



Diary Dates

	Entry and exit times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:45pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:40pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm
8/3/21	KS2 students return – Y5 & Y6
10/3/21	KS3 students return – Y7 & Y8
19/3/21	Comic Relief
26/3/21	End of Term finish at normal closing time
12/4/21	Summer Term

As of Monday 8th March, all students return to our basic Covid school uniform. You can find this listed on our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Students can wear their PE kit to school on the day of their PE lesson

Reporting a student 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 telephone message. Please do not use Parentmail, School Gateway or any other email addresses, as these are not routinely checked – Thank you.

A return to homework

All students will be set English, Maths and Science homework for the next 3 weeks; we would also like to remind you that all students should be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes 5 times a week. Thank you for your support.

A big ‘Thank You’.

In noticing students’ behaviour and their resilience for learning, we can see the time and effort you have invested in your child’s learning since January. The majority have returned more confident in the work they completed at home and ready to continue learning in school.

How will we assess any gaps in learning and how will we amend the curriculum to recognise this?

While remote learning through student submission gives us some idea of student progress, it does not provide enough detail. In order to find out exactly where students are in their learning, we will develop a series of formative assessments in the classroom. Over the next two weeks students will self-assess and peer assess their learning by in school, low stakes testing and we will discuss the work they completed at home. These discussions will involve Governors, our School Improvement Partner and our Heads of Department. This information will give us a deep understanding of what we need to change so we can readjust our curriculum plans. We will also consult with Freman College about their priorities for the summer data. We will publish our findings and our readjusted curriculum maps post Easter.

Communication from Public Health

Following the latest communication from the Director of Public Health, as parents and carers you of children still in education, you have been asked to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests. [LTF]. This process should help to identify cases and outbreaks more quickly and effectively than before. Doing this will help us to work together to reduce the spread of the virus in the community and protect people who are vulnerable. While the letter informs parents that you can pick up a home testing kit at a local site or order online, visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

As a school, the staff test on Wednesdays and at the weekend. We would suggest that you set up a routine wherever possible to do the same. To make the test valid, the resource material explains that you need to log the result with the NHS. A step-by-step guide accompanies the home testing kits; any queries contact the school office for advice.

How have Y7 & Y8 responded to testing and mask wearing?

Students have been exemplary, mature, resilient, understanding and courageous in coping with the significant changes that have been required and we are in awe. We believe that for many, they have felt relief and pride in being able to contribute in the fight against Covid-19.

Please see the link below on instructions for coronavirus (COVID-19) self-testing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/instructions-for-covid-19-self-test?utm_source=10%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19>

How are students presenting in school and how do they assess their well-being?

Attached is the results of our well-being survey, we received 148 respondents. The majority of students were feeling ‘ok or good’ about returning to school. Where a student flagged ‘anxiety’, HOYs and Year Teams will be speak with them individually to unpick their anxiety and offer support. My biggest concern from the questionnaire was question 16, which asked students if they had a trusted adult in school that they could talk to and out of 148, 34 students said ‘no’. This week, we have addressed this issue by working on the ‘Trusted 5’, an activity that gets students to identify staff in school that they can go to for help. We have also explained how they can access the Learning Zone if they need support. As a school, we are promoting that ‘it is ok to not be ok’, but that this “not ok” should be shared with someone. Next week, their well-being activities will look at what good may have come out of the Covid pandemic, for them personally and as a family. They will also be reminded of the ‘noticing techniques’ to pick up when they are anxious and a series of calming techniques that can be used to support and help reduce worries.

*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.*

How are we using COWO to support their return?

Our value we are reflecting on this term is ‘**Friendship**’ and we are exploring what makes a ‘good friend’ and how we can use our friends for support. We are also exploring the theme of Lent and the lead up to Easter.

Living life in all its Fullness!

We are clear your children need some planned fun time as well as in school learning and we will use Comic Relief Day on Friday 19th March as the first opportunity to do this. Students will be asked to bring in £1 donation for a non-uniform day; they can wear a red nose if they wish. During the afternoon session, we will hold a ‘Masked Singer’ competition and students can also bring a second £1 if they wish to take part in the ‘sponsored mile with a silly walk’, inspired by Monty Python.

KS3 English Student Voice Survey

Please be aware that KS3 students will be set an important piece of English home learning next week. I have asked them to complete a survey to reflect on their learning over lockdown and to gauge what type of learner they are. All students are asked to complete this survey, whether they were in school or learning from home between January and March of this year.

The aims of this survey are to investigate what learning has stuck with your child, and consequently how we as an English department can best adapt our teaching to meet their needs.

The survey will be included as a link on a SMHW assignment and will require your child to login to Microsoft Forms using their Edwinstree email address. Please find a guide on how to do this attached. If there are any questions about the survey, students can write a comment to their teacher on SMHW who will be best placed to respond. Alternatively, you can get in touch with me via the school office. Your support is much appreciated. Miss Devonshire- Head of English

What is happening after Easter - will the timetable increase to include all subjects, will we open up the bubbles to other year groups?

Thank you to the parents who completed the questionnaire and your ideas and suggestions. Staff will meet to review the thoughts and contributions of all stakeholders and we will confirm our decision next week. We are very much inclined to mirror the countries opening up agenda. At the start of the Summer Term, we will begin to calendar in a basic series of events, as in a normal academic year, to map further online Parents’ Evenings and transition events.

What happens in the event of a perceived risk to your child ie stranger danger?

We are very lucky to work in an area where our community police are so helpful in alerting schools to any concerns or dangers within the community. Edwinstree follows strict procedures and when alerted by the police of any perceived risk, will always notify parents via Parentmail. We regularly remind all students about ‘stranger danger’ and how to stay safe when travelling to and from school.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Y6 Reading Survey
Questionnaire results
KS3 Letter

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