



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
30/5/21	Half Term
8/7/21	County Transition Day

Timetable – Week B – available on our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

How have the children responded to being in a year group bubble?

It is so good to see the students playing with friends in other classes, and it makes us all reflect on how remarkable your children have been to put up with such restrictions on their friendship groups and normal play. We are all very proud of their effort.

After 17th May, will KS3 be expected to wear masks in school?

Hertfordshire County sent us the following update to face coverings in education settings guidance 11/5/21 - As part of the government’s move to Step 3 of the roadmap, from Monday 17 May, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England. Our guidance on face coverings <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984846/FINAL_Face_coverings_in_education_guidance.pdf> has been updated to reflect these changes.

Face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

In line with this guidance, we have informed students today that face coverings are not expected to be worn. **However, students who travel by bus are still expected to wear masks travelling to and from school** and we will encourage students to continue to do so. Staff

and visitors will continue to wear the masks in corridors and communal areas as advised.

As lockdown restrictions relax further on Monday 17th May, can students bring in their own stationery and equipment?

Yes if your child is happy to leave their equipment at school then they are welcome to bring it in with them and leave it here.

What about hugging?

Students have been advised that while hugging is now permitted, they need to be cautious and we have explored who and when we might hug and why. We encourage you to have this conversation with your child at home.

Should KS3 student continue home testing for Covid-19?

We actively encourage your child to continue home testing; further packs have been issued today. Thank you for your support, we know it is time consuming but it is providing an additional safety check.

Will more restrictions relax after half term?

A staff meeting will take place on Tuesday to consider relaxing further lockdown restrictions to operate a more normal school. We will feedback to you next week.

Please be mindful that County have advised us to proceed with caution. A letter to all Heads in Hertfordshire have been advised of the following:

We have recently become aware of some settings increasing the size of teaching bubbles or allowing mixing for some activities. When this happens, the current pattern of case finding in schools (usually reflecting community transmission) is leading to high numbers of children having to self-isolate from a single case. Within the most recent data, from an average of only 6 cases per day, we have had to isolate almost 1,000 secondary school children over the last 10 days. Whilst we understand the challenges that managing bubbles raise for teaching, we would urge you to be cautious and only follow the latest government guidance. Maintain Existing bubble sizes, continue with lesson and seating plans and stick to systems of control.

In considering this advice, we are aware that a positive case would involve a year group being sent home for at least a day, then self-isolation for a class, teachers and any others in close contact. Our aim is to keep students in school, as further self-isolation would be difficult for all

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of us. Any planned changes that we propose will be implemented post half term.

What about after school clubs?

They are starting up and we will publish a timetable in due course, some clubs are already operating at lunchtime. Please be aware the provision will be less than normal as clubs can only operate in year groups until further notice.

Are homework support clubs up and running?

Year 6 and 5 homework support clubs are now operating and students are learning how to use SMHW to support their external learning. Due to staff ill health, Year 7 and 8 have been delayed but should be up and running by half term.

Will there be a general homework club?

Some parents have voiced that they continue to find time for homework challenging in the week. We are currently considering how we can support an after school homework club, but it would need to remain in year groups and not mixed.

My child is talking about Zones of Regulation what are they?

In order to support students to regain the knowledge and skills of self-regulation, the school has adapted it's curriculum to include a daily well - being session which is designed to foster self-regulation and control. Attached is the information on the zones and the flyer showing you the four zones of regulation that we are discussing with students. This week we looked at unexpected and expected behaviours and how this can impact others. All staff will be able to take part in this training, which is led by the Educational Psychologist to support students to re-learn how to live and work together.

Are there plans for celebration events and Parent Consultations?

We will shortly publish a calendar of planned events for next half term and a full calendar of events for September.

What outdoor project are we setting up for the school and how might you help?

During lockdown, we recognised how privileged we are to have such a beautiful and big outdoor space for our students. Next year, we hope to reintroduce our educational visits, but we are also keen to increase our use of outdoor spaces in our teaching. We have a Science and Technology project starting up, which will see

us, build a pond and encourage a wild life area at the bottom entrance to the school. This week, the idea has been introduced to Year 6 students, who will be the first to take part in researching and planning what this may look like. Their outdoor lessons left them fizzing about in-vertebrae and we hope you had conversations about the pond and nature walk when they got home that evening. Below is an update from the Science team, which asks for a help.

Pond Project update: Those of you who were part of our community last summer will remember that there was a plan to create a pond and wildlife area. The students helped the science team by beginning this planning. Now that the weather is a little better and we are all back in school we hope to start this project in earnest. In order to get started we do need some help from the parent community. There are some items that we need to get started:

- Hire/Borrow of a mechanical digger to break ground and begin the job of digging out the pond.
- Wooden Shed – at least 6ft x 4ft
- Paving slabs for the shed base
- Wheelbarrows
- Gardening gloves
- Micro spades and shovels
- Tarpaulins
- Sun shades
- Tarp clips

We have added some of these to the school's Amazon Wish List, but there are some items that we cannot source from Amazon. We will keep you updated with details as the project progresses but we would love to hear from any parent who can help us. Perhaps you have links to a company who could donate items or reduce the cost of items to us. Please email Mrs Barrett s.barrett@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you can help.

Once we have sourced the equipment we then hope to include the students in digging out the pond further and helping us to shape the pond. We will of course let you know when we aim to do this, so that students can come dressed appropriately. We are very excited about developing this pond and wildlife area so our students can spend more of their learning time outside. Not only to learn about the habitats around us, but also as a means to continue to improve their well-being as they move on from the trauma of the last year.

What to do if you are still struggling to get back into homework? If you are still struggling to find routines and for school life to settle,

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please remember the most important part of homework is to help your child find 20 mins, 5 times a week to read. This is for both KS2 and KS3. Out of all homework set, this is what will make the biggest difference to your child, as they accumulate words, as words form all our thoughts and communication. If they are reluctant, find articles of interest, these can be internet based, read together, model and question.

Have any parents volunteered to join the Governing Body?

Yes, we had 7 parents interested in becoming a Governor. They have been asked to create a pen portrait of themselves and how they might support the Governing Body. We hope to hold an election once we have received their applications, further details to follow.

Would you like to support the ESA?

We are currently looking to recruit new members to join our Edwinstree School Association. If you are interested in supporting the school in key school events over the next half term and beyond, or help with fundraising, please contact the school on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What does it involve? Half-termly meetings and a willingness to participate and encourage others to engage in fundraising and support our calendar of events that normally take place throughout the year. The ESA has been invaluable in helping to support educational school visits, visits to the church, school discos, school productions and formal events. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents.

Expressive Arts extra-curricular activities

We are excited to start up some of our extra-curricular activities from next week. This is a cautious approach, limited to year groups but one we are looking forward to as a department. Please look at the options and, if your son/daughter is interested, complete the form filling in the details.

<https://forms.office.com/r/vsfmx4sUVk>

[https://cdn.forms.office.net/forms/images/urlpreview/preview_logo_new.png][<https://forms.office.com/r/vsfmx4sUVk>](https://forms.office.com/r/vsfmx4sUVk)

Fill | Expressive Arts extra-curricular activities - Summer

Term[<https://forms.office.com/r/vsfmx4sUVk>](https://forms.office.com/r/vsfmx4sUVk)

Students involved in the PE activities should meet on the playground outside the changing rooms.

Golden Broom winners - 5A & 7C

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.

In the even your child tests positive for Covid-19 please notify the school via:

covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Zones of Regulation

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