



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 10/09/21

Diary Dates

6/9/21	School Day 8:40am – 3:05pm
23/9/21	Y8 Visit Freman College
22/10/21	Y6 NHS Height & Weight

All students have made a positive start to the new academic year and we look forward to working with them.

How do I report a child absent?

Please remember to inform us **every day** that your child is absent from school. Please use the dedicated email address: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or you can leave a phone message after 8:30am. Please do not use Parentmail, School Gateway or any other email addresses, as these are not routinely monitored. Thank you for your co-operation.

What happens if my child or a family member tests positive for Covid-19?

Attached is a letter explaining how the school is planning to support and manage the risks of COVID at the start of term. If your child or family member tests positive or has symptoms, whether in school or on line, please inform us using the Covid-19 contact email:

covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Any other absence please contact us via attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Please click on the link for information on our [Contingency Plan](#) and [Risk Assessment](#) explaining in detail what we plan to do if there is an outbreak. This is defined by the Government as 5 cases or more.

How can I make communication via Parentmail easier?

As a school, we use Parentmail to communicate with you. In order to make the system more efficient, we recommend that you download the IRIS Parentmail app from the app store. This will ensure all school communication is in one place, so you do not miss any important messages or updates.

Who should you contact if you have a worry or concern?

The tutor is the first port of call for any worry or concern, nothing is too small to ask. However, teaching staff do not have access to a phone during the school day and we recommend you email. If you email the Admin team, please indicate your child's name and year group. We will then pass this onto the tutor and they are the first port of call for any problem.

If you have a concern about learning or a more serious problem, we would recommend you contact your child's Head of Year:

Year 5: hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk - Mrs Kelly

Year 6: hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk - Mr Kelly

Year 7: hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk - Mr McCarthy

Year 8: hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk - Mr Galanides

Can my child bring a mobile phone into school?

Yes, but please be aware that in line with our Mobile Phone Agreement, the school will not accept liability for a lost or damaged mobile phone and actively encourages parents to purchase a low cost device. Students will be required to hand their phones in at the start of the day and collect at the end. We encourage students to use our guest Wi-Fi when in school, as it has strong safety settings. Please be aware no phone is necessary for learning in school. Mobile Phone Agreement to follow.

What enrichment clubs are available this term?

Please sign up via the online forms if your child would like to attend any of the enrichment clubs The Film club is an outside provider club and last week we sent a flyer explaining how to sign up.

Starlight Stars, another reduced fee paying external club, please sign up via the online form and you will be invoiced directly by them. A flyer is attached explaining what the drama club can offer your child. Starlight Stars begins 21st September. Please be aware that homework club is by invitation only and currently ring-fenced to PP. Please see the club list attached.

What homework will my child be given and what will they be expected to do?

Attached with the Newsletter is the Homework Timetable for all years with information on what the Core subjects will be setting. Homework will be set as from Monday 13/9/21

Show My Homework

'Show My Homework' SMHW is the platform that we use to set all home learning. Activation codes and letters were sent home with all Year 5 students this week. Below are links to some helpful videos demonstrating how the app works for students and parents:

A Students Guide to Show My Homework:

[A Student's Guide to Show My Homework - Team Satchel \(wistia.com\)](#)

A Parent's Guide to Show My Homework:

[A Parent's Guide to Satchel One - Team Satchel \(wistia.com\)](#)

If you have any difficulties or require any assistance please contact Mrs Heywood by email:

r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk If you have a child who is not in Year 5 who is new or unable to access SMHW please email Mrs Heywood for new PIN codes.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

If you are parent in receipt of free school meals and struggling with devices to access SMHW please contact Mrs Heywood, we do have solutions.

Will students continue to wear PE kit on PE days?

Yes, for the moment while the field is dry, but as they have started touch rugby in Year 5 and Year 6 and contact rugby in Year 7 and Year 8 and the field gets muddier, students will use the changing rooms to get changed. If your child is vulnerable and may find this a struggle, please talk to the Learning Zone and we will find a solution.

Will the school use video clips from the internet as teaching resources?

Yes - we often use internet sources to support our teaching and Collective Worship, we also surf the internet with students and model how to find information, what checks to put in place to ensure that it is valid and is an evidence based fact. Sometimes, by accident, we encounter an inappropriate word and if we do, we will always address it, explain it is inappropriate and highlight the risks when researching the internet.

Will there be an Open Evening at Freman College?

Please see the information below sent out on behalf

Freman College

Year 8 Visiting Freman in lieu of Open Evening

This year we will not be holding a traditional Open Evening but instead all Year 8 students will have a tour of the college during the working day. We will also offer a tour to any parents who would like to visit as well. While our initial motivation was based on concerns regarding Covid, we actually think this will be a better experience for all concerned.

Arrangements for students

On Thursday 23rd September, all Year 8 students from Edwinstree will visit Freman for a tour of the college in small groups with one of our prefects. I will meet with them briefly in a socially distanced assembly before the prefects show them around to see lessons taking place in a variety of subjects and facilities such as the Sports Hall and the Canteen. Their visit will end with a question and answer session to address any queries they might have.

Arrangements for parents

In addition, for parents who do not have older children with us and have not yet visited Freman, we are offering optional tours of the college during the working day. Please follow this [link](#) to let us know if you would like a tour and we will get back to you with a date and time.

In order to keep the numbers on tours manageable we are limiting this to one parent per student. (Students will not be expected to come with their parent as they will already have had a tour.)

As this gives students and any parents who wish to do so the opportunity to see the college in action on a normal day, we think this is likely to be a more useful and interesting experience than a regular Open Evening.

We are really looking forward to meeting your sons and daughters and welcoming them to Freman.

Kind regards

Helen Loughran, Headteacher

We also attach the Moving on Booklet from County to guide you on how to apply.

Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming

Swimming lessons for students in Year 5 and Year 6 will begin post half term, please kindly complete the online swimming ability form for the P E Department, so they are aware of your child's swimming ability – Thank you

<https://forms.office.com/r/ybvxb42fKB>

100% Attendance – Non-uniform day reward

Class	Date
5B	13/9/21
7D	13/9/21

Jo Gant

Headteacher

H/W T Timetables & Info

SEND flyer

Moving on Booklet

Enrichment TT

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