



Diary Dates:

- 6/10/16 **Prospective Parents' Evening - Year 5 2017**
- 12/10/16 **Governors visiting**
- 17/10/16 **ESA Meeting 6pm at school**
- 10/11/16 **Anti-bullying week**

A big well done to:

- All Year 6 on their excellent behaviour on the Shropshire visit this week, they were a pleasure to be with and a credit to the school. Please note that a number of pupils across the school would have received a steady stream of supply lessons in order to support this educational visit.
- The five pupils who received merits this week for helping out other pupils in a 'safe, caring and positive' manner at lunchtime. This is the first time the Midday Supervisor's have wanted to reward pupils for their excellent behaviour at lunch.
- The School Council in Year 8 who took the Collective Worship on Wednesday and will be organising the house events this term. In particular Ellie Sizer, who represented the group, and presented expertly to the whole school on the ambitions for the Council and houses this year.

Improving homework in the school

As a proactive parent, you will be aware this week that supply lessons, and cover do not support our homework timetable and or process. As mentioned last week, I am looking to set up a Homework forum [dates to be confirmed] to explore with parents and carers what you believe is meaningful homework, to review our current practices and agree ways forward to improve our current system. This is one of the key areas of the school and we need to make sure that parent/carer, pupil and school are working in partnership. If you would like to attend please contact Mrs Matthews via the school office or email:

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Open Evening

Next Thursday pm is the Open evening for prospective parents of Year 4 pupils moving to Year 5. Many pupils will be asked to attend the event to support their year group or a particular subject for the evening. Please make sure when you return the permission form if your child wishes to attend, that you confirm how your child is to be picked up, or who and how they are getting home. The event starts at 6pm till 8pm and pupils taking part should arrive back at school at 5:45pm in full school uniform.

Governors

Thank you to those parents who have nominated themselves as a Parent Governor. We will be speaking to the nominees next week and asking for pen portraits to support an election process.

As part of the monitoring process the Governors will be visiting in the afternoon of 12th October to meet a series of pupils, to discuss their learning and review books.

Volunteers to support the school

Thank you to all volunteers who have nominated themselves to support in school. We will be making contact next week to discuss entry to the school, Safeguarding checks and training for the relevant areas. We plan to have you operational by half term at the latest.

The first ESA meeting will be held on **17th October at 6pm**. It is not too late to join us, if you would like to support us in fund raising for the school please contact esa@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or telephone the school office.

Last week you asked when are the dates for this term's holidays and would we ever consider aligning our holiday dates with Freman College?

Having spoken to Helen Loughran, the Head at Freman this week, we have agreed to align our dates for the Sept 2017 – 2018 in order to support parents of children in both schools. We are also beginning very fruitful discussions about how we work to align the schools further, to maximise the opportunities that Freman College can offer to secure a strong learning environment and smooth transition process. More about this later.

Pokeman

We are keeping a regular watch on the Pokeman craze currently hitting the school and predominantly dominating Year 5 and Year 6. On the one hand the discussions about which characters have most power etc... has some merit, and reasoning skills to it. However, our main concern is when pupils bring in their whole sets, which can leave a child with over £40.00 worth of Pokeman to be responsible for. Can we please advise that pupils bring in only one card set at a time? If we find cards are disappearing , or the game is causing arguments, we will ask you to support us in an outright ban. However, at the moment the majority of pupils are playing well with the card sets.

Jo Gant
Headteacher