



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 1/10/21

Diary Dates

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
4/10/21	Influenza Immunisation Y7 & Y8
7/10/21	Virtual Open Evening for Parents and external tours the week after
12/10/21	Parent Consultations 6A,6B,6C,8A,8C
19/10/21	Parent Consultations 6A,6C,6D,8B,8D
22/10/21	NHS Y6 Height & Weight check
25/10/21	Half Term
1/11/21	Students return
2/11/21	Y8 Covid Vaccinations
11/11/21	Remembrance Day
17/11/21	Influenza Immunisation – Y5 & Y6
2/12/21	Occasional day – School Closed
17/12/21	End of Term
4/1/22	Inset Day
5/1/22	Spring Term begins

Homework - Week A

What is the latest update regarding COVID?

As of Thursday, we have reached 11 positive COVID cases across all year groups.[10 students and 1 member of staff]. We will alert you if your child has been in close contact with a child who has tested positive, so you can be extra vigilant with your testing on Wednesdays and weekends. Please be aware of the three symptoms and if your child develops a temperature, cough or loss of taste and smell, please seek a PCR test. If your child presents as unwell, please be cautious – Thank you

Reminder – Please return all NHS consent forms for Covid and Influenza Immunisation to the school office - Thank you

What is a School Improvement Plan [SIP]?

A School Improvement Plan outlines what the school plans to do to improve its practice and the outcomes of students. Attached is our plan, we have removed as much jargon as possible and adapted it for parents to understand. It explains what we believe is our current situation, our plans to move students forward, the impact it will have if we are successful, and what you will notice at home. The individual actions the school will take is not included, but if you would like a copy of our full plan, please email the school office, we are happy to provide it.

When and how will Parents' Consultation Evenings take place?

We were hoping to offer at least one parents' evening in school, so that you could meet the teachers face to face. However, Public Health have advised that due to our cluster of COVID-19 cases, it would be safer to offer online consultations. At Edwinstree, we split the Parents' evenings into a Core evening and a Foundation evening for each year group. Like last year, these evenings will take

place using 'SchoolCloud', where appointments can be booked in advance and you can 'call in' from home or the office, and on multiple devices if necessary. There are enough appointments for everyone in the class on Core Evenings; for Foundation evenings there are three hours' worth of appointments that people can book. Each appointment is five minutes long. Below is a calendar for when these evenings will take place this year. They will run from 4pm to 7pm. Please note that the format of the Y5 'meet and greet' is still to be decided. About a week before the evenings themselves, you will receive an email opening the booking process. Last year, our feedback from parents and staff is that this is a more efficient process and helps everyone keep to time!

Will you be planning any visits for my child this year?

We began September with big plans for visits; however, due to our cluster outbreak we have put our plans on hold. In the meantime we are planning some visits in the local area, in order to complete the National Trust '100 things a child should do before they reach 12'. Due to COVID, Year 8 will be included and students will be asked to identify the 20 things they would most like to cover this year. We are interested to know whether you would like us to attempt a residential visit, as no year group has experienced this due to the pandemic. However, we will not attempt a foreign trip abroad as we are unable to get insurance to cover any cancellation. Wherever possible, I would like all students to attend.

How will the Influenza Immunisation be administered?

The NHS Nursing Team will administer nasal drops to all students whose parents have given consent. Year 7 and 8 will be immunised on Monday 4/10/21 and Years 5 and 6 on 17/11/21. Our vulnerable or nervous students will be prepped about the procedure by the Learning Zone team.

Year 5 information only

Unfortunately, Mrs Kelly is absent due to illness, please direct any Head of Year enquiries to Mr Rowlands, Deputy Head. If you have a concern, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and a member of the team will get back to you.

How successful were the KS2 Autumn Walks?

A huge thank you to the parents who helped to make the Humanities Autumn walks happen, without your support; this exercise would have cost the school supply cover. Year 5 and 6 were set a hypothesis that September is still Summer and not Autumn. They discussed what signs of evidence they might look for as they walked to prove or disprove this statement. On return, they will also explore a local OS MAP 1.25000 and how Cartographers (map makers) reduce real life down to a scale. Finally, as we begin the '100 things to do before you are 12', we rolled down a hill, completing the first of the 100!

How will the petrol shortage affect students and staff at Edwinstree?

We are closely monitoring the situation with all our staff, but we have a number of individuals who travel a

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As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

reasonable distance struggling to find petrol. We are also aware that the same problem is happening for our regular Supply Staff, so as the week progresses they will be unable to get here. We are exploring car share options where possible, but I wanted to alert you that at some point, we may reach a stage where we do not have enough staff to deliver lessons to a year group. As always, we will make sure a move to online learning is our last resort, we will do our utmost to give plenty of notice if we have to make that decision. However, please have your back up plans for childcare ready and make sure that you are accessing 'Show My Homework' our vehicle for remote learning.

How can you help us to support your child to understand that some of what they read on social media is not appropriate?

We are currently supporting your child to understand that social media and the internet at large, despite parental controls, can sometimes introduce them to words that they do not really understand but can be offensive and harmful. Recently, we have had a few students use the term "Paedo" as an insult or in anger at a teacher. A letter is attached, requesting your support in clarifying the harm that can be caused by using this derogatory phrase about others.

The BRAVE Trust

As a school, we are supported by an independent Christian charity called the BRAVE Trust. Rachael Went, their schools' worker, runs a group during Monday lunchtimes, where students can meet to develop future whole school Collective Worships, drama, prayer and planning of a Fullness Day that will take place before Easter. Any student is welcome to attend; all they need to do is bring themselves and their school lunch to Mr Rowlands' office just off the main corridor.

More about the BRAVE Trust and what they do can be found here: [The BRAVE Trust](#)

Additional Lunchtime Club

Kitchen Garden Club begins on Monday 4th October. Not only will students learn how to tend the beds in the Food Kitchen Garden and The Tranquil Garden, but they will also be making a few tasty treats. It will run on Mondays during lunchtime and there will be a later date for afternoon baking sessions (some ingredients will need to be provided by the students). The afternoon sessions will be confirmed with at least 2 weeks' notice - Maximum of 15 pupils. Mrs Van Wyk

Attached is a list of enrichment clubs, please click on the link if your child would like to attend.

Recruitment

We are currently recruiting for a Learning Support Assistant to support students with Special Educational Needs. Please visit our website or contact the school office for more information.

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

No class achieved 100% Attendance this week.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

SIP

Letter

Parents Evenings TT

Enrichment Clubs

Enrichment Clubs at Edwinstree

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