



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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Newsletter – May 2020

A note from Miss Cooke

Hello to all.

I hope you are all well and slowly starting to emerge from lock down.

Well it has been a very strange half term. Still busy for myself and the school staff, but in a different way.

Next week is May Half term and the school will be **Closed** all week.

I hope that the photo message montages that we have sent out brought a smile to your faces as you saw them. All the staff involved certainly enjoyed making them. Thank you to the parents and children who have replied and expressed how the montage lifted their spirits.

You may have seen from that montages that Miss Prior was photographed with her new baby! Miss Prior gave birth to baby Jack on 16th April and both Jack and Miss Prior are very well.

Many of you will have seen the briefing given by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the evening of Sunday 10th May. This briefing said that Primary Schools will open to just Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on Monday 1st June **IF** certain criteria are met. Below I will try and outline what the re-opening of our school may look like. I will continue to update parents as more information is made available by the government and as we put those plans into place for our school. Please be patient and regularly check the school web site and your email inbox for updates and further information.

As ever if you have any questions or queries please contact the school either by email on office@ecls.org.uk or via telephone.

Please stay safe.

Miss Cooke

School re-opening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on 1st June.

Boris Johnson, Prime Minister announced that primary schools would re-open on 1st June for just four year groups, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

In order that the school can accommodate all children, in all year groups, when they return to school, with the finite number of classrooms that we have, and the reduced number of children (no more than 15) in each classroom at any one time, it will be necessary to implement a Rota system for the children coming to school.



We are setting this system in place from 1st June so that we will not have to change arrangements for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children when additional year groups return to school in future weeks.

Below are the arrangements that are being put in place on 1st June for the return of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, but will also apply to other year groups when they are able to return to school.

Each class will be divided in to two groups, Group A and Group B. The two Groups will attend schools at opposite ends of the week and attendance on a Wednesday will be alternated each week.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Week 1	Group A	Group A	Group A	Group B	Group B
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Week 2	Group A	Group A	Group B	Group B	Group B

By operating this system, it will mean that we will be able to accommodate all children, in all year groups, and they will all have 5 days in school in a two-week period.

The same members of staff will stay with the same Group of children when they are in school. They will not work with other Groups. We have tried really hard to allocate staff to the usual year groups that they work with, but this has not been possible in all cases. But all staff are known to the children.

We will ensure that siblings in other year groups, when they return to school, are attending school for the same days.

There are a number of measure that we will be implementing to maintain social distancing, ensure good standards of hygiene and do all we can to try and prevent and spread of the virus.

- Children will be reminded regularly, throughout the day about social distancing
- The start and finish times of each year group that is in school will be different.
- Children will sit at individual tables in the classrooms
- Children will have their own 'kit' in a named zip bag to avoid sharing resources
- Shared resources such as laptops will be wiped down after each use
- Children will be asked to attend school in school uniform, but may wear trainers or shoes suitable for outdoor activities as no children will change for PE lessons, therefore PE bags/kits will not need to be brought in to school.
- Children should not bring book bags, rucksacks, or water bottles to school. Children will be given a plastic cup each day and water will be available at all times.
- No reading or library books will be sent home, but your child will be listened to read in school regularly. Please continue to use family reading books to read with your children at home.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and separate. The school field will be divided in half with a 'No mans land' section in the middle. Trim trail equipment will NOT be available.
- There will be NO whole school assemblies.
- At lunch time, on larger than in the classroom tables, all children will sit at opposite ends of the table. Tables and chairs will be disinfected between groups of children using them
- We would prefer that children have school dinners, but if parents still wish their child to have a packed lunch, please can this be in a named plastic sandwich box and **NOT** a fabric lunch bag

We ask that all Parents and children please observe the one-way system around the outside of the school and do not come on to the school site before the allocated start/finish time to avoid people congregating outside classrooms

If parents need to communicate with the school office, we would prefer if this could be done via phone or email as this would be preferable to physically visiting the office. Class email addresses can continue to 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.

Attendance

The Government has directed that no family will be penalised or fined for not sending their child to school, in the current circumstances, but that some families in certain circumstances will be urged to allow their children to return to school, as the phased re-opening rolls out.

Children of Key Workers

The children of key workers, in year groups other than Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, who have been attending school during the lock down period, may continue to attend school in the way that they have been doing. They will become part of the plan for staggered starts and end to the school day and will continue to maintain social distancing in the classrooms that they have been doing throughout their time in school.

If any parent considers that they are a key worker and are returning to work and would like their child/ren to return to school under this scheme, please contact the school office on 01234 345636 to discuss the situation with Miss Cooke.

Learning Packs

During this period of a phased return to school, we will continue to provide weekly learning packs to those year groups who are not yet in school. This will continue, until the end of the school year on 17th July so that if parents have made the decision that they do not wish their child/ren to return to school, the children are still able to access learning.

If families require learning packs to be printed, please request this via email to class teachers. Printed packs will be available to be collected from the school after noon on a Monday.



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

THERE WILL BE NO NEW LEARNING PACK FOR HALF TERM WEEK, NEXT WEEK.

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

Phone calls home

Class teachers will continue to make phone calls to families where children are not attending school. This is to maintain contact with families and to answer and questions or queries. 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	Ruby	ruby@ecls.org.uk
Pearl	pearl@ecls.org.uk	Emerald	emerald@ecls.org.uk
Aquamarines	aqua@ecls.org.uk	Jade	jade@ecls.org.uk
Sapphire	sapphire@ecls.org.uk	Amber	amber@ecls.org.uk
Garnet	garnet@ecls.org.uk	Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk

Bedford Borough Parent's Survey

Bedford Borough have produced a short survey for parents to complete about their experiences through the time that schools have been closed.

All parents are encouraged to complete this survey.

The survey can be accessed at

<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/NWGG5KC>

Sustrans

We wanted to let you know about the launch of **Sustrans Outside In**, a free resource to help parents who are looking after their children at home.

Walking, cycling and scooting are great ways to keep active and healthy in body and mind. During this time where we are mostly required to stay at home, these activities become harder to do.



Sustrans Outside In provides fun ideas and inspiration for parents to bring education, health and wellbeing activities into their home.

Parents can access resources by registering for our free parent newsletter. Over four weeks, they'll receive weekly videos, themed activities, games and challenges designed by our experienced school officers.

https://www.sustrans.org.uk/campaigns/outside-in/sustrans-outside-in-information/?utm_source=Sustrans&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11527943_Outside%20In%20schools&utm_content=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sustrans.org.uk%2Fcampaigns%2Foutside-in%2Fsustrans-outside-in-information%2F&dm_i=6EB,6V30N,P6E0VF,RJCNV,1

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.



School Website

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

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.

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk