



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 22/10/21

Diary Dates

Homework - Week B

1/11/21	Students return
2/11/21	Y8 Covid Vaccinations
9/11/21	Y5 Meet the Teacher 4pm-6pm
11/11/21	Remembrance Day
15/11/21	Y6 Lancaster Model
17/11/21	Influenza Immunisation – Y5 & Y6 catch up
17/11/21	Y6 Virtual SATS meeting at 5:30pm
3/12/21	Friday Occasional Day – School Closed
17/12/21	End of Term
4/1/22	Inset Day
5/1/22	Spring Term begins
28/2/22	Y6 Mock SATS week
9-12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
27/6/22	Occasional Day

All enrichment clubs be running the first week back, if your child has already sign up to attend it does not need completing again. List attached

What is the latest update regarding COVID?

As of Thursday, we have 4 positive COVID cases across all year groups. Please be aware of the three symptoms and if your child develops a temperature, cough or loss of taste and smell, please seek a PCR test. If your child presents as unwell, please be cautious. Please continue to test over the half term and log your results on the Government website Thank you.

What happens if my child or a family member tests positive for Covid-19?

If your child or family member tests positive or has symptoms, please inform us using the Covid-19 contact email: covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Any other absence please contact us via attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Please do not send notifications of absence to the admin email, Parentmail or via School Gateway as these are not routinely checked early in the morning and may result in unnecessary phone calls home. Thank you for your co-operation.

Are we still a cluster? We were advised on Friday, that now cases have reduced, we are no longer a cluster. This means that we will can release some of the year group bubble restrictions such as toilets, break and lunchtimes. However, as cases could increase during half term, we will make the changes two weeks after half term.

What is the school toilet situation?

Thank you to handful of Year 6 parents who have alerted us to their concerns regarding the toilets shared by both boys and girls due to year group bubbles. We are currently looking into this and will find a solution. In the meantime, any student who is worried, please let us know and they will be able to use the visitor's toilet.

What educational visits or trips will be planned this year?

Attached is the list of the 15 things each year group voted that they would like to do this year and we plan to make sure we achieve as many of these as possible. We are focusing on providing opportunities for visits that are predominantly local, as we would be disappointed if visits were cancelled due to COVID outbreaks. Prior to COVID, residential visits in Y6 and Y8 were organised at a cost of £300 - £400 and over a third of students were unable to take part. We want to ensure that what we offer is accessible to as many students as possible. To help us in our planning, please kindly complete the questionnaire via the link below to give us an indication of what you consider affordable. The questionnaire is anonymous. Next half term we will publish our calendar of events.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XfuRw2ajbd>

Geography Walk

Year 7 and 8 believe they are not too old to roll down a hill! They have requested to take part in the activity that KS2 students experienced, but we need some parent volunteers to support. A minimum of two parents per walk. The provisional timetable is published below:

Wednesday 3 rd November	Thursday 4 th November	Friday 6 th November	Tuesday 9 th November
1:45pm to 3:05pm	1:45pm to 3:05pm	1:45pm to 3:05pm	1:45pm to 3:05pm
7B AK teacher	7D MB teacher	7A WH teacher	7C LS teacher
8B LG teacher	8D LG teacher		8A NM teacher
			8C AK teacher

We will use this opportunity to revisit the skills needed to read and interpret an OS Map and the numerical skills of grid references and measuring and using scale. Please email admin if you would like to join us. Thank you

Parents' Consultation Evening Year 6 & Year 8

We are using a relatively new system and aware that this may have advantages and disadvantages and we would like parents' feedback next term. Please take the time to help us to improve the system. We are very aware that 6B, who have the same teacher for maths and English struggled with the timing. If you would like a call back from your child's teacher please email admin with your child's name and class and your availability after school. We will make contact after half term. Thank you for your patience.

Will the Y5 'Meet the Teacher' event take place on 9th November?

