



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

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing to you today to say that the Governors and I have made the difficult decision that at the start of the Spring Term on Tuesday 5th January 2021, **we will only open the school to the children of Key Workers and those identified as vulnerable.**

This is not a decision that we have arrived at lightly, but due to the extremely high infection rates in Bedford, especially the Harpur Ward and the rapid transmission of the new variant of Covid it is a measure that we feel we must take to protect the community, parents, children and school staff.

Many of you may have seen posts on social media and in the local media from the Mayor Dave Hodgeson. The Mayor has requested that the Department for Education look again urgently at the unique circumstances in Bedford Borough around the Covid infection rate which is higher in Bedford than in some London Boroughs where Primary Schools have been told to stay mainly closed.

The Bedford Borough view is “that primary schools should only be open for the first two weeks of term to vulnerable pupils and children of key workers due to the local and national evidence of the increase in cases and the rapid transmission of the new variant of COVID.”

We will be contacting you again tomorrow, Monday 4th January, with further details about moving to a system of remote learning.

Please make contact with the school office on office@ecls.org.uk **before 12 noon on Monday 4th January 2021** if you feel that your child is eligible for a Key Worker or vulnerable pupil place at school. Please register your interest and eligibility even if you have previously accessed a school place based on these criteria. You will be contacted by school staff to confirm if we are able to accommodate your request. Pupils who attend school will remain in phase bubbles and undertake the same learning activities as are accessed by children learning at home. For any children attending school, start and end of school day times will remain unchanged.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, (Not KS1 Universal Free School Meals) you will be contacted in the coming days about arrangements.

This is not a situation that anyone in school wanted to re-occur, and I thank parents for their patience, understanding and support in this fast paced, ever changing situation and throughout the pandemic. Please be assured that the well-being, learning and progress of all children is at the heart of all decisions made

Yours sincerely

H. L Cooke

