



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

Monday 1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to update the whole school community on the delay to the wider opening of the school and the reasoning behind this decision to delay.

On Friday 29th May, following discussions with the Local Authority, School Governors and staff, I wrote to the families of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, who had been due to return to school from today, Monday 1st June, to inform them that we would be delaying the wider opening of the school until Monday 8th June at the earliest. The school remains open for those key worker children currently attending.

The primary reasons for this decision were.

- 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 information that has become available in the news over the weekend from the Independent SAGE Group, The National Governor Association and the infection rate numbers in Bedford, has strengthened and justified the reasons that we considered when making the decision to delay opening the school more widely.

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 at this current time we feel we need to delay the timeline of wider reopening to protect pupils, parents 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

