



Diary Dates

	Entry and exit times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:45pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:40pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm
12/4/21	Summer Term begins
29/4/21	Y8 HPV Immunisation
8/7/21	County Transition Day

Reporting a student absent

Please remember to inform us **every day** that your child is absent from school. Please use the dedicated email address:

attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or you can

leave a telephone message. Please do not use Parentmail, School Gateway or any other email addresses, as these are not routinely checked.

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.

KS3 Testing: Students will be issued further testing kits on Friday, please continue to test at home on Wednesdays and at the weekend and log results on the Government website. We know this can be time consuming, but it provides an additional safety check for COVID.

A huge thank for helping your child add homework back into their routine

We have a significant upturn in the number of students now completing homework and we thank you for your support with this. Attached is the timetable so you are clear what homework should be completed. If you are a parent struggling to access SMHW, please contact us. A bespoke Homework Club will be starting up shortly, and our first priority will be SEND and PP students who are struggling to work at home. If you have a concern, please contact Mrs Heywood via r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

What changes would students most like us to make as lockdown relaxes?

The students and staff are frustrated that they are restricted to class bubbles and following a consultation, we would like to move students to year group bubbles from the 3rd of May onwards.

What will this mean?

Designated areas will be allocated on the field to allow students to access their year group. This

would also mean we could begin to offer some year group clubs. We could also provide interventions for students across a year group, with one teacher or LSA, rather than in class bubbles.

What are the implications?

We increase the risk of the spread of Covid-19 in the event of a positive case, but rates are currently low.

What happens in the event of a positive Covid-19 case in school?

If a positive case is reported in school, we notify Public Health and they advise us on procedures. However, while students remain in class group bubbles, only the class and the teachers within a 48-hour contact period will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days.

What will happen if we move to year group bubbles?

We plan to part follow the model used by Freman College, that on notification of a case, the whole year group would be sent home. We would then identify with whom they have been in close contact with. Please note, if your child travels by bus or taxi with the child, they would also need to isolate for 10 days. At Freman, the rest of the students return to school. However, the difference between Freman and Edwinstree is our students are younger; their capacity to social distance from classmates is less secure. We believe that Public Health would still advise that the class bubble of the positive case would remain at home.

Put simply - what is the risk?

As always, parents and carers need a back-up plan in place, just in case their child needs to self-isolate at home. Currently, the risk is at class level, but this would increase to a year group for the first day while we identify whom they have been in contact with.

How will this support staff?

Teaching staff currently manage the breaks and lunchtime to support students to stay in bubbles, while they re-learn how to play and socialise with each other again. In year group bubbles, we would consider one member of staff and an MSA on duty at lunchtime, to give staff the opportunity to secure a break.

How can I register whether I agree to this risk or not?

Please click on the link below to a short questionnaire about whether you would be willing to support this change. Previously, when

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I consulted about this, the parents who responded were split 50:50. However, the questionnaire took place when the country was in full lockdown, schools were just returning and Covid cases still high, so feelings may have now changed. Please click on link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8EC-9XP1151Olwl3yMnc4IVUNFJGUjBOWTJVVUw4VFRVSzNFVVVXTkE1QS4u>

When would this be implemented?

If the questionnaire results show both parents and staff support the change, we would implement this after the May Bank holiday to commence on Tuesday 4/5/21

Will the timings of the day change to extend the school day?

Our shrinkage in time is due to the reduction in break and lunch times and no tutor time, the break time in particular, feels very short. Students have been trapped inside for too long; we are considering how to extend the day to support increasing this time, which we will share with you. However, whatever we decide, the staggered exit times to support year groups not to mix will continue. We will continue to finish at a different time to Freman to avoid students mixing.

When will enrichment clubs commence?

When staff can be released from daily duties at break and lunch, it will provide time for enrichment clubs to begin again. These will be restricted to year groups, so there will be less clubs on offer than we would normally provide, but this will change when all groups can mix again.

Who can I contact if I have a concern about my child's mental health?

Please email the Head of Year in the first instance.

Hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Our mental health leads are found in the Learning Zone. This is the first port of call to seek advice at school. Further information can be found on the Young Minds website

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Golden Broom Award: 6D & 7D

Non-uniform day on Monday 26/4/21 - reward for the cleanest classroom.

School Meals

A gentle reminder to place your lunch orders. You can order for a day, a week or a whole term! The cut-off for ordering is 8:55am on the day in question and vegetarian options are clearly displayed on a green button. Please remember it is your responsibility to cancel a meal if your child is absent from school as the Catering Team will make a meal for your child and you will be charged.

HPV Immunisations – Year 8

The second Year 8 HPV immunisations will take place in school on **Thursday 29th April 2021**. If your child received the first immunisation in school you do not need to do anything, the nursing team already have the relevant information.

Year 6

Next week, Year 6 students will be asked to put their phones in trays for safekeeping in the office during the school day. Students will be able to collect them from the hall at the end of the day. If you have any concerns regarding this change, please contact Mr Kelly via hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Thank you

Staff Absence

Unfortunately, Mrs Kitchener our Leader of Maths is absent due to ill health. In her absence, Mr Galanides will cover the majority of her lessons.

Parking complaints from our community neighbours

Please can we encourage parents to use the public car park? Residents have made us aware a number of vehicles are parking on the pathways without consideration for residents, as clearly visible in the photographs we have received. *'If your parking would cause wheelchair users or people with prams to have to walk into the road, then you should find somewhere else to park'*.

Please be aware that the PCO team have kindly agreed to be a presence in the community to help manage the exit from school. As always, they will gently remind you in the first instance, and with their support and your understanding, the staggered exit times and changes to the bus collection point will help provide a safer exit for students.

Timetable – Week A – available on our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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National survey of children, The Big Ask

This week in student's AM well-being slots they were introduced to the Children's Commissioner and the country's largest ever exercise to consult about how students are feeling about their world and how it might be improved for them. As parents, we also have an opportunity to have our say.

Below is the information from County about the questionnaire. If you can encourage them to complete please do. Their voice and yours are important in these challenging times.

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ask <<http://thebigask.uk/>> – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

All schools are encouraged to support their pupils to complete this survey <<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>>.

Parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited to complete the adult survey <<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/adults/>> to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.

The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Enc Homework TT

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