



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

11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term, I wanted to update you on a few items ahead of the holiday.

February Half Term

School closes for half term this Friday, 12th February. This means that there will be no learning pack, online lessons, or daily registration for the week beginning Monday 15th February. Children of Key Workers and those who have been attending school will return on Monday 22nd February and Remote Learning will restart for all children learning from home on that day as well.

It has been a challenging half term for all children, parents and staff since Christmas. As the government message is still 'Stay at Home' families cannot travel, visit anywhere or family unless an established 'support bubble', it is still important that we recharge batteries ready to start the new half term.

Live registration, remote learning, learning packs and assemblies will resume on Monday 22nd February.

The start of the school day in school and the times of the daily registration sessions are outlined in the table below for each year group.

		Start of day	Daily Registration			Start of day	Daily Registration
				Lower Key Stage 2	Year 3	8.55am	9.00am
					Year 4	8.55am	9.00am
Key Stage 1	Year 1	8.35am	8.45am	Upper Key Stage 2	Year 5	8.35am	8.40am
	Year 2	8.35am	8.45am		Year 6	8.35am	8.40am

The link for daily registration sessions will be shared on Google Classrooms.

Even though it is half term, please, please continue to read with and to your child. Maintaining reading skills is vital to so many areas of the curriculum and continued reinforcement of reading skills will benefit your child with future home learning and when they return to school.

Positive Covid Test Notification over half term

If you or your child tests positive for Covid over the half term holiday 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 to inform children who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive that they need to self-isolate in order to try and stop the spread of the virus in the school and local community.



Parents Evenings

Each year we hold a second Parent's evening in the Spring term. These are being planned for the week beginning 1st March for KS1 and KS2. Specific details will be sent to parents after half term.

We have purchased a new system called School Cloud to assist with this process. School Cloud is a product used by thousands of schools nationally and is a system that has been refined and specially created for schools and their needs. School Cloud is an online sign up system, where parents can choose the time of their parents evening appointment online and then sign in for a video call with the teacher at the selected time. Help sheets and instructions will be provided to parents after half term to support with the process of signing up for Parent's Evening meetings.

We will expect all parents of children in KS1 and KS2 to use this service and hold a meeting with their child's class teacher. Arrangements will be slightly different for parents with children in Amber and Topaz classes. Details of arrangements for Amber and Topaz class will be provided next half term.

Easter Holidays

It has also come to my attention that the incorrect dates for the Easter holidays have been displayed on the newsletter for the last few months. The correct date for the start of the Easter holidays is Monday 29th of March 2021. The last day in school for the children will be Friday 26th March 2021. Children return to school on Tuesday 13th April 2021 after the Easter holidays. Apologies for any confusion. The dates were correctly displayed on the school website.

Safer Internet Week

This week is National Safer Internet Week and children have been undertaking learning about the safe use of the internet and devices. This is especially important in these times where we are all spending so much more time on line and looking at a screen. As it is Safer Internet Week this week, I wanted to share some materials with parents that they may find useful.

Snapchat's Parent Guide

Snapchat is a popular app that is used by millions worldwide. Snapchat have launched a new Discover channel, Safety Snapshot, dedicated to online safety for Snapchatters. Twelve episodes will be released over the coming months that focus on topics like keeping your account safe, debunking myths, protecting your data, reporting illegal activity or bullying on Snapchat, and more.

Snapchat's new 25 page, fully localized, **Parent Guide** is available through their **Safety Center and Support Site**. The link is dynamic — meaning it will provide the viewer with their localized version, based on their IP address.

If you'd like to find out more about the safety and reporting features on Snapchat, take a look at the **Snapchat Checklist** which answers FAQs around reporting and control.

If something's happened to you or someone you are supporting on Snapchat, then please take a look at the **helplines flowchart** to work out which service is the best to offer support.

Supporting Young People Online

I am very aware that we have a number of parents whose first language is not English. The link below will take you to a Childnet site where there is a leaflet for parents about supporting children online that has also been translated to a number of different languages.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>

The languages it has been translated into include:-

- Arabic
- Bengali
- Farsi
- French
- Hindi
- Polish
- Punjabi
- Somali

• Spanish

Turkish

Urdu

Vietnamese

Welsh

Return to full opening of the school

Parents, children and staff are all waiting for announcements from the government about the wider reopening of schools. We have been told that the government will give schools and parents two weeks' notice of when schools will reopen more widely, but that the re-opening will not be before 8th March.

Schools will not have prior warning, or prior sight of any plans announced by the government. Schools will find out about the government's plans at the same time as parents. Whatever is announced about the order that children will return to school, please be assured that Edith Cavell will do what we feel is best for the children who attend Edith Cavell. So please look out for communication from the school, once the government gives that two-week notice.

What is very unlikely to change is the need for staggered start and end to the school day and the need to maintain social distancing on the school site as well as measures such as the one-way system around the outside of the school. Within school we will be continuing with the enhanced cleaning routines that have been introduced since Christmas and ensuring that the children and staff continue to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day as well as maintain consistent seating positions in class and at lunchtime.

Free School Meal Vouchers

All families who qualify for Free School Meals should have received a copy of the letter from Bedford Borough Council outlining that they will receive a £20 per eligible child shopping voucher for over the half term period. This will come from the provider Black Hawk and is different to the term time provider EdenRed. If any families have difficulties accessing this voucher, please contact the school office on 01234 345636 or office@ecls.org.uk and we may be able to help.

Any families who feel that their financial situation has changed through the pandemic and that they may now be eligible to apply for Free school meals, please do apply.

Details of those who may now be eligible for FSM can see eligibility criteria on the school website 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

If any family is eligible, even for a short time, the school will receive financial support for six years, so any applications that are successful will support you and the school.

Thank you

It is really important that as a school we say a huge Thank You to all the parents and carers that have been supporting children to learn at home since Christmas. I am well aware that many of you have been undertaking a huge juggling act to complete your own work from home as well as supervise remote learning for your children who are in different year groups and schools. Your support, flexibility and resourcefulness has been invaluable in this situation and the whole staff team at Edith Cavell are very grateful for the way that you have championed your children and the school. That said we do hope to be welcoming everyone back to school very soon.

Yours sincerely

H. L Cooke