



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
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.

In the event your child tests positive for Covid-19, during the Easter holidays, please notify the school via covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

KS3 students [Y7 & Y8] Self-Testing Kits

The Government have asked that you continue to support your child with the twice-weekly LTF testing programme during the Easter holiday period. In discussion with students and staff, we all feel more confident in protecting our community and are very grateful for your support. As lockdown rules relax, it is more important than ever to make sure testing continues at home. Attached is a letter outlining how you can help. Today all students were given two packs of home testing kits to cover the holiday period.

Please see the link below on instructions for coronavirus (COVID-19) self-testing:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/instructions-for-covid-19-self-test?utm_source=10%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Animation for students (Year 7 and above) to encourage LFT at home

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgIWrnC3suo

How to prepare my child for the start of next term?

Students have been shown their visual timetable and the new teachers have been identified. Teachers have explained the changes to the Timetable and that break will be at 10:30am and lunch at 12:10pm. If your child is vulnerable or has a SEND need, they will be offered visual timetables for their individual desk. On return to school this term, we have seen roughly 50% of parents engage with homework but 50% not. We empathise with the stress of this last lockdown, but would ask that you prepare your child with an agreed space, place and time for them to complete their homework after Easter.

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A timetable for homework will be published with the first newsletter of the Easter term. PP and SEND homework clubs will be up and running within two weeks of the start of term.

Is this the last Timetable change?

Again, this is subject to COVID, but our plan is to take two weeks for students to settle into their new routine. As the country unlocks further in May, we plan to review class bubbles at break to move to year group bubbles. This is currently the number one request from students, after providing all their subjects, but will further increase the risk of students having to self-isolate should there be another outbreak.

[April timetable - final.xlsx](#)

Next half term, we will review the timings of the school day. Currently the shortened day is from removing tutor time, reducing the break and lunch times and the reduction in movement time as students remain in their classrooms, apart from Science and Art. The 5 hours learning is made up of their well-being learning, the daily Collective Worship reflection and the 3 sessions of learning. If the Government road map continues as planned, we will consider increasing the school day by releasing students into year teams and extending break and lunch time. This will continue to increase the risk of the virus spreading, so we continue to balance this risk.

At the moment, the exaggerated behaviours in unstructured times is causing significant behaviour issues as students learn to live alongside each other again. I am hoping that the work we do with resolve and well-being, will see a return to more pro-socialised behaviour. All students need time to adjust.

Five parents who wrote to us this week expressing their concerns about the timings of the school day. My response is attached.

Who are new staff joining the school?

As Mrs Barrett begins her maternity leave, Mr Rob London joins us as Science teacher for KS2 [Y5 & Y6]. Ms Nespoli also leaves at the end of term and we have appointed two new LSAs joining our team. Mrs Gordon as LSA linked to Year 5 and Mrs Tomlin as LSA support in Year 6.

Recruitment – We are currently recruiting for a Site Manager, please visit our website for more information. www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What have we noticed since students return?

We are currently aware that student behaviour is more exaggerated and their classroom habits in particular listening and listening to each other needs re-training. Outside in play, students are learning to live together and to accommodate differences. This type of behaviour was observed in September 2020, but seems more exaggerated

now. To address this, we are using our well-being programme to support students to validate their worries and concerns and provide them with strategies to notice how this affects their behaviours and what to do in these circumstances.

Could you help us review the impact of your child's well-being on their return to school?

Attached is the link to the questionnaire that we previously sent out before all students returned to school. It is to help us gauge how your child is feeling about school. Please would you kindly complete this with your child again. This will give us a better understanding of the impact of returning to school and if anxieties have reduced or increased and we can address any concerns we have missed or not identified. If your child is happy at school, please still complete this questionnaire. Thank you

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8EC-9XP1151O1wl3yMnc41VUOUtGSUdOOTdMNTc3WVpaT1ZMNkg1VEpRVy4u>

How much money did we raise for Comic Relief?

For the first time in many months, we heard real laughter throughout the day of Comic Relief and a small glimmer of the Edwinstree we know and love returned, despite COVID. It was lovely to see the Year 8 Leaders support students, at a COVID safe distance to complete their silly walks. A huge 'thank you' to those students who bravely took part in the Masked Singer competition. We raised **£668.78** to support comic relief.

