



Diary Dates

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| | 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 |
| 26/3/21 | End of Term finish at normal closing time |
| 12/4/21 | Summer Term |
| 8/7/21 | County Transition Day |

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.

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>

What changes take place after Easter?

Having consulted with parents via the online questionnaire and staff and students, we now how much miss their other subjects. As lockdown begins to relax after Easter, we have made the decision to extend the number of sessions from two to three, which will allow students to cover almost all of their subjects next term. It increases the number of teachers they will be exposed to, the number of classes a teacher works with and therefore, increases the risk of the virus spreading. However, staff and students are very familiar with COVID-19 procedures at school and we believe the gains outweigh the risk. The small response we received from parents to the questionnaire about expanding the number of sessions in the day was resoundingly in favour of this change. The timetable will be published next week and during morning sessions, we will make sure that students know what this timetable looks like for them and how it will operate. Please be aware that we continue to include Collective Worship and morning AM well-being sessions in their learning time.

What lessons will students participate in after Easter and what is the time allocation?

Each session will be 90 mins and the AM and PM sessions will include a 10–15 minutes well-being session and a 20 minutes Collective Worship at the end of the day, which is reflective learning.

Please see the attached table explaining the subjects in each year group and the number of sessions they will have

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in a week. Please note their core teachers for English and Maths will remain the same.

Why not move to a 5 period day?

As a middle school with younger children, this timetable is the most at risk of year group self-isolation in the event of a positive Covid-19 case. We all believe the children have missed enough education and remain mindful of this as we continue to adhere to the guidance. We are also clear that to make this change, most of the teachers would need to change, in particular English and Maths teachers. We want to keep students in the same class, wherever possible, as teachers have been tracking the children and are in the best position to help them rapidly progress next term.

Will there be any more changes as the country unlocks from a COVID lockdown?

We hope that at some point, we can release children to play in their year groups rather than classes, but the Parent Questionnaire was 50% in favour of this release and 50% against, currently we feel a similar concern. However, we would like to move to this model, certainly for the last half term and hopefully sooner if we can.

What are the new timings of the school day?

| | Arrival | Session 1 | Session 2 (inc break) | Lunch | Lesson 3 & COWO | Departure |
|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| Y8 | 8:45am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2:30pm |
| Y7 | 8:50am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2:35pm |
| Y6 | 8:55am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2:40pm |
| Y5 | 9:00am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2:45pm |

Why not extend the school day?

Freman College and Edwinstree are working together to make sure students leave school at staggered times at the end of the day. This helps reduce the risk of students mixing from other schools and also provides plenty of space for parents to socially distance. Lunch and break time is when students are most at risk of catching and spreading COVID, despite teacher monitoring, this is when they are most likely to touch and mix closely – shortened break and lunch times helps reduce this risk.

Will the timetable change again?

No - the expectation is that this timetable will remain in place until the end of term – subject to COVID.

Will enrichment activities be introduced next term?

As the country is slowly released from lockdown, we hope that by half term at the latest, we will be able to offer some enrichment activities after school and at lunchtimes, but

again, this involves students mixing and increases the risk of the virus spreading.

What about transition?

Having met with the Rib Valley Heads, we intend to plan for a “normal” transition. County Transition Day to visit new schools is **Thursday 8th July**. This week, we have begun to talk to Year 8 about moving on to Freman College and we will outline the process of how we will support you to navigate the change next term.

Can you publish a calendar?

We will create a skeletal calendar of Parent Consultations and events next term, in the hope that we can now plan without the threat of a further lockdown.

How can my child enrich their learning through Easter?

In November last year, we set up some enrichment resources for students to dip into on INSET days. This was very successful and around a third of our students engaged. We have created a new pack of resources that will go live on ‘*Show My Homework*’ on 26th March. If you would like a hardcopy, please contact the office.

Would your child like to enter an Art Competition?

In collaboration with WWF, the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference are introducing an art competition called 'Creative Earth'. Creative Earth is an exciting art competition for people aged 16 and under from across the UK that helps us to learn more about climate change. As part of the 'Together for Our Planet' campaign, they are inviting young people to get creative and show global leaders the world they want to live in.

Visit the link below to find out more information, download the template and submit your work online.
<https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/creative-earth/>

All entries must be submitted by 11.59pm on Monday 5th April 2021, and the winners will be announced in Spring 2021. Best of luck! Mrs Burches

Golden Broom Reward returns

As the Golden Broom reward has been successful in the past, we have decided to continue with this award. The class with the tidiest and well-kept classroom at the end of the week is rewarded with a non-uniform day on the following Monday. This reward promotes healthy competition throughout the school and gives students a sense of pride and achievement. This week the winners are **6B & 8A**.

PSHE RSE Policy

We will shortly be publishing our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy to follow the Government’s statutory guidance. We have included a draft version; although there are currently a few gaps, we would welcome any feedback before we publish it. It includes an overview of the PSHE and RSE curriculum as well as your rights to withdraw your children from these lessons. The new government policy makes Relationships Education compulsory in all primary-aged schools and Relationships

and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary-aged schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. Edwinstree is now starting to follow the new Jigsaw scheme throughout our two key stages – this scheme fully meets the requirements of the new guidance. We would welcome any comments or views from parents. Please email on comments to admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

As of next week and into the final term, in KS3 PSHE we are looking to cover the topics of ‘Relationships and Changing Me’. We are now using the excellent Jigsaw scheme to aid in the teaching of PSHE. Please see the attached document detailing the topics that will be covered. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

How can you help us to keep our students safe?

We have been made aware of a number of parents driving onto the school site without due care and attention. We would like to remind you that it is safer for all our students, if parents park in Sainsbury’s car park to wait for their child at the end of the school day. This helps reduce congestion in Bowling Green Lane, makes it a little safer for students to cross the road and supports social distancing at busy school times. Thank you for your support.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Enc RSE Policy + topics
Curriculum Timetable

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