

Edwinstree Middle School A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS Week Ending: 2/07/21

Diary Dates

7/6/21	School entry and exit times
	Y8: 8:45am - 2:50pm
	Y7: 8:45am – 2:50pm
	Y6: 8:50pm - 2:55pm
	Y5 8:50am – 2:55pm
7/7/21	Y8 Online Parent Consultation for
	Foundation subjects 4:30pm-7:30pm
8/7/21	County Transition Day – Cancelled
15/7/21	Y5 Celebration Event – Cancelled
16/7/21	Y8 Celebration Evening – Cancelled
16/7/21	Y8 Day trip to Felixstowe
19/7/21	Y6 Day trip to Felixstowe
20/7/21	Y5 Day trip to Felixstowe
21/7/21	Y7 Day trip to Felixstowe
22/7/21	End of Term 1:20pm finish
1/9/21	Inset Day
2/9/21	Inset Day
3/9/21	Induction Day for New Year 5 ONLY
6/9/21	Autumn Term begins
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Timetable Week B

Reminder: School registration times are as stated above, please ensure your child arrives on time – Thank you

Who is swimming next week?

5/7/21 – 6D Fun swim 6/7/21 – 5C Fun swim 8/7/21 – 7A Fun swim

We no longer send home paper reply slips. If your child's class has won a fun swim, **they will not be able to go unless you have given consent.** Please complete the simple form in the link below in order that your child can attend:

https://forms.office.com/r/FzkAPV18eS

Update on Covid within the school.

You will have received an update from the school informing you that we had one positive COVID case in Year 8. Please remember, that due to our joint decision, a positive COVID case will mean the year group will be required to stay at home while we consult Public Health. The self-isolation period is now 10 days, and counting back 48 hours from the test or when symptoms began, we can identify which teachers and students need to isolate.

Why do you need a back-up plan if your child is unable to attend school due to Covid restrictions?

On Thursday morning, we had contacted all our supply agencies as a member of staff had phoned in sick. Nobody was able to offer supply. As more schools are struck by the latest COVID outbreak and the current regime of selfisolation, more teachers need to spend time off school, therefore, the supply agencies are saturated with demand. While we will do our very best to keep your children in school, please make sure you have a back-up plan in the event of a Covid outbreak in your child's year group and the possibility that we are unable to secure teaching supply cover.

How can you help?

Please make sure that Year 7 and Year 8 students continue testing on a Wednesday and at the weekend. If your child shows symptoms, please keep your child at home and seek a PCR test, please inform us asap if the result is positive via <u>covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk</u> Please report a student absent via the direct email: <u>attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk</u>

What are we planning for the end of term?

Subject to COVID, we are planning opportunities for students to create memories and have some fun! They have worked really hard this term. The following activities will be on offer from Monday 16th July:

- A seaside trip see accompanying letter
- A Fullness Day celebrating diversity within the school run by the Year 8 BAME students.
- A Sports Day (sorry, but parents are not able to attend this year)
- The end of term service at St Giles Church in Wyddial.

All activities have been risk assessed to minimise the risk of Covid, ie on the day visit to Felixstowe, students will travel in four separate coaches so that they remain in their class bubbles.

Accompanying this letter is the calendar of events for each year group.

Year 8 only: Year 8 have requested a sleepover as their final goodbye to the school, as we cannot hold our normal celebrations. The Y8 Leaders are organising this event and I have enough willing staff to forgo a night's sleep to supervise, further information to follow.

Any volunteers willing to help with the trip to Felixstowe or the Year 8 sleepover?

If you are able to support by accompanying us please contact us via email:

m.matthews@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

We do have enough staff to supervise this event, but any extra help would be much appreciated.

When is the Year 8 Parents' Consultation?

Our Parents' Consultation event for Y8 will take place on Wednesday 7th July for foundation subjects only (not English and Maths). This event will give parents the opportunity to talk to subject teachers about their child's progress. As with all parents' evenings, online or in school, there is not enough time for everyone, so we suggest you book appointments with the subject teachers your child is interested in taking at GCSE. They will be making their GCSE choices after Christmas.

Will I receive and end of term report?

Yes. The last data report covered the progress and attainment your child made during the second lockdown, from January to March. The final report will cover April to July. This report provides the data alongside a written statement explaining what learning has taken place this year in each subject. It will also include a statement about your child's well-being throughout the year. Reports will be posted home in the last week of term.

What are the plans for the start of term?

You should now be aware that we will return to our full school uniform in September, school tie and white shirt and navy V-neck jumper. PE kit can be ordered online. The full uniform list is available on our website and our uniform supplier is ready to accept your order. We will contact parents of our SEND students and those with extreme sensory issues, about what uniform will support them to feel comfortable in school.

We plan to return to the 5 period timetable. Having reduced student's timetable at the peak of Covid to morning and afternoon sessions, then increased to 3 sessions of learning, we are clear that students learn best and are more attentive in blocks of an hour. With or without COVID, we plan to return to this timetable in September, as all our staff should be fully vaccinated. We will also be returning to tutor groups

As a school, prior to COVID, we made a decision to keep classes the same throughout their key stages and move them when they transition into the next key stage. Year 5 classes remain in the same class in Year 6 and Year 7 classes into Year 8. Year 6 class changes will be published in the last week of term.

What new staff will be joining us in September?

As part of our catch-up funding, we have employed an additional maths teacher to support with intervention and catch up. Mr David Funnell, an experienced teacher and senior leader at his previous primary school, will join us in September.

Ms Natalie Mursell, an experienced teacher who previously taught at Edwinstree, will join us to cover Miss Bustard's maternity leave. Mr Paul Nash joins the maths department.

In collaboration with Freman, we will continue to share the ICT Lead, and we are reintroducing German teaching for Year 8 at Freman. In September, we will be welcoming Miss Stott, Head of Music at Freman as well as Mr Meekins from their music department to teach music to Year 7 and Year 8 next year.

My Senior Leadership Team has been restructured and I am pleased to announce the appointment of two Deputy Heads. Mrs Claire Mayne our previous Head of English, will take on the Deputy Head role responsible for teaching and learning. Mr Matt Rowlands, our Previous Head of Music

and Expressive Arts will be the Deputy Head responsible for well-being. I have also appointed Mrs Rachel Heywood as our Data and Interventions Manager to the team.

Golden Broom winners

5/7/21 – 5B non-uniform day **5/7/21 - 7B** non-uniform day

Jo Gant

Headteacher End of term activities

As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.