



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 17/09/21

Diary Dates

6/9/21	School Day 8:40am – 3:05pm
20/9/21	NHS Covid Vaccination Programme Y8 and any child aged 12 on 20/9/21
23/9/21	Y8 Visit Freman College
7/10/21	Virtual Open Evening
22/10/21	Y6 NHS Height & Weight

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – COVID VACCINATIONS

Due to the exceptional uptake for the COVID vaccination programme, the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) will no longer have the capacity to deliver both the COVID and HPV vaccinations on the same day - ONLY the COVID vaccine will be given on 20/9/21. The Year 8 HPV programme will be rescheduled following the completion of the COVID programme.

Gillick Competency: Please be assured the nurses will only see students whose parents have returned a Yes consent for the COVID vaccine. It is important parents respond if they do NOT want their child to have the vaccine. If a NO consent form has been received and the child actively presents themselves at the session requesting to receive the vaccine, even if Gillick competent, the nurses would always attempt to ring the parents to discuss their wishes and include them in the decision.

All KS3 should have received a letter about the vaccination programme. Year 7 students who are aged 12yrs on 20/9/21 will also be offered the vaccination. Students have been briefed during their tutor times on what this means, why it is happening and the procedure. The Learning Zone will support our more vulnerable students. See letter attached.

What is the latest update regarding COVID?

As of Thursday, we have reached 7 positive COVID [cases 6 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.

The greatest risk to a year group closing remains if too many staff test positive for COVID and we are unable to secure effective supply. Please help us to protect each other through regular testing and good hygiene.

Attached is a contingency plan that has been agreed with the NHS and will operate for staff and students from Monday. Students have been briefed today and will be

trained on how to clean the keyboards, PE, library books and music equipment after a lesson. They will also be re-trained on Monday on the importance of hand washing. Please take time to read the details of the contingency plan, but key impacts for you and the students are:

- Masks return in communal areas for staff and when working closely with a child. LSA staff will be wearing them in interventions.
- Increase vigilance in hand washing and sanitising
- The Year 5 Meet the Teachers event will move to online, further information to follow
- Educational visits planned for this term are now on hold, instead students will create a wish list and we will pencil potential calendar dates.
- If your child is ill, please do not send them to school. Any symptoms please get tested and check if a PCR is required.
- Year group bubbles at break and individual toilet areas need to remain.
- Students continue to wear PE kit on their PE days.

Year 6 Additional Covid prevention procedures

As 4 Covid cases were in Year 6, to avoid cross contamination in the phone storage boxes, as from **Monday 20/9/21 Year 6 students will be asked to keep their phone in their bags until further notice** Please be aware the phones will not be securely stored and are in school at your own risk. Please read our Mobile Phone Agreement.

We have advised by Public Health England to ask you to temporarily remove your child from any external clubs to avoid the spread of the virus. i.e. gymnastics etc. We will update you next week.

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

If your child or family member tests positive or has symptoms, 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

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 Parent mail, School Gateway or any other email addresses, as these are not routinely monitored. Thank you for your co-operation.

Are enrichment clubs up and running?

Yes, they started on Wednesday and the majority of students that applied were accepted into the clubs. The only exceptions are Art club and external clubs provided by outside agencies.

Homework Support club is by invitation only is initially ring-fenced to PP and SEND students. Letters will be sent out next week inviting students to 'one to one' sessions,

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small group or larger group sessions. Please sign up as soon as possible. If no response within a week, the place will be offered to others keen to engage in the programme. Currently we are still able to run these clubs.

Is 'Show my Homework' working for you?

If you are struggling to access *Show my Homework* [SMHW] and need some support, please contact Mrs Heywood via email on r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Would you like to support the school in applying to be a Governor?

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governors on the Governing Body. If you are interested in becoming a Governor or would like to know more, please contact the school office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 5 news!

We are fortunate to have a wonderfully large site, however this coupled with lots of classroom movement lost/left behind equipment! All lost property will make its way to our cupboard but can take a day to get there. The admin team will weekly check and return any clothing that is labelled so please may we ask:

- All items are clearly labelled with surnames where space allows
- You check uniform and bags/pencil cases each weekend to ensure it belongs to your child as they often accidentally pick up
- Encourage your child to report to a member of staff as soon as possible, we can often help them re-trace their steps and locate
- Ask your child to check lost property

Year 8 news

Enclosed is the 'Moving on Booklet' for Year 8 parents, which explains how to apply for your next school. Year 8 will be touring Freman College on the morning of 23/9/21 instead of the usual Open Evening. Year 8B will tour period 1, 8A period 2, 8C period 2, 8A period 3 and 8D period 4. Students will be escorted there and back by their classroom teacher.

Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming

We still hope to operate 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>

Volunteers wanted

We hope to plan an Autumn walk for Year 5 and Year 6 during the afternoons of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week. If you are free and would like to join us, please email the Admin Team on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Message from Mrs Michelle Bailey, KS3 Maths Teacher

I am currently researching self-views and behaviour management of ASD students at Edwinstree for my research project on Reflective Practice. This study will take place over a period of three to four months and will require working from school with a number of students across year groups.

The study will require students spending time with me on a one to one basis, as well as observations during lessons, focusing on classroom behaviour and its impact on learning. My main study/research day will be on Friday, with other days for initial observations at the start of the study. I look forward to engaging with this study and the student and happy to have a chat or address any questions you may have throughout. Thank you in advance for your support.

Exciting news – boys can sew too!

The KS3 sewing machines have arrived and sewing will be an additional subject offered as part of the technology curriculum. Students will learn how to make cushion covers first!

Attendance

KS2	KS3
6C – 99.6%	8A – 99.2%
5A – 99.2%	7D – 98.2%
5B – 98.5%	7B – 97%

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Covid vaccination letter

Contingency Plan

Mobile Phone Agreement

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