Yes, our plan is still to hold this in person as parents, you have not been able to see the school. The event will run from 4pm to 6pm and is an informal opportunity for you to see the school, classrooms and have a chat with your child's teachers about learning in lessons. You do not need to book an appointment. If cases of Covid rise or

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Government advice changes, we may need to move this online at short notice. This would involve booking times with subject teachers, but we will contact you if this should happen.

How will lunchtimes change after half term?

We are pleased to confirm that the canteen will return to more a normal operation. Year 5 & Year 6 will be first sitting in the hall while Year 7 and Year 8 go out to play, Year 7 & Year 8 will be second sitting. Students will queue in year groups and eat in the hall, packed lunches (if they chose, may like to go outside). After Christmas, we will rotate the sittings.

Do we have an Edwinstree School Association?

Thank you to the parents that have kindly volunteered, we will be in touch to arrange our first meeting after half term. We are keen to organise and host a disco and start planning for our Christmas events and we need your help. It is not too late to volunteer if you would like to support the school, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We plan to hold our first meeting on **Thursday 11/11/21 at 6pm**.

Will students bring books home at half term ?

Yes, while we think it is important you all find time to rest, we would encourage you spend time with your child and look through their work and see what they have been learning. Please make sure their books are returned to us!

Will homework be set over half term?

Please make sure your child continues to read for 20 minutes for 5 times during the week and engage them in a conversation about what they are reading.

Year 6 SATS information

We would like to invite you to a Teams meeting on Wednesday 17th November at 5:30pm to discuss the Year 6 SATs and our journey towards them. Mrs Gant, Mrs Earnshaw and Miss Devonshire will address any questions you may have about the tests themselves and how the English and maths teams are preparing students. To ensure we cover as much detail as possible, we are offering the opportunity to email subject specific and/or general questions ahead of the meeting to Miss Devonshire (English)

k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

or Mrs Earnshaw (Maths)

a.earnshaw@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

We will record this meeting for any parents who are unable to attend. We also need parent volunteers to support students during our mock assessments in February and for the tests themselves in May. We would need you to be available from 8:45am-10:50am from 28th February - 4th March 2022 and from 8:45am-10:50am from 9th-12th May 2022. Please email Miss Devonshire on k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you are able to help.

Please click the link to join the meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

How can I make communication via Parentmail easier?

As a school, we use Parentmail to communicate with you. In order to make the system more efficient, we recommend that you download the IRIS Parentmail app from the app store. This will ensure all school communication is in one place, so you do not miss any important messages or updates.

Year 6 Lancaster Model

Please see the attached letter from the school nursing team regarding the Lancaster Model questionnaire for Year 6 students.

Year 8 Electronics and Robotics club

Please complete this form ([link below](#)) if you would like your child to attend a series of 4 sessions investigating electronics and robotics. The sessions will take place at Freman College under the supervision of Mr Hamilton. The activities will be practical, building electronic circuits, programming robots and Microbit computers. They aim to expand on topics currently being studied in computing lessons. Sessions will take place on Thursdays, beginning on the 11th November. Students will be escorted from Edwinstree to Freman by an adult after school and will finish at Freman College at 4:30pm. Please note places will be limited to 15 students.

<https://forms.office.com/r/7cDKKCZdvY>

Are you missing any items of clothing?

We have a selection of lost property, including many navy school jumpers, coats and metal water bottles. All items will be on display on the stage if you would like to look for something your child is missing. The school will be open from **10am – 2pm** during half term for parents to claim any missing school uniform. After half term, we will hold a clothing sale of any unclaimed items to raise money for school funds.

Please help us raise funds for an exciting outdoor learning area for our students simply by shopping in our local Co-Op – see attached information.

What about PE kits after half term?

After half term, Mr McCarthy and the PE team would like to use the changing room facilities rather than students wearing their PE kit. Therefore, students should wear school uniform on the days they have PE and bring their PE kit to school in a bag. A reminder that all PE kit should be clearly named.

Thank you for your continued support, we hope you have a restful half term.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Enc Lancaster Model, Halloween, Top 15 things
Firework letter, Co op info, Firework display - Clubs

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