



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 8/10/21

Diary Dates - Homework - Week B

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
12/10/21	Parent Consultations - See Timetable 6A,6B,6C,8A,8C
19/10/21	Parent Consultations – See Timetable 6A,6C,6D,8B,8D
22/10/21	NHS Y6 Height & Weight check
25/10/21	Half Term
1/11/21	Students return
2/11/21	Y8 Covid Vaccinations
11/11/21	Remembrance Day
16/11/21	Parent Consultations 8C
17/11/21	Influenza Immunisation – Y5 & Y6
23/11/21	Parent Consultation 8B
30/11/21	Parent Consultation 8A
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

Monday 11/10/21 Y5 & Y6 Football club cancelled

What is the latest update regarding COVID?

As of Thursday, we have reached 6 positive COVID cases across all year groups. We will alert you if your child has been in close contact with a child who has tested positive, so you can be extra vigilant with your testing on Wednesdays and weekends. 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 – Thank you

We are also experiencing a high rate of absence in both our staff and students, with a bug that has very similar symptoms to COVID. Your child would have experienced significant cover this week in response to the number of staff that are absent. We are working hard to keep the school open, but please have a back-up plan. We have struggled to find agency staff so our teaching staff have once again been heavily involved and teaching above their allocation. There comes a point when there are not enough staff to cover the number of lessons requiring support.

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, whether in school or on line, 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

Will we be offering school trips this year?

We had hoped to offer visits to Felixstowe this term as the planned visits last term were cancelled due to staff isolating in the summer. However, we have been advised to avoid long coach journeys as we currently have a cluster of COVID cases. We are also very aware that prior to Covid, a third or more of our families were finding it difficult to afford the residential visits in Year 6 and Year 8, therefore, we are considering alternative options, so all students have opportunities to engage in the enrichment activities.

In order to help us decide what trips we should offer, we will ask students and staff to complete a questionnaire based on the top 50 experiences a child should do before they are 12. We are including Year 8 in this, despite their age, as they missed out due to lockdown.

We would like to hear your voice as to what experiences you would like us to try to organise for your child. Next week we will send you a questionnaire based around the National Trust top 50 experiences. Please if you can, take the time to complete and return it via the link, we would very much value your opinion. Year 5 and 6 have already completed one of these experiences, having rolled down the hill at Aspenden! Year 8 and 7 have made us aware they are not too old for this experience, so we will take them out to hone their basic OS map skills and provide this opportunity! We will request parental support to help us to get them out and about.

How has my child started the term and what learning has taken place?

Your child will have the opportunity to bring their books home at half term so you can see what they have achieved and discuss their progress. Please make sure your child returns their books for the start of the new half term to continue their learning.

Would you like to join the ESA - Edwinstree School Association?

We are really looking for parent volunteers to help us reform our Edwinstree School Association, who in the past, were instrumental in supporting educational visits and events throughout the school calendar year. The commitment is a meeting every half term. Please see the attached letter for more information. After half term, we would like to organise a disco for both key stages, which our students have requested, but we need your support for this event to go ahead.

*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.*

Where do I get support for my child while the Head of Year 5 is absent?

Unfortunately, Mrs Kelly continues to be unwell. Mr Rowlands, the Deputy Head will support the tutors and lead the year group in her absence. If you have a concern or worry please email the hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk which will be automatically forwarded on to him. Please remember that the tutor is your first port of call with a concern and you can access them by emailing admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Please note, no problem is too small and email is our best form of communication during the day as all staff have access to computers.

How and when will Parent Consultations take place?

At Edwinstree, we split the Parents' evenings into a Core evening and a Foundation evening for each year group. Like last year, these evenings will take place using 'SchoolCloud', where appointments can be booked in advance and you can 'call in' from home or the office, and on multiple devices if necessary. There are enough appointments for everyone in the class on Core Evenings; for Foundation evenings there are three hours' worth of appointments that people can book. Each appointment is five minutes long. Attached is an **updated** calendar, which now includes Y8 Science. Most of the events will run from 4pm until 7pm. Please note that the format of the Y5 'meet and greet' is still to be decided. About a week before the evenings, you will receive an email opening the booking process. Last year, our feedback from parents and staff is that this is a more efficient process and helps everyone keep to time!

Year 6: Can you provide information about Y6 SATS and the preparation towards these exams?

After half term, Year 6 parents will be invited to attend a virtual meeting to hear how we plan to help students recover their learning, what role SATS will play this year and how you can help.

Year 7: Have been active in getting involved in Collective Worships and supporting and planning our future Fullness Day based around the COP 26 Environmental Summit. This week, a group of boys shared their "wonderfuls" in COWO through script making, acting and Rubik cube solving! On the 15th October, a group of active Year 7s passionate about the environment have volunteered to meet with our MP Sir Oliver Heald to share their worries and concerns about the environment.

Year 8: We have been inundated with Year 8 students willing to take on a leadership role to support and help teachers and other students. Next week they will be teaming up with Year 5 to show our prospective parents and students around the school.

Y8 Monday Homework club.

Ms Theroulde has agreed to support a homework club for Year 8 students on a Monday after school until 4pm; this is in addition to the PP homework clubs already operating. She will operate a drop in session, for students each week, please sign up via the online link below

<https://forms.office.com/r/8HAnN26Zyr>

No classes achieved 100% Attendance this week

Jo Gant
Headteacher

ESA Letter

Updated Parent Consultation Timetable

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