



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
7/5/21	Year 5 Pirate Day
30/5/21	Half Term
8/7/21	County Transition Day

Timetable – Week B – available on our website

www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What changes are we making after the May Bank holiday?

Following consultations with parents, students and staff 79% of parents were supportive of a move to year group bubbles, with 12 % at a maybe. Staff and students were unanimous in their decision as all are finding the rigid restrictions difficult. As the country relaxes from lockdown and students can see friends in groups of 6 outside school, It is harder and harder to see the clear logic in class bubbles. Students will be informed today and the changes will commence on Tuesday 4/5/21. At the start of the day, students should continue with their staggered start times, go to the new positions on the field to be met by their class teacher in their class bubble. At break and lunchtime, students will be able to mix in year groups and there will be designated ball game spaces for each year group. Thank you to the 300 + parents who took part in this questionnaire, it is important that we hear your voice.

Please be aware that this will move us into a situation where, in the event of a positive Covid case, all students will be sent home for the day, mirroring the procedure at Freman. The class with the positive case will be required to self-isolate, as well any students that travel on the bus or that the child has been in contact on the day.

As from Tuesday 4th May, we will be moving to year group bubbles rather than class bubbles. Today (Friday), students were prepped with how this will work, as well as where students need to go when they are on the field. Attached to the newsletter is a summary of what students were told today. Please can you read it and go through again with your child where students should be, as well as the clear expectations that have been made to support this move.

Would you like to support the school in applying to be a Governor?

We currently have vacancies for two Parent Governors on the Governing Body. If you are interested in becoming a Governor or would like to know more, please contact the school office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What can I do if I have a concern about a child at the weekend?

There has been an increase in parents emailing us to identify safeguarding concerns regarding children at the weekend. Please be aware, if you perceive a threat to a child during the weekend, while you may choose to email us, there is absolutely **no guarantee we will pick this up**, and this leaves a child at continued risk. During weekends, the best course of action is to report it to the Child Protection line **0300 123 4043** and log your concerns. Thank you for your support in this.

How to keep your child safe on the internet KS2 in particular?

Similar to the first lockdown, we have seen an increase in ‘at risk’ behaviours from children and their use of mobile phones, since the return to school. During PSHE lessons this year, all students have had training on how to stay safe online. Please refer to the police safety website ThinkuKnow which provides really excellent advice about keeping your child safe.

The following advice may be helpful:

- Make sure your child is using private settings on all of their apps.
- WhatsApp and Tiktok are not age appropriate sites for KS2 students and this is where we find most of the at risk behaviour is being generated. They are not mature enough to manage these sites well.
- Make sure to check their usage of phones and monitor this weekly. The number of parents that have been horrified to discover what their child has been accessing has increased significantly.
- If your child is communicating with someone online they do not know in public, they are at risk. There are no guarantees that an unknown is who they say they are.

Having referred a number of at risk behaviours through to the online child protection team, I am currently investigating a recommended app for parents that keeps you updated with the latest risks.

How are students managing their homework?

Thank you again to all parents for getting back on board with homework and supporting students to make sure they have time and space to complete it. If you are one of the few, whose child is struggling to complete their work, please let us know so we can help to find a solution and get your child online and completing their work.

Please contact either

Mrs Heywood: r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Marler: s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

How can I find out how my child is progressing?

We have completed a further set of assessment on our core subjects and collating the information. By half term, this information will be published in the form of a data report for each child. We will publish a written report at the end of the full term, with summary of your child’s, attainment over the year. If you have any worries or concerns in the

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meantime, please do not hesitate to contact school via:
admin@edwintree.herts.sch.uk

Unfortunately, our normal process of sending books for you to view and return each half term is not possible due to COVID restrictions, however, SMHW provides a good vehicle for engaging and viewing your child's learning.

What are our key plans for this term?

Our School Improvement Plan this term involves 3 key areas:

- 1) To assess how much knowledge and understanding occurred in lockdown 2 in April. To amend our curriculum plans accordingly for this term to include any catch up required. To support students to make good and rapid progress this term and to assess regularly to see that this learning is taking place and to tweak and support where necessary. To review at the end of the year and complete a recovery curriculum for next year.
- 2) Providing interventions for well-being and English and maths learning for a number of students who require support to progress. Tracking these interventions rigorously, so that we have clear entry and exit procedures, a clear overview of impact and which child is receiving what intervention when.
- 3) Well-being, students still need this support. Our curriculum has been altered this year to provide a daily well-being session every morning. We begin with 'zones of regulation' work, which is designed to support your child to identify their emotions and feelings, and once identified, supports them to use a variety of strategies to manage their feelings. Attached is an overview of the 'zones of regulation'. This term, we will be working with the Educational Psychologists to train our staff in this learning.

Year 5 Pirate Day 7th May 2021

Please see the attached flyer about Pirate Day, however, if your child does not wish to dress up they can wear their normal school uniform. If your child wants to paint the skull and crossbones on their face or arms with washable ink/make up, please feel free to get creative. Just make sure it can be washed off that night!

Year 8 transition

If your child is worried and concerned about transition to Freman and may need extra support. Please find the link below to a questionnaire that identifies your child may need additional support to make the transition, please complete and return. Additional programmes of support are likely to take place after half term and in line with lockdown restriction release, so that staff and students are able to visit between the two schools.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8EC-9XP11510lwl3yMnc4lVUOFhaQUgyTE1XNzFBNUINSjFFSUJOWk01Sy4u>

Year 8 cover lessons.

In the absence of Mrs Kitchener, Mr Galanides will continue to take the maths lessons. In order to do this, PSHE lessons will be covered by a supply teacher. Ms Bailes will also support in Maths on Thursday with arithmetic lessons.

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@edwintree.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 even your child tests positive for Covid-19 please notify the school via: covid@edwintree.herts.sch.uk

KS3 Testing: please continue to test at home on Wednesday and the weekend and log with the Government we know this can be time consuming but it is providing an additional safety check from COVID.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Year group bubbles

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