Did Edwinstree have an end of term Easter Service?

Norman Jones supported Mr Rowlands to deliver an Easter service to the school community on the last day of term. We thank him for his time and we are longing for the days when we can visit our local churches to celebrate and sing together.

What are our plans after Easter?

We plan to support students to make rapid progress next term, and as part of this strategy, we will involve all subjects in the teaching of numeracy and literacy across the curriculum. Classroom and 'one to three' interventions will also take place to support students to close any gaps in their learning. Where a child is taking part in an intervention, parents will be contacted so they are clear of its purpose, what you can do at home to support them and what outcomes we hope to achieve. We will publish a calendar next half term with more details.

Curriculum music after Easter

We are looking forward to starting music lessons again in years 6, 7 and 8. It would be useful, although not essential, if your son / daughter could bring in their own set of headphones to use with our keyboards. The headphones required need a 3.5mm jack, not Bluetooth connection. We have enough for one per student in each class, but it would

cut down on the amount of cleaning we need to do after each lesson if they brought their own in. We don't have enough keyboards for one per student but will be making use of classroom percussion to support learning in lessons and to try and limit the amount of sharing of instruments we do. We may need to share keyboards from time to time, particularly in the initial stages of getting music up and running again in the school. A risk assessment has been written for this and is available on the website if you wish to see it.

Instrumental lessons

If you are interested in your son / daughter starting instrumental lessons, then this link will give you more information about what is offered by Herts Music Services.

[Register for Lessons - Hertfordshire Music Service \(hertsmusicservice.org.uk\)](https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk)

If piano or keyboard is something you are interested in, please contact the school directly as we use a local private teacher.

KS3 English Survey

The English Student Voice Survey has been re-set on SMHW for the **KS3 students** [Y7 & Y8] who have not yet completed it. Please encourage and support your child to complete the survey, as it will have a direct impact on their future English learning at Edwinstree, as it is designed for us to hear their voice about their learning in English. Thank you Miss Devonshire

Easter Enrichment

On Friday 26th March, 'Show My Homework' will deliver an optional learning pack of enrichment resources. In the pack is a range of interesting and fun learning ideas for your children to explore over the holidays. No submission is expected but students could bring in anything they create to share with their class and teachers. Please remember that sustaining your child's reading over the holidays is important, if you can maintain 20 mins 5 times a week please do.

Mobile Phones in school

In line with our Mobile Phone Agreement, the school will not accept liability for a lost or damaged mobile phone and actively encourages parents to purchase a low cost device. A screen protector is advisable for added protection.

How you can help us raise some funds to support our library?

In the year of COVID, we have seen our library resources deplete significantly, and while we will be asking for a return of all books in the summer, we are keen to replenish the once thriving resource. We are considering the purchase of a series of online packages for the mobile

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devices that were donated to support reading in English lessons.

Edwinstree Middle School is now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – **at no extra cost to yourself!** These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we would really appreciate you taking the time to sign up and support us. It is completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/edwinstreemiddleschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=en-e1

Buntingford Town Council survey on outdoor sports facilities within the town

You are invited to take part in a short survey, in order to determine what improvements / additions to the existing Outdoor Sports offerings in the Town could be made using developer S106 contributions. The survey should only take a couple of minutes and is anonymous. Please feel free to distribute this email to your membership. If you know someone who does not have access to the internet but would like to take part in the survey, please email us at admin@buntingford-tc.gov.uk and we will get a paper copy to them.

Click here for Outdoor Sports Survey -

<https://forms.gle/2mvWL59Wr8gg8sJ28>

Closing date midnight on Monday 5th April 2021. If you do not live in Buntingford but use the Outdoor Sports facilities, you are welcome to complete a survey.

What support is the Local Authority publicising that might be of interest?

Attached is a leaflet publicising the excellent nursing service in Hertfordshire that offers support for student well-being. Both school and parents are able to refer overly anxious students to this service.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

School Nursing Leaflet

School Day Letter

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