



EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Newsletter – December 2020

A message from Miss Cooke

In this strange year where so many things have had to be different, we are trying very hard to ensure that the children can still enjoy some of the usual things that we would do in school at Christmas. Everything, of course, is being done in a Covid secure way and we ensure that the children are staying in their phase bubbles. This week the children have enjoyed a visit from Theatre of the Widdershins and have watched the performance of The Gingerbread Man and the Magic Porridge Pot. These performances have been paid for by the Friends of Edith Cavell (FoEC), who are also paying for the Christmas parties that the children will have next week. A **HUGE** thanks to FoEC for supporting the school in this way. Every parent who has supported the fundraising efforts of the FoEC in the past has helped to ensure that we have been able to provide these Christmas treats for the children.

Please look out for a separate letter that will be sent before the end of the week regarding our plans for the final day of term – Friday 18th December. Following the Government announcement on Tuesday 8th December saying that schools may end the Autumn one day early, as a school we have decided, and are supported by advice from Bedford Borough Council, that the school **remains open** on Friday 18th December. We feel that it is unfair, with only one weeks' notice to close the school fully a day early leaving working parents to make alternative care arrangements at such short notice.

We are looking to launch our Social Media strategy for the school. This means that the school has created official Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Parents will be able to follow these accounts and receive regular updates on these platforms. Please look out for further information about how to follow the official accounts and acceptable use information.

In my November newsletter I included in the dates section, information that the school may be **closed** to be used as a Polling Station on **Thursday 6th May 2021**. This date has now been confirmed and so parents should please note this date and ensure that arrangements for care of the children on this date is arranged as they will not be in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents, carers and children a very happy, restful and safe holiday time. If your family is celebrating Christmas, I hope your celebrations are special and enjoyable. If you are not celebrating Christmas, I hope your family enjoy the break from the school routine. To all families, we can only hope that 2021 brings some welcome changes to the testing circumstances that we have all had to deal with in 2020.

I look forward to seeing all children back at school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Miss Cooke

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

This Friday, 11th December the children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school instead of their normal blue school sweatshirts. Normal school uniform should be worn with Christmas jumpers.

It will also be Christmas Dinner day. Any child having a school dinner on this day will have Christmas Dinner. If your child is not entitled to Free School Meals and does not normally have a school dinner, but you would like them to on this day, and is in KS2, please pay on your ParentPay account for this meal. All children in Reception and KS1 will receive the meal. The cost of a school meal for children in Y3 and 4 is £2.18 and for children in Y5 and 6 it is £2.28.



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.

Positive Covid Test result over the Christmas Holidays

If you or your child test positive for Covid 19 on or before Christmas Eve 24th December, please email and inform the school using the general office email address office@ecls.org.uk

We ask you to do this as it may be necessary, depending on how long after the end of term, to inform children who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

If your child tests positive for Covid 19 after the 24th December, we still ask that you inform the school, but this can be done prior to the start of the Spring term. Staff will be in school on Monday 4th January, the day before the children return on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Parents' Guide to Technology



On the run up to Christmas when parents' may be considering purchasing new devices for their children, The UK Safer Internet Centre produces a Parents' Guide to setting up Technology with parental controls and advice about the use of Internet Connected Devices.

This guide can be found at

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

Online Safety – TikTok Adds Tougher Parental Controls

The BBC reports that TikTok is expanding its parental control feature Family Pairing making it easier for parents to safeguard their children on its video-sharing platform. New features include the ability to change the youngster's settings remotely to block them from carrying out searches, and to prevent strangers from seeing their posts. Children can still override these limitations but not without their parents being told. Read the full article here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-54974813>



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!!



Car Parking

Following the letter to parents on 26th November regarding the complaints that have been received from residents about the inconsiderate and in some cases illegal parking of parents at Edith Cavell, the school has tried to have a presence in the areas where parking is a problem.

As with previously, when a member of school staff is in attendance, parents park more considerately, but when school staff or the parking attendant is not in attendance, parents do not observe the Highway code, street markings or access to resident's driveways.

As we have continually reiterated with this and other issues such as observing the one-way system around the school, parents should do the right thing whether someone is watching or not. Please think about the example you are setting to your children.

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.



Message from the Governors

It is fair to say that 2020 has certainly been a year to remember - a year when in the face of the most extreme of circumstances, the school community has worked incredibly hard, pulling together to manage the impact of Covid-19.

The dedication of all the staff at Edith Cavell as they put new systems in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and sustain their education has been amazing. Likewise, the support of our families in the community in response to the speed of events and the challenges of remote learning has been tremendous.

Although restrictions over the last nine months have meant that governors were unable to carry out their usual visits to school, the governing body has continued to meet online and Miss Cooke has updated us regularly on all the developments. It is heartening and reassuring that despite the challenges, the children have continued to engage in school life and enjoy their learning.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to express our gratitude for everything that has been accomplished by the school community and a huge thank you to the staff at Edith Cavell for their continued support and resilience - in particular Miss Cooke, who has worked tirelessly to steer the school through the uncertainties and maintain standards of safeguarding, teaching and learning.

As we draw near to the end of term, we look forward to the new year 2021 in the sincere hope that it will look and feel more like normal for the school community soon.

Wishing you all a happy and restful holiday with your families and loved ones.

