



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

Newsletter – December 2021

A message from Miss Cooke

As we approach the end of a very long first term, we can reflect what a lot the children have achieved. The progress that most children have made this term has been wonderful to see and has helped to move forward skills and knowledge across the curriculum. A HUGE thank you to parents who have supported their children with homework, reading, times tables and spellings at home.

Parental support and vigilance around Covid 19 has, until last week, helped us to keep the number of children contracting Covid relatively low compared to other local schools. The approaching Christmas holidays will give us that break from school to hopefully stop the spread around the school further.

We respectfully ask that over the Christmas holidays, families follow the Government Step 4 advice around LFD testing before attending large family gatherings or large scale events and if any member of the family shows symptoms of Covid 19, the family obtain PCR Covid tests. In this way we would hope we can return to school in January all fit and well.

If parents supported their children to undertake an LFT test prior to returning to school in January 2022, as all staff will be doing, we would all know that we are safe in the knowledge that we have all done all that we can to keep each other as safe as possible.

Should the national Covid situation change significantly over the Christmas holidays, I will send an update on organisation and arrangements for school, if there are any, to families on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

If all things remain as they are, school will re-open on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**. The first bell will sound at 8.45am and the classroom doors will open at that time.

Should any child not be returning to school on that day, we ask that parents notify us with a specific reason for absence via email to office@ecls.org.uk or by phoning 01234 345636.

I have again attached the most up to date advice to parents regarding managing a suspected case of Covid 19 at the end of this newsletter.

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 2022 brings some welcome changes and a return to some sort of normality.

I look forward to seeing all children back at school on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Miss Cooke

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Optional Early end of school day – Friday 17th December

As per my letter dated 1st December 2021, we are giving parents the option to collect their children slightly earlier on the last day of term, Friday 17th December 2021.

Please use this link to inform us if you intend to collect your child at the earlier time of 1.45pm

<https://forms.gle/ayYBsGtVGHvguv216>

Please note: Year 5 and Year 6 children will not be allowed to leave early without the school receiving a completed form from parents.

There will be just two points at which children may be collected or dismissed, either the early finish time of 1.45pm **or** at the normal end of day from their collection/dismissal point – **not** at any other time.

End of Day Collection/Dismissal Points - (For children staying until the normal end of day)

- Reception and Nursery should be collected from their classrooms as normal
- KS1 should be collected from Jade classroom
- LKS2 should be collected from Garnet classroom
- UKS2 will be dismissed from Quartz classroom

COVID 19 Advice - Reminder

No child should attend school if **they 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

An upset stomach, headache, sore throat or unusual fatigue are early warning signs of Covid 19. Please look out for these and if your child is displaying any of these symptoms, please get them tested to keep everyone in the school safe.

We have a number of vulnerable parents with serious health conditions who could be very seriously affected if their child contracts Covid 19. If we are all vigilant, we keep everyone safe.

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.

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!!



If the school is forced to close due to snow, we will do all we can to move to online learning immediately.

www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk

Operation Encompass- Working in partnership with Bedfordshire Police and Beds Borough Council

Operation Encompass is a charitable organisation set up in 2011 by David and Elizabeth Carney-Haworth OBE (a police officer and school head teacher). They recognised the necessity for police to share timely information with schools in order that children can be supported at school following Domestic Abuse Incidents they may have witnessed or been impacted by.

From 21/2/22 – Operation Encompass will be launched across Bedford Borough and Edith Cavell will be part of the scheme. This is a joint initiative between Bedfordshire Police and Bedford Borough Children's Services and its aim is to provide schools with information relating to domestic abuse incidents that have impacted pupils at the school, as quickly as possible so that the school can provide appropriate support for children impacted by Domestic Abuse.

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.](https://bedford-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals.)



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

If any family are 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.

| Class | Email address |
|-------|---------------|
|-------|---------------|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Opal | opal@ecls.org.uk |
| Quartz | quartz@ecls.org.uk |
| Pearl | pearl@ecls.org.uk |
| Aquamarines | aqua@ecls.org.uk |
| Sapphire | sapphire@ecls.org.uk |
| Garnet | garnet@ecls.org.uk |

