



Edwinstree Middle School

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England
School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS

Week Ending: 16th June 2017

Diary Dates:

- 19/7/17 NO HOMELEARNING CLUB
- 22/6/17 Lea House Rewards Activities
- 23/6/17 Winston Churchill Day
- 26/6/17 Inset Day – school closed
- 28/6/17 Summer Concert
- 29/6/17 Lea House Rewards Activities 2-3:15pm
- 29/6/17 Y5 Parents' Evening
- 30/6/17 Galactus Jack workshop
- 5/7/17 Breck Foundation visit students
- 7/7/17 Action Aid
- 11/7/17 Y5 Whipsnade Zoo visit - postponed
- 12/7/17 Scarecrow Festival 3:30pm-4:30pm
- 13/7/17 County Transition Day
- 13/7/17 Y8 Visit Airspace - 6pm-7pm
- 14/7/17 Sports Day
- 14/7/17 Scarecrow Festival 3:30- 4:30pm
- 17/7/17 Action Plan Meeting for Parents – 5pm
- 20/7/17 Y8 CELEBRATION EVENING
- 21/7/17 End of Term – School finishes 2:30pm

LA review the school received a mini LA review, in all previous reviews our main focus had been English and Maths. Last week books and lessons were monitored in all our **foundation subjects** (those that aren't English or Maths) last week below is a summary of the outcomes:

Whilst teaching is not yet consistently good in all foundation lessons, it is having a greater impact on pupils' learning than previously. There is evidence of strong progress in books.

The strengths evident during the visit:

- 1) Pupils' conduct is routinely good
- 2) The schemes of work which the subject leaders have written are providing an effective support for non-specialist teachers of the foundation subjects to enable them to plan well to meet the individual learning needs of the pupils
- 3) The best teaching has teachers who are skilled at providing stretch and challenge to pupils from all prior attaining groups
- 4) Where subjects are taught by specialists, they address misconceptions with immediacy
- 5) The best teaching was effective in ensuring that the pupils listen when they are passing on information; the strategies they use include providing a 'hook' and speaking from their own experience
- 6) Almost all teachers use the agreed 'no hands up' approach to assessment
- 7) Most teachers apply the agreed feedback policy faithfully
- 8) In many cases, teachers provide useful opportunities for the pupils to develop their reasoning skills and to progress from using concrete apparatus to practical activities and then to understanding abstract concepts
- 9) The best teaching makes strong links with other subjects in their teaching

The weakest teaching had elements of the following:

- Teachers not routinely following the agreed schemes of work
- Teachers do not use 'casting off' well enough to make sure that pupils' progress in the lesson is maximised.
- Presentation in some books indicates that pupils' attitudes to learning are not strong enough yet.
- The weakest teaching did not move the pupils' learning on quickly enough.
- Teachers did not teach the skills of listening well enough

Please note we are immediately addressing the following in our training with staff on Monday 19/6/17

- Listening skills and how to ensure that all students are active listeners. Students should be able to tell you about the Hi Five listening skills by the end of the week.
- Presentation strategy re launched and the individual's students not meeting standards will be addressed as to poor presentation.
- Casting off, allowing students to go to work if they understand, but working again with those that don't will also be relaunched at our Staff meeting.

Please ask your child about the listening, presentation and casting off strategies at the end of next week, they should be aware and already feeling the effect. Alongside this, a coaching team has gone into support the staff that still need to make the leap into always 'good' lessons, in particular when they are outside of their subject.

Action Plan Meeting for Parents 17/7/17

After our SIAMs inspection which is due in June, we will hold one last Action Plan meeting for parents on Monday 17th July at 6pm. We will give you our clear progress to date and to hear your views about what you feel needs to be addressed next.

Weather

We continue to track the weather daily and where it is predicted that temperatures are rising to 25 degrees and over, students have the choice to wear their PE kit if they would prefer and we will notify you via Parentmail

Edwinstree School Elections

On Election Day 8/6/17 Edwinstree students had time to consider the manifestos of the parties and to vote in our own elections, the outcome reflected the national vote in most cases except the Green Party took significantly more votes than the Liberals!

Scarecrow Festival 12/7/17

Students will be invited to make a competition scarecrow which will be displayed in the school grounds from 12/7/17 until 14/7/17 and parents will be invited to view exhibits from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on both days. Please visit our 'letters home' page on the website for details.

Our faith supports each individual to flourish and challenges us to live life in all its fullness

Lea House rewards

Lea House rewards afternoon offers a choice of swimming or sporting activities which will take place on: **22nd June 2017 for Year 5 and Year 6**
29th June 2017 for Year 7 and Year 8

Please ensure your child returns the slip on the day of their chosen activity. Please do not hand into the office in advance.

Parentview

Thank you to the thirty four parents who have taken the time to complete the online Parentview. This is the tool Ofsted use to assess parents' opinions about the school. If you haven't found the time to access this site and place your opinion, can I please urge you to do so? The link is <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> Out of the thirty four parents registered, a small but significant proportion are still expressing their concerns regarding bullying. This has reduced beyond recognition from our outset, but still concerns us. Can I please stress if there is a problem, please let us know. We know that we are tackling all issues raised, so we are worried that their might be problems going under our radar as we don't know about them. Please remember, no problem is too small!

Reminder - Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Please check your bags and purses, we are still collecting the Active Kids vouchers, please send them into school so we can exchange them for sports' equipment for students. Deadline for vouchers by 30/6/17 – thank you

Year 6 Art

There will be a 'one off' Art homelearning homework this term for Year 6 students to design an ancient Greek vase.

Year 7 Magistrates Visit

Three Hertfordshire magistrates will be working with Year 7 as part of their PSHCEE entitlement, to support them to understand how the magistrates work, the decisions that have to be taken and what happens if someone commits a crime. Students will have the opportunity to act out a trial.

Breck Foundation – Internet Safety Presentation

Following positive feedback from parents who attend the presentation last month, we are pleased to inform you the Breck Foundation will be visiting Edwinstree pupils on Wednesday 5th July. They will deliver a child friendly presentation about grooming on the internet and how to stay safe online this will be differentiated to meet both key stage 2 needs and key stage 3 in separate sessions. If you missed the opportunity to see the Parents' version and would like to see the children's version please contact the school office or email the admin team on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Rounders Festival Success

We are delighted to inform you that Edwinstree's U11s rounders team played seven games and won seven games, beating all opposing teams. The team scored 40 rounders overall and the second team scored 21 rounders in three games, the highest scored out of 34 teams. Well done to everyone who took part!

Road Safety

Please remind your child about road safety and take extra care when dropping your child off and collecting to and from school. Bowling Green Lane is very busy at these times. Parking is free in Sainsbury's car park weekdays before 9am and after 3pm!

Summer Concert 28/6/17 @ 6pm

You are invited to our Summer Concert and tickets will go on sale shortly at £3 per person. Please contact the school office for further details.

Homelearning Club

Please be aware that due to a staff meeting, Homelearning Club has been cancelled on Monday 19/6/17.

School Lunches

We will have two 'themed lunches' next month to celebrate Independence Day on the 4th July and Wimbledon on the 11th July. Menus will be coming home with your child today. Students who already opt for school lunch will automatically be included in this event, however, if your child does not normally have a school lunch, please complete and return the menu form to the school office with payment of £2.45. If your child wishes to stop having school lunches, written notice must be given, otherwise you will be charged for prepared meals.

Jo Gant Headteacher

Encl: COG Letter