



Diary Dates:

13/3/17	Mock SATS for Y6–Mon Tues, Thurs Fri
14/3/17	Rib House Fun Swim Y7/Y8
15/3/17	Y6 Science Day
16/3/17	Normandy Information Evening 5pm
17/3/17	Normandy Deposit due
20/3/17	Y6 Preparation for SATs 5pm-6pm
21/3/17	Y6 Parents' Feedback Meeting - Eng & Maths 12:15pm-4:30pm
27-30/3/17	Normandy Visit
28/3/17	Y6 Parents' Feedback Meeting - Eng & Maths 12:15pm-4:30pm
3-17/4/17	Easter Holidays
19/4/17	Y6 NHS Measure Height & Weight
8/5/17	SATS Week
29/5-2/6/17	Half Term
21/7/17	End of Term – School finishes 2:30pm

Notification of Increase in cost of School Meals from April 2017

Hertfordshire Catering Ltd [HCL] have informed us that due to the introduction of the living wage, other increases in staffing costs and the rising cost of food, the price of a school meal will increase on 1st April from £2.40 to **£2.45**.

Unfortunately, there was an unexpected delay with dinners on 7/3/17, all students were informed and no student was marked late for registration and everyone was fed.

Y8 Normandy Information Evening 16/3/17 @ 5pm

Year 8 parents are invited to attend to find out important information about the forthcoming Normandy residential visit and itinerary.

Y7 Normandy 2018

Non-refundable deposit is due on Friday 17th March.

Reminder – Y5 Shropshire Payment due 10/3/17

Year 5 Preparation for SATs an early start!

Attached are the documents discussed during the Parents' meeting. Thank you for attending. Remember our key message is to make sure that you are actively reading with your child and keeping those times tables ticking over.

Endure the Mile:

Congratulations to those students, who ran and or walked the mile this week, come rain or shine. We have currently travelled the equivalent of a journey from Buntingford to John O'Groats

Mobile phones

Having identified that there are a few students who are bringing mobile phones in without permission, this week we have experienced a number of enquiries. Can I reiterate the policy again please? **Mobile phones are not permitted in school** unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Why don't I move to allow mobile phones in school for all students?

I am growing increasingly concerned about the poor use of mobile phones. In particular we are seeing a growing number of incidents of students having uncontrolled access to their phone. My concerns are two-fold: I have experienced students being party to significant violent and or pornographic material through the internet on a phone. This has caused significant upset and concern.

We are also seeing an increase in the use of mobile phones to continue arguments and or to provoke them via social media sites. When we were young, we may have fallen out with friends at school, but we were unable to continue this argument at home. It gave us space and time to reflect and calm down. Access to a mobile phone does not help in this situation. This is coupled by students seeming to have no restraint in their use of poor language and or threatening comments through these devices.

I also refer you to the Panorama programme that played on BBC 1 on Monday night. Nationally, sleep deprivation is on the increase. The programme identified blue screen devices as being a significant cause and recommended strategies to support a child's sleep and mental health. Please see the link below. [Sleepless Britain](#)

I am currently considering suggesting, that even for safeguarding, in September we only accept a basic phone device, which has the ability to phone and text only. I am very interested in what you think? If you would like to comment please take the opportunity to email me via admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

World Book Day.

Thank you to the seventeen Y8 students who shared their favourite stories with Year 5 during World Book day. Parents have requested their recommendations and we are collating the list to publish next week.

Supporting students not to put up with bullying.

Thank you to the Year 8 boys who ran the Collective Worship session on Wednesday with Miss Devonshire. They were eloquent and clear about what 'bullying' is, and how to get support to stop it happening. Please tell us as soon as you have a concern. If we don't know the issue we can't tackle it, but as soon as we do, we will act. Thank you.

What does our Parent Questionnaire tell us about how you are feeling about the school?

Thank you for completing the questionnaires at Parents meetings. Attached are our latest questionnaires. Year 6 responses were collated prior to Christmas and Year 7 is our most recent.

Homelearning

Your child has two English and two Maths home learning days each week. For each subject, one of these days is designated as 'Pick and Mix'. Your child will need to look through the Pick and Mix sheets and select one or more tasks to undertake that they have

identified as being useful to them. This may include learning spellings or undertaking some practical maths tasks, for example. These tasks are all set to help your child to make independent choices about what they need to work on - obviously, some pupils may need some guidance from parents or teachers as they learn to become more self-aware. These tasks should be undertaken purposefully and may be recorded in the Learning Journal or Homelearning book. Some tasks may have been practical or may have been undertaken on paper. In these cases, record in the Learning Journal a brief summary of what has been done. The pupil should be prepared to tell their teacher **what they have learned**.

The other home learning for each subject, will be set by the teacher and may involve research, thinking, revising or completing a task. The teacher may have asked for it to be a verbal response or may expect a written response on a sheet or in a book. The pupil should be ready to hand in or discuss the home learning on the due date. For English this is usually to write ten sentences using the **'I can vary my sentences sheet'** in their English home learning book using beautifully joined cursive handwriting which should be error free.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

Encl
Questionnaire Analysis
Maths info