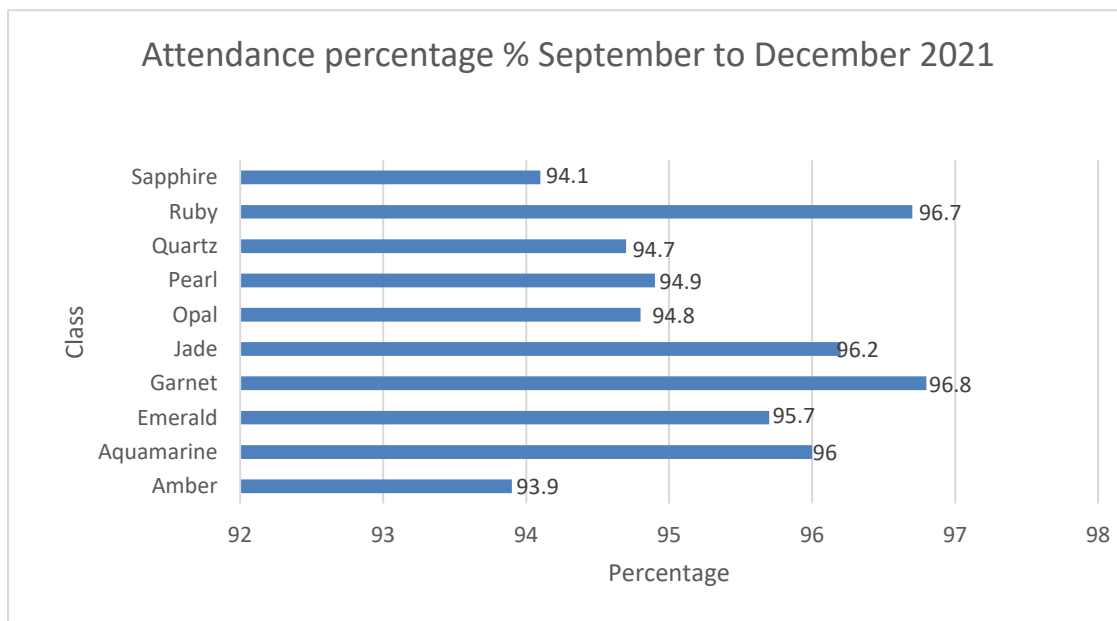
| | |
|------------------|--|
| Ruby | ruby@ecls.org.uk |
| Emerald | emerald@ecls.org.uk |
| Jade | jade@ecls.org.uk |
| Amber | amber@ecls.org.uk |
| Little Treasures | treasures@ecls.org.uk |

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 October have been



| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 st - 5 th Nov | Emerald Class |
| 8 th - 12 th Nov | Ruby & Sapphire Class |
| 15 th - 19 th Nov | Jade Class |
| 22 nd - 26 th Nov | Pearl Class |



Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has launched a campaign specifically aimed at girls who are active on social media as a reminder about what to look for, be aware of and how to deal with the potential of online grooming. Watching the film may provide parents with an opening to having a discussion with their daughters about their online activity.

<https://gurlsoutloud.com/>

Childnet have produced a series of six short videos based on the SMART rules which parents can use to discuss a range of online safety issues with their children. The videos can be accessed by following this link.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

If you are considering purchasing new devices for your children, or feel they may be accessing their devices for longer periods of time over the Christmas holidays, you may find this article about Privacy Settings a help to ensure that you can have your child's device settings as secure and safe as possible.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/a-parents-guide-to-privacy-settings/>

Many children enjoy gaming on their devices, but are they safe? This article may help answer some of those questions

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

If any children use the Discord App to have in game discussions with other players, friends or gamers, it is worth noting that the age requirement for the App is 17+. This link is to an article by Internet matters which has advice and guidance, including privacy settings, filtering comments, blocking/reporting and more.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-discord-on-how-your-kids-can-use-it-safely/>

4 Tips for giving tech gifts this Christmas—To share with parents 'Tis the season... to go shopping... and whether it's phones, tablets, consoles, or wearables, technology gifts continue to top the Christmas wish-lists of many children and young people. Black Friday has been and gone, so the SWGfL have created four top tips for parents and carers to consider before those devices, whether new or 'new to you', are unwrapped on December 25th. 4 tips for giving tech gifts this Christmas - UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/4-tips-for-giving-tech-gifts-this-christmas>

New Instagram Guide for Parents

Instagram have released a brand new guide for parents containing lots of useful information such as:

- Tips for parents.
- Tips for talking to teens.
- Managing account privacy.
- Balancing screen time.
- Filtering offensive comments.
- and much more.

Although the guide is targeted at parents of younger teenagers, we all know that younger children are using Instagram, so at your own discretion you may want to share the guide which can be found [HERE](#)

Stars of the Week November 2021

Amber

Lucia
Luna
Carmela
Zahra

Pearl

Gina
Owen
Maja
Nathan

Emerald

Joe
Emerald Class
Kade
Ivan

Jade

Felipi
Jade Class
Elsie
Kian

Opal

Jason
Opal Class
Reuben
Lainey-Mae

Ruby

Jessica H
Skye
Smayani

Garnet

Zoya
Ayaan
Etienne
DeJonie

Quartz

Riley
Marshall
Khadija
Harry

Aquamarine

Chloe
Elsina
Jayden
Stefania

Sapphire

Miki
Czarek
Theodora
Ibrahim

Dates – Spring 2022

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Tue 4 th Jan | Training Day |
| Wed 5 th | First day back for children |
| Mon 10 th | Nursery return |
| Tue 18 th | Individual and family photographs |
| Mon 7 th | Children's mental health awareness week – Growing together |
| Tue 8 th Feb | Safer Internet Day – All fun and games – exploring respect and relationships online |
| Fri 11 th | Non uniform day – Shine bright – wear bright Half Term |
| Mon 21 st Feb | 1 st Day back for children |
| Thur 3 rd Mar | World Book Day |
| Fri 18 th | Comic Relief |
| Fri 1 st April | End of Term |

