



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 02/09/2022**

**02/09/22 Parent News**

**Diary Dates – Week A**

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
06/9/22	Year 5 Induction Day (all other year groups not in school)
07/9/22	Term Begins (all years in school)
28-30/9/22	3 Day Residential Trip for Yr7
29/9/22	Year 5 Parents “Getting to Know You” Meeting 5pm
24-28/10/22	Half Term

Dear Parents,

We hope that you managed to find some respite and quality time with family and friends this Summer, despite the cost of living crisis beginning to impact on all of us. As a Church of England school, we are committed to working hard to support you and your child during this time and are committed to being exceptionally mindful of additional costs that the school brings you. Do not hesitate to talk to us if you are struggling.

Welcome to our weekly newsletter, you will receive this on a Friday afternoon during term time.

Our newsletter is designed:

- To let you know what is coming up and what is expected of your child and/ or you.
- To give you updates on your child’s year group learning, and/ or enrichment activities. This might be preparing you for your child’s trip, supporting you to understand the *Value* we are covering in COWO, or letting you know when and what sex education is being covered in PSHE.
- It is also where we give you wellbeing tips for your child and E-safety information.

While it might not be designed in the communication style you prefer, we strongly recommend you take 5 minutes to read it weekly, even if you scroll straight to your child’s year group and focus on this information, it will help you. Hitting social media for questions about school, often leaves you more confused and/ or with mis-information. Read the newsletter first! Please also recognise that if you phone the school office and ask a question that was on the newsletter, my team will gently remind you to read this first. Please never hesitate to call or email if you are worried, we are here to help.

This week we are answering some of the questions you may have prior to the start of term.

**When and at what time does my child return?**

Year 5 start on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8.40am via the lower gate. There will be a number of staff on the gate supporting students to find their tutor.

All other year groups return on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8.40am, when students arrive in school, if they have forgotten who their tutor is (this was on their report for year 6 – 8) they will find lists of tutor groups and classes for each year group in the hall.

**What will my child’s timetable look like?**

Timetables for this year are on the school website. Here is the link: [Edwinstree School Timetables](#).

If the timetable shows your child has a swimming lesson, these will start later in the year. For the time being, after their first day at school they should come to school in their PE kits on those days. Further information about swimming will come to you via Mr McCarthy once we have started back properly. Copies of this timetable will also be displayed in their tutor rooms.

**What does my child need on their first day and should they wear their PE kit?**

At the moment the forecast is for traditional September weather. We would therefore ask even if students have PE on the first day, they come to school in their Winter uniform with the tie. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> day onwards (Wednesday for year 5 and Thursday for the rest of the students) they can follow their timetable. Where they have PE, they should come in PE kit shorts, their Edwinstree PE top, Hoodie if cold and/ or tracksuit bottoms.

Please note if you are struggling with uniform, talk to us. If your child arrives without it, the tutor will note and we will ring you to find out how we can support. If your PE items or an item of the winter uniform ordered have not arrived, please write a note for your child’s tutor to alert us. Please reassure your child that no one is going to shout or get angry if their uniform is not quite correct.

Universal School Uniform September 2022 list attached.

If your child has a sensory need, we hopefully already know about this, but if we do not, please email [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) and mark for the attention of the Learning Zone and their Head of Year.

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As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

### **What if my child has worries and anxieties about the return to school?**

This is normal, we have experienced lots of upheaval through COVID, this has impacted on all our abilities to manage change well. Anxiety is a normal reaction, you will hear and see our Wellbeing programme for all students come into operation swiftly. Over the Summer we have met a number of students to support their wellbeing, but if you have not seen anyone, and/or you have concerns that your child's anxieties are more than you would anticipate, please contact the Learning Zone via email at [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

If you are a PP family please contact Sharon Marler on [s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) we will devise a plan to support your child. Please remember no problem is too small.

### **Can my child bring a mobile phone to school?**

Yes, but please note this is not at all necessary for their learning. We do understand that for those that travel this might be a necessity. But you will hear us in future newsletters and talks to guide you, that the longer you leave this purchase the better. Can you remind your child that when they come into school the phone needs to be switched off, all mobiles will be collected by the tutor and placed in a tray, this will be taken to the office to be returned at the end of the day. We are keen to support children to develop strong and effective relationships with us, and the phone is the poorest form of communication.

### **What equipment does my child need?**

They will need a good handwriting pen, a pencil, ruler, rubber and colouring pencils. Please again if you are struggling with this, no one will tell them off, spares are always in each classroom for students to pick up. They will need a water bottle and packed lunch. If they are having school meals, please use the following link to SchoolGrid to place your orders [Home - SchoolGrid](#)

### **What will they do on the first day of school?**

All students will spend their first lesson with their tutor going through their timetable, and being reminded of our behaviour system, expectations and what plans we have for the school this year. They will then start their new timetable.

### **What about homework and enrichment (after-school) clubs?**

Homework is not set for the first two weeks of term, while your child settles into school and gets to know their new teachers. We will publish a timetable to go alongside the start of homework in our newsletter so that you can see what should be set on what night. Enrichment clubs begin the week of 19<sup>th</sup> September, a timetable of clubs and sign-up forms will be circulated in due course.

### **How we will support your child's mental health at the start of term?**

All students will be given the following refresher courses in their PSHE lessons early on this term:

- Mobile phone use and staying safe on line.
- Zones of regulation to support their mental health understanding.

These sessions will remind them of how to stay safe online and how to behave well with others. Zones of regulation will remind them about how to notice their thoughts in their head and the impact this has on their behaviour, it will give them strategies to support unregulated behaviour.

### **School Applications for 2023**

Please find attached a guide for parents and carers of children applying to secondary or upper schools for September 2023.

### **Film Makers Club**

Film Makers Club has been running successfully in school now for 4 years. The club runs for an 11-week term, they focus on building confidence, being creative and learning everything to do with making films as well as starring in their very own. Learning to script write, plan costumes, take on the role of camera operator, director & clapperboard operator. All work is fully edited and given to each child. Films worked on so far have been Hogwarts, I'm A Celebrity Get Me Outta Here, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, News, School of Rock and much more. Payment is split into 3 monthly Direct Debits of £25.25. For more information contact Gill on [hertsbedsclub@gmail.com](mailto:hertsbedsclub@gmail.com) or 07341305131 (flyer attached)

### **ESA (Edwinstree School Association)**

ESA would still welcome any donations of branded PE T-shirts & Hoodies. Please send them into the school office.

### **Best Wishes**

**Jo Gant - Headteacher**

#### *Attachments:*

*Universal School Uniform September 2022 list*

*Moving On Leaflet 2023*

*Admissions Poster 2023*

*Film Makers Club*

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