



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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Newsletter – April 2020

A note from Miss Cooke

Well I never thought that I would be writing a newsletter in these circumstances!

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term!

We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting your child's class teacher via email, or if your message is directly for me, please use the main office email address. office@ecls.org.uk

We miss the children very much, but we must follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. So, we're carrying on with emailing out Home Learning Packs and additional materials about keeping safe on the internet, how to maintain good routines and looking after your well-being. All materials are also available on the school website.

But just because we're not all in the same building, doesn't mean we can't have some fun together! Your children will have lots of activities they can get stuck into over the summer term – so keep a close eye on the school website and your inbox.

I wanted to update everyone on a number of things relating to the school and gather together resources and links all in one place.

The school remains open to the children of Key Workers who cannot be safely cared for at home. Government guidance states *'every child who can be safely cared for at home must be.'* and *'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be.'*

We can't say yet when we'll be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep your child learning and our school community connected.

Miss Cooke



Home Learning

Each family situation is different, but we would hope that every child is trying to do some form of home learning in order to keep skills sharp and minds active.

It is impossible for families to recreate a classroom situation at home, but for children to have a space that they can sit at a table and undertake some learning tasks each day will enable children to continue to develop, learn new and extend skills across the curriculum and not fall behind. If children can undertake learning tasks for at least an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon would be great, but each family needs to organise their day to account for other members of the family needing to access devices and undertake their own work from home.



Please keep reading on a daily basis, be that a physical book, online books or websites.

Learning packs are taking on a new format as we start the Summer term. Each phase will be introducing their new topic for the summer term. Learning at home and for those that are attending school will take the same format so everyone has had the same opportunity to access the same learning activities. This will be really important when we do return to school that everyone has accessed the same learning and activities.

Home learning packs will continue to be emailed out each week and are available on the school web site.

All home learning packs can be found at <https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/home-learning/>

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>.



On-Line Safety

 During this period of school closure all children are likely to be spending more time on line than they would have previously. It is vital that children are safe while online and as such Thinkuknow, the online education programme of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, has produced a range of learning activities aimed at young people, and encourages learning about safe Internet access.

The currently available activities can be accessed on the school web site at

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/online-safety-activities/>

Thinkuknow are releasing new activities regularly and these will be uploaded on to the school web site when they are released.

Phone calls home

Over the next couple of weeks, class teachers will be making phone calls to each of the children in their class to check in and check how everyone is getting on. This is one way that we are trying to keep in touch with all the children and families in the school and provide what support that we can.



Please be ready to tell class teachers what you have been up to. Class teachers will ask how you have been getting on with the home learning packs that have been sent home and what other things you have been learning outside the formal school curriculum. They would love to hear about what you have been cooking, baking, doing in the garden or building.

Remember that class teachers can be contacted using the class email accounts. Teachers will be happy to respond to any questions and provide feedback on home learning activities.

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
Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk



School Website

Please keep a regular eye on the school web site as we are regularly updating the information on there.

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/>

Each of the letters, newsletters and information leaflets that we have been sending out are also available on the school website, so can be re-accessed at any time.

Mental health and Well-being

We have a whole section on our web site where you can access resources to support your children's well-being. We will continue to add to this section as we locate more quality resources. The available resources can be found at <https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/mental-wellbeing/>

Please stay safe – wash your hands regularly – and socially distance.