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

Autumn Term 2021

Training Days – Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021
Children return - **Monday 6th September 2021**
Half term: Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021
Children return – **Monday 1st November 2021**
Term Ends: Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Training Day – Tuesday 4th January 2022
Children return - **Wednesday 5th January 2022**
Half Term: Monday 14th February – Friday 18th February 2022
Children return – **Monday 21st February 2022**
Term Ends: Friday 1st April 2022

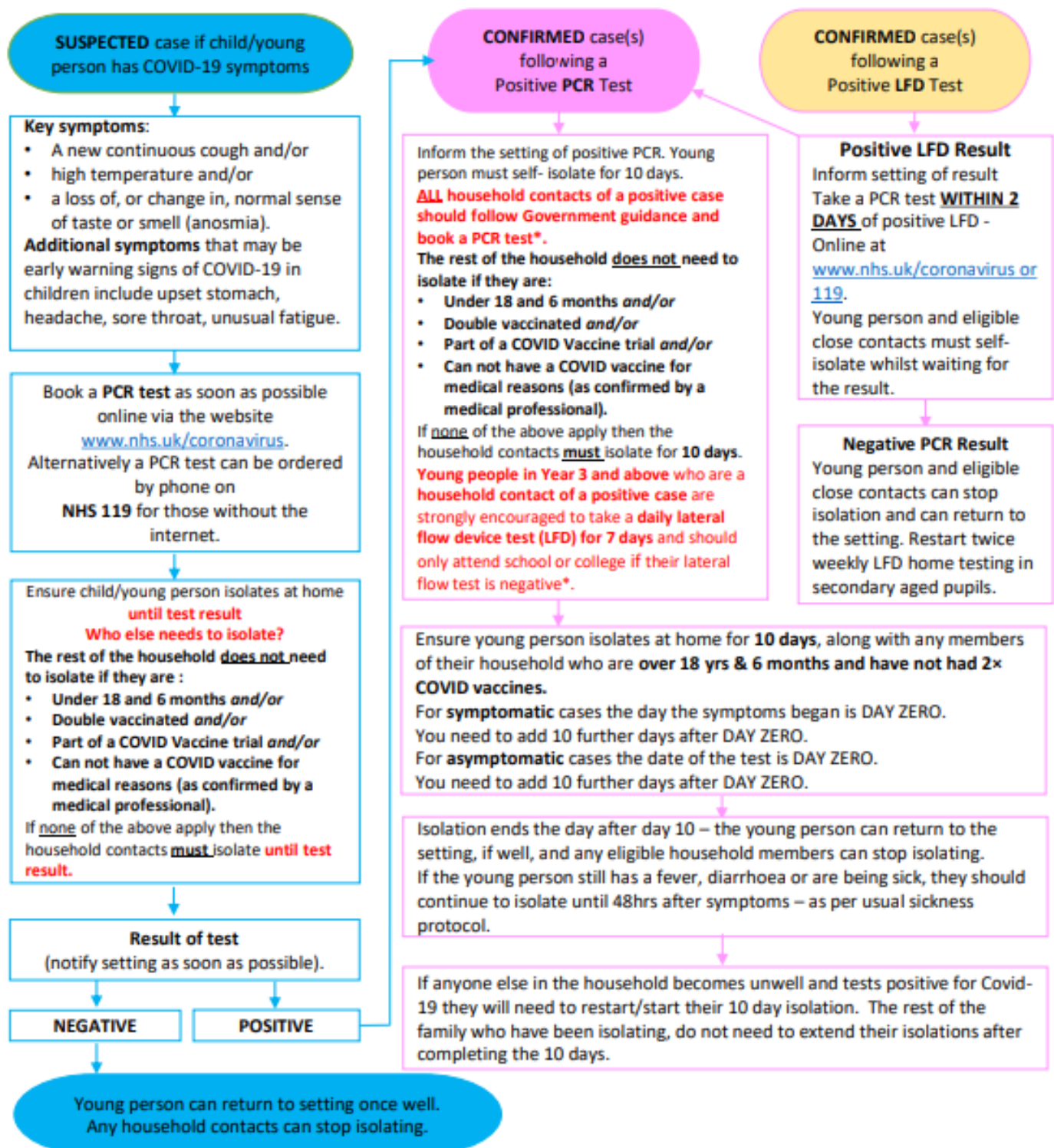
Summer Term 2022

Training Day – Tuesday 19th April 2022
Children return – **Wednesday 20th April 2022**
May Day – Monday 2nd May 2022
Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022
Children return – **Monday 6th June 2022**
Term Ends: Friday 22nd July 2022

Please take note of
Edith Cavell term
dates – Local
schools may have
different term dates.

COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers in Bedford Borough Education Settings From 1st Nov 2021

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a young person please follow the flow chart below.



- Mask should be worn by young people in Year 7 and above (Year 5 and above in Middle Schools) in all communal areas outside the classroom, and on school and public transport.
- *If you have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 you are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test result, unless you develop new symptoms.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms and should **not** be used if you have any symptoms.
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.