



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

Headteacher: Miss Heather Cooke

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Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following discussions with the Local Authority, School Governors and staff, we have made the decision to **delay** the reopening of the school until **Monday 8th June, at the earliest**, to children who had indicated a wish to return to school in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The school will remain open for those key worker children currently attending.

The primary reasons for this decision are as follows.

- The need to have the detailed risk assessment prepared by the school reviewed and endorsed by the Local Authority or by independent experts.
- The findings of the Independent SAGE group stated that by delaying the wider opening of schools for two weeks the likeliness of infections in schools would be halved.
- Bedford Borough has the highest cases per 100,000 people in the Eastern region (370 per 100k) which also places us very high nationally.
- The Government “Test, Track and Trace” system is in its infancy and has not been established fully.

The Governing Body will be reviewing this decision to delay opening on a weekly basis and will communicate that decision each week.

The commitment and plan to build capacity to allow all year groups to return to school before the summer holidays remains unchanged, but the evidence is not clear enough that June 1st will be a safe date to return so we have decided to move the timeline to protect pupils, parents/carers and staff.

All the staff and governors at Edith Cavell, including myself, hold this community in the highest possible esteem and we put the health and safety of all stakeholders first. We will continue to monitor this situation and keep you informed as it develops.

Stay safe and take care

Kind regards

H. L. Cooke

