



**Diary Dates:**

- 19/9/16 5pm – 6pm - Action Plan Meeting for Parents
- 20/9/16 3:45pm-4:30pm Y5 Parents’ Evening  
2:55pm – 3:20pm Collective Worship
- 20/9/16 School Photographer
- 24/9/16 Harvest Fair Cancelled
- 26/9/16 Year 6 Shropshire Visit
- 6/10/16 Prospective Parents’ Evening for Year 5 in 2017

This week our pupils have continued to settle well and stay focused. Our Collective Worship for this half term centres on what it means to be British and how the church can support us to understand. We will also celebrate diversity.

In celebration of Roald Dahl, pupils were set a challenge to create a Willy Wonka style recipe with a spectacular name. The winning recipe will be chosen by our Catering Manager. The winner and a friend will spend an afternoon recreating the recipe and sharing the result with their class.

**Ofsted Action Plan**

Thank you to all parents who have attended the meetings to hear of our future plans. Follow up meetings will be arranged to help you track our progress and recovery.

We are encouraging teachers to send pupils’ books home, rather than paper in the next couple of weeks. If you could please help to organise your child to make sure that they bring the books back on the correct days this would really help us. We are really keen for you to see their learning and our marking!

Outlined below are Edwinstree’s SATs results alongside the national figures which are not satisfactory, the pupils only had two terms to really prepare for these highly demanding exams, other schools were better prepared. There are no excuses, the school and staff are aware we have to make a significant difference to support the school to return to national figures and beyond.

	Herts Average 2016	Edwinstree 2016
Reading	72%	68%
Writing	79%	64%
Mathematics	73%	52%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	76%	62%

If you are a parent of a Year 7 pupil who did not achieve their SAT, we are working hard to make sure they are not crushed by the result and our curriculum this year supports them to catch up with the national standard and get back on track.

**A message from Mrs Mayne- Leader of English - Why have we made the decision not to set in English this year?**

There is much debate and research into setting pupils by ability. In the past Edwinstree has set pupils by ability in some year groups. The English department are working towards a system whereby all pupils follow the same curriculum. Working closely together, the team is developing a scheme of work and assessment tools that are matched to the new curriculum. Within this scheme pupils will be taught new skills, improve their knowledge and develop their understanding.

‘Two Weeks with the Queen’ is a book that has been read in Year 8 for many years. It is an ‘easy read’. However, it is well written and promotes mature discussion about issues concerning LBGT, AIDS and cancer.

I have adapted the unit as, primarily, an author study to ensure greater challenge. Pupils will be expected to read a range of texts and be able to compare and contrast. An in-depth look, into an author’s formulaic approach to writing, will be an important part of this study. Pupils will be expected to develop their resilience (reading quickly) and their personal study skills.

I have been working with Freman College to ensure all pupils are ready to meet the demands of the new GCSEs.

Cursive handwriting is an important skill, more so now, as in the future there is a greater emphasis on examinations.

Spelling and vocabulary lists have been taken from the text; pupils who can spell and know the meaning of these words are expected to learn to spell and find the meaning of words from their own reading – this will be monitored. There is greater emphasis on pupils becoming learners.

**Message from Miss Bustard - Head of Faculty**

A concern has been raised regarding the Normandy visit due to take place next term and the risk factor since the terrorist attacks in France. We have researched the government advice on risk and currently France is scored as medium to low risk, while London is scored high risk. This visit is organised by an experienced and reputable school tour operator and currently, we plan for the visit to go ahead.

**Communication:**

Please use your child's ROA as your first means of contact with the school. We have now released email addresses Heads of Year 7 and Year 8 as a backup. We will also include Senior Team emails to support your communication

**Homelearning:**

New timetables have been distributed to all pupils and will be on our website from Monday. Please support us by ensuring your child has an agreed time, space and support to be able to complete their homework. Tutors will help pupils learn to organise their time to avoid the Sunday night panic! Homelearning Club will be offered on Tuesday and Thursdays and will commence in two weeks' time.

**Clubs:**

Enrichment clubs will be up and running in week 3 and a timetable will be available shortly. Forms for music lessons will also be distributed.

**Governor Vacancy:**

We currently have vacancies for Two Parent Governors. Please register your interest by 30/9/16 via the school office

[admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**Appointments:**

Mrs Booth has been appointed Head of Technology and Mrs Sanders as Head of Science

**Attendance:**

Please be aware pupils need to achieve 96% attendance, please help your child make the most progress by not taking holidays during term time. Parents of pupils with poor attendance will be invited in to school to discuss strategies to improve their attendance.

**Jo Gant**

**Headteacher**