



Our term dates are as follows:

Diary Dates:

- 12/10/16** **Governors visiting**
- 17/10/16** **ESA Meeting 6pm – All welcome**
- 20/10/16** **Homework Forum 5pm-6pm**
- 20/10/16** **Inset Staff Training Day**
- 22/10/16** **Inset Staff Training Day**
- 31/10/16** **Inset Staff Training Day**
- 24-31/10/16** **5pm-6pm Parent Volunteer Training**
- 24-31/10/16** **Half term**
- 1/11/16** **Pupils return to school**
- 10/11/16** **Anti-bullying week**

- Half Term: 24th – 28th October 2016
- Term Ends: 21st December 2016
- Additional Inset Day: 20th /21st October
- Inset Day: 31st October 2016
- Occasional Day: 2nd December 2016

Spring Term

- Inset day: 4th January 2017
- Term Starts: 5th January 2017
- Half Term: 13th – 17th February 2017
- Term Ends: 31st March 2017
- Easter Holidays 3rd – 17th April 2017

Summer Term

- Term Starts: 18th April 2017
- Half Term: 29th May – 2nd June 2017
- Term Ends: 21st July 2017
- Public Holiday 1st May 2017
- Inset Day: 30th June 2017
- Inset Day: 24th July 2017

These align with Freman as requested.

Half term – The books are coming home!

As a school, both teachers and pupils are working hard to make sure the work in their books is meaningful and well presented. It has taken some wrestling to get teachers to agree to let pupils take their books home this half term as Ofsted and external sources now judge us on the quality of the work in a class set of books. In the last week of term all pupils will be given permission to take their books home. Please take the opportunity to look at the work your child is doing, you should see the following:

- A literacy mark scheme in operation across the school, even in maths where they are being asked to reason.
- Feedback on how pupils can improve.
- Time for pupils to improve their work and correct it – we mark in red pen and pupils respond in green.
- Extended writing opportunities now available in Humanities, Science as well as English.
- An improvement in presentation.
- A feeling of growing pride from your child in the work they are producing.

What is the Learning Journal and how can it help pupils at home, and me (the parent) to know what they are learning?

Our learning journal is a book pupils use to help them with their learning. By half term you will find their current spelling list and their targets for writing. Encourage your child to talk to you and help them to make sure whatever writing they are completing, they are using their targets to make sure they write at the required level.

Volunteers to support the school

Thank you to all volunteers. We invite you to attend a training session at the school Monday 31st October from 5pm-6pm in order to prepare you to start in departments after half term. The training will involve the following;

- Basic safeguarding
- Our Behaviour Policy
- Reading for Meaning training – supporting pupils. (for those helping with reading)

It is not too late to help, if you are a grandparent or parent and are willing to offer one afternoon or morning a week, this can really make a difference. Contact Mrs Matthews via the school office or email:

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Parent Drop-in sessions

Apologies to the parent that dropped in on Monday only to find out we had moved the drop in session to Thursdays - you were right our first newsletter did say Monday. Sorry to have wasted your time.

Why were Ofsted in and what happened?

As a 'requiring improvement' school, we received a one day monitoring visit which is normal procedure for the school. This is to check that the school is making progress in line with the expectation that it returns to 'good' as soon as possible. Parents and the public are given access to the outcomes via a letter published by Ofsted once the outcomes have been scrutinised and this will take two to three weeks. Parents will receive a copy as soon as it is ready.

In talks with the Inspector it was lovely to hear pupils felt, safe, were clear about British values and diversity. They felt the lessons were becoming more interesting and fun and they really like the marking feedback they were getting, which was helping to improve their learning.

Open Evening

Thank you to around 150 pupils who came back to school on Thursday evening to act either as a guide or a subject specialist. They will all receive a certificate of thanks. Their enthusiasm was infectious and they did a great job in letting prospective parents and pupils know what it was like to be at Edwinstree. A special thanks to Louis Melvin, Dylan Hudd & Helen Loughran Head of Freman College who aided me with the speech.

Staffing

Please be aware that Ms Quorn is currently unwell. Any concerns please pass onto myself or my Deputy Sally Allan. Ms Linda Berry, an experienced supply teacher will be covering her lessons. Ms Berry is a colleague I have worked with for a number of years and has been a Deputy and Senior teacher for over 30 years.

School Council

Our Year 8 School Council met last week to decide on the first house competitions to take place this term. Year 8's are organising and running these events, in the last week we will be hosting:

Edwinstree Come Dancing

Spellingbee – How many of the Government words can pupils spell unaided?

A Charity football event

Thank you to Parents/Carers for supporting the early Year 5 Parents' evening.

School Council representatives for Years 5, 6 & 7 will be elected just before and/or after half term during PSHCE lessons.

Jo Gant

Headteacher