



Diary Dates:

26/9/16 Year 6 Shropshire Visit
30/10/16 Year 6 Shropshire Visit returns
Approximate return time 6pm-6:30pm
6/10/16 Prospective Parents' Evening for Year 5 -2017

Edwinstree's Website

I am aware our website needs updating. I hope you understand this has not been my first priority, but we will be working on it over the next couple of weeks to update the information you are receiving. Please note the newsletter will be found in the newsletter section of the website from tomorrow!

Congratulations to Year 5 and Year 8 who won the 'Sing for your Supper' Hymn competition last week, this week we are preparing for our Harvest celebrations.

Year 5 parents/carers attended Collective Worship on Tuesday and saw our theme of what makes us British and celebrating diversity in operation. We look forward to offering all parents and carers the opportunity to come and see us in action.

This week I met Parents at the Ofsted Action Plan meeting, Year 5 Parents Evening and the 'Drop-in' session Thursday afternoon. Here is a summary of parental queries and our response.

You said:

We are pleased with how Year 5 have settled, however we are a little worried about the amount of homelearning and the pick and mix in maths we don't understand it.

Our response: We will monitor the amount of homelearning set, but for a further 4 weeks wish to continue with the timetable (please note they accompany this newsletter for all year groups).

The majority of the pupils are coping with the homelearning and actually feeling proud of their achievements. Our tutors will work hard to make sure that the homelearning set and is in the ROAs. We are discussing with pupils how to organise their work. Please you can continue these discussions at home and support them to organise when they complete the work. Pupils achieve this and if we help them to become

organised early on, this will pay huge dividends in their future. Please note also accompanying this newsletter is the current after clubs available at Edwinstree. If your child wishes to take part in any after school please request a letter and sign and return the tear off consent form to the school.

Our Head of Maths responded to the pick and mix homelearning on behalf of Maths and English to explain its purpose and what pupils should be doing:

Your child in Year 5/6 has two English and two Maths homelearning days each week. For each subject, one of these days is designated as 'Pick and Mix'. Your child will need to look through the Pick and Mix sheets and select one or more tasks to undertake that they have identified as being useful to them. This may include learning spellings or applying this skill to word games for example. These tasks are all set to help your child to make independent choices about what they need to work on - obviously, some pupils may need some guidance from parents or teachers as they learn to become more self-aware. These tasks should be undertaken purposefully and may be recorded in the Learning Journal (small purple book with a plastic cover). Some tasks may have been practical or may have been undertaken on paper. In these cases, record in the Learning Journal a brief summary of what has been done. The pupil should be prepared to show or explain what they have been doing during the lesson that the homelearning is due in.

Homelearning for each subject, and also for Science, will be set by the teacher and may involve research, thinking, revising or completing a task. Again, this may be recorded in the Homelearning Journal or the teacher may have asked for it to be a verbal response or may have provided a sheet to be worked on. The pupil should be ready to hand in or discuss the homelearning on the due date.

Our first Parent forum will focus on homelearning. I am keen to hear your views on what makes purposeful and meaningful homelearning and how much should pupils receive. We will then share our views and move this term to an agreed policy. More information on the forum times next week. We are currently sticking to the timetable and setting research, thinking, revising or completing. We have heard you, as to no more posters and title pages!

You asked: *When are the dates for this term's holidays and would we ever consider aligning our holiday dates with Freman College?*

Holiday dates for this year are listed below, on our website and also in your child's ROA. I think it makes sense to align wherever possible with Freman College to support parents of children in both schools.

AUTUMN TERM 2016

Inset Days: 1st/2nd September 2016
Term Starts: 5th September 2016
Half Term: 24th – 28th October 2016
Term Ends: 21st December 2016

Inset Day: 31st October 2016

Occasional Day: 2nd December 2016

SPRING TERM 2017

Inset day: 4th January 2017
Term Starts: 5th January 2017
Half Term: 13th – 17th February 2017
Term Ends: 31st March 2017
Easter Holidays: 3rd – 17th April 2017

SUMMER TERM 2017

Term Starts: 18th April 2017
Half Term: 29th May – 2nd June 2017
Term Ends: 21st July 2017

Public Holiday 1st May 2017

Inset Day 24th July 2017

Do I plan to keep Japanese in the school next year? *At the moment I am asking what purpose and how meaningful is the learning in all subjects including Japanese. In my previous headship I continued courses that had already started, and if I wanted changes, brought them in for the new intake, and this is what I am inclined to do with Japanese. If I chose to make a change we will make it with the 2017 intake, but offer an additional session, if there are enough pupils wanting to continue as we do now. However, please note while the Japanese course will have some outcome to it, accreditation and will provide your child with a unique selling point for their future CV; it is unlikely that this will lead to a GCSE in Year 8.*

Pupil Voice

Congratulations to Charlie Fancy.

Our cook nominated Charlie's Roald Dahl, Charlie and the Chocolate factory for the prize and next week. He and a friend will be working with our Cook to produce his recipe for his class. Merits will also be awarded to a number of pupils who came up with fantastic recipes and names.

Our next competition launched today is to be the 'Voice of Edwinstree'. I am looking to update our answerphone system and am seeking a confident and cheery voice to help us! Auditions will take place in the next two weeks!

Our House Captains and Sports Captains and Vice's met this week to define their role and purpose this year. They have decided they will take charge and run the house competitions for this year. They aim to:

- Provide opportunities for all year groups to work together
- To create healthy competition in all sports, and subjects
- To provide opportunities for additional clubs for pupils at lunchtime

Volunteers

Thank you to those parents who have already nominated themselves as volunteers, potential Governors or members of the ESA, there is one more week to let the office know if you are interested in any of these support roles. Email to: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Appointments.

Mr Galanides has been appointed Head of Year 6 for two terms, in the first instance. We look forward to working with him to support the Year 6 pupils through their SAT year.

Attendance

To improve our rating pupils need to achieve 96% attendance as a group. Please help your child to make the most progress and support the school by not keeping children off school for any other reasons than ill health. Those pupils with a poor attendance will be invited in with their parents, prior to half term to discuss strategies to improve their attendance. Thank you for your support.

Jo Gant

Headteacher