicity
Joshua
Przemyslaw

Sapphire

Wojciech
Dyllan
Phoebe
Lainey-May

Coronavirus information for Parents/Carers (From Fri 11thth Dec 2020)

For general advice about COVID-19 and the symptoms to look for go to: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Child, or someone in your household, develops symptoms of COVID-19: new continuous cough (coughing frequently for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours) and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If your child is at home, do not send them to their education setting. Inform the setting through absence reporting.

If your child develops symptoms at their education setting, they will be separated from others and sent home.

If your child, or anyone in your household, has symptoms they must isolate at home for **10 days** (from date of onset of symptoms). The rest of the household should isolate for **10 days**.
If your child does not have symptoms but someone in the household does, your child and all other household members without symptoms must isolate at home for **10 days**.

Book a test as soon as possible for anyone in your household with symptoms. This can be done online at: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.
Please do not let anyone from your household go into a setting or work until the test result is known.
Alternatively a test can be ordered by phone on NHS 119 for those without the internet.

Your closest test location will be offered when you book, and both drive-in and walk-in tests are available in Bedford. You may need to visit the website regularly for more slots to be released. If you are not able to walk or drive to the test centre, and no-one you live with can take you, you can request a home test kit.
Do not take a taxi or use public transport.

Result of test (you will receive this by email or text message).
It is important you inform the setting of the result as soon as possible.

Negative

Child can return to setting once well. The rest of the household can stop isolating.

If your child is identified as having been in close contact with a confirmed case, they will be asked to self-isolate for **10 days**. The rest of the household does not need to isolate unless the child/close contact develops symptoms. **ONLY GO FOR A TEST IF SYMPTOMATIC**

For medical advice call NHS 111, or in an emergency call 999

Positive

Inform setting of positive test result as soon as possible.

Ensure positive case completes remainder of **10 day** isolation period (from date of onset of symptoms). Household members without symptoms should complete **10 day** isolation – even if they have received a negative test result.

NHS test and trace service will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited.

If a child is a confirmed case they can return to school after **10 days**. However if they still have a temperature, diarrhoea or are being sick they should wait a further 48 hours after these symptoms stop. If a household member is a confirmed case, but child does not develop symptoms, they can return to setting only after completing the **10 days** household isolation period.



FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVE CHILDCARE 15TH - 19TH FEBRUARY



DATE		THEMED DAY	TIME	AGE GROUP
Monday 15th		OLYMPIC SPORTS DAY	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Tuesday 16th		MISSION SURVIVAL DAY	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Wednesday 17th		ACTIVE ADVENTURE HIGH & MIGHTY DAY	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Thursday 18th		WACKY CRAFTS & MAD SCIENCE DAY	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Friday 19th		DREAM TEAM & CONSTRUCTION CAPERS DAY	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years

All SSG Half Term Active Childcare Days are located at | Alexander Sports Centre, Sidney Road, Bedford, MK40 2BQ



To book online please visit
www.ssgservices.co.uk

f | SSGactivities
t | SSG_Activities