Gillian Bishop

On behalf of the governing body at Edith Cavell

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
Aquamarine	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/Topaz	amber@ecls.org.uk
Little Treasures	treasures@ecls.org.uk

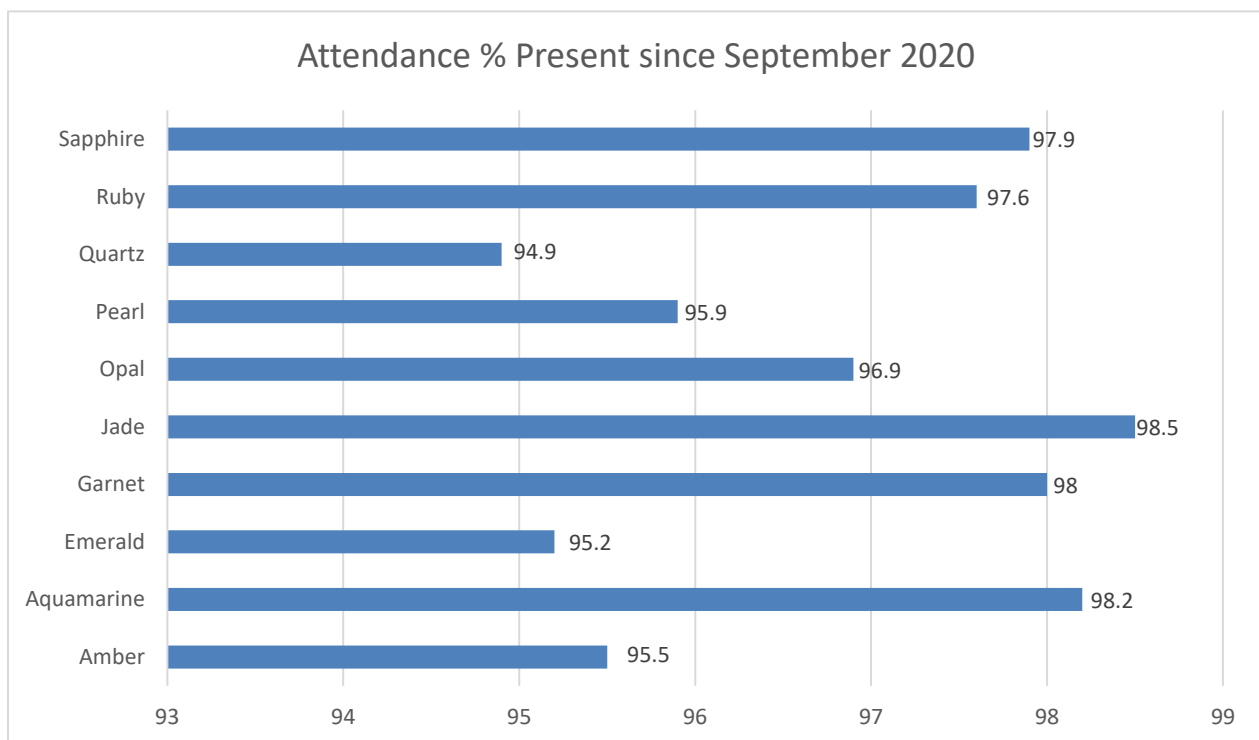
Attendance

Each week in school we award the 'Attendance Bear' to the class that has had the best attendance in the school. The children enjoy having Attendance Bear in their classroom for the week and eagerly await the results each week. Please help your child's class earn the privilege of looking after Attendance Bear for the week by ensuring that your child attends school every day. The winners of Attendance Bear in November have been



2 nd – 6 th Nov	Sapphire Class
9 th – 13 th Nov	Emerald, Jade, Garnet, Opal and Pearl Class
16 th – 19 th Nov	Ruby Class
23 rd – 27 th Nov	Sapphire Class

Attendance Since September 2020



Stars of the Week
November 2020

Amber/Topaz

Pearl

Jesse
Miracle
Sophia
Khairi

Emerald

Emerald Class
Isadora
Illiya
Jessica J

Jade

Millie
Nathan
Bentley
Theodora

Opal

Steffan
Gracie-May
Amelia
Mahaj

Ruby

Mikolaj
Ibrahim
Jayden
Halima

Garnet

Koko
Insha
Annaiya
Ayesha

Quartz

Tyler
Quartz Class
Maja
Boden

Aquamarine

Xavier
Rares
Jason
Amy

Sapphire

Marshall
Silvia
Shaun
Kristo

Dates – Autumn 2020

December

Fri 11 th	Christmas Dinner
	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 18 th	End of Term

Spring 2021

January

Tues 5 th Jan 2021	First Day back at school for children
Thur 28 th Jan	Individual Photographs

February

Fri 5 th Feb	Shine Bright – Wear Bright Day
Mon 8 th Feb	Safer Internet Week – An Internet we trust
Tue 9 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Fri 12 th	Children finish for half term

Mon 22 nd	First day back for children
Thur 25 th	Sponsored event

March

Thur 4 th	World Book Day
Fri 12 th	World Maths Day
Fri 19 th	Comic Relief
Fri 26 th	End of the Spring Term

2020 – 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Monday 7th September – Friday 18th December 2020

Half term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Inset day Monday 2nd November – School Closed

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.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/schools-and-collegescadem/school-term-and-holiday-dates/>

Coronavirus information for Parents/Carers (From Nov 23rd 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 14 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 14 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.

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 14 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 your child is identified as having been in close contact with a confirmed case, they will be asked to self-isolate for 14 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

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 14 days household isolation period.