



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 18/3/2022**

**Diary Dates – Week B**

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
24/3/22	Year 5 Science visit
25/3/22	Y8 Thorpe Park visit
28/3/22	School Production Auditions 3:15-4:15pm
30/3/22	School Production Auditions 3:15-4:15pm
1/4/22	End of Term 1:20pm finish
4-18/4/22	Easter Break
19/4/22	Summer Term - students return to school Summer Uniform
9- 12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
24/6/22	Occasional Day
27/6/22	Day in lieu of Queen's Jubilee
13/7/22	Open afternoon 2pm-7pm

**COVID update**

We currently have 9 members of staff absent with Covid and we are struggling to find cover despite doubling up classes where we can. Please have your back up plan ready in case we have to shut a year group or a tutor group. Currently, staff with Covid are taking more than 5 days to recover and or show a negative test result. Please check your emails by 5pm on Sunday in case we have to close a tutor group or year group due to further positive Covid cases amongst staff.

**Distance Learning**

If your child is at home self-isolating and well enough please check SMHW for work, we also recommend following the Oak Academy Website, which is free to access. Students can choose their age range work or the year below or above depending, on their confidence level. They can access good quality videos and lessons based on English Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation and Maths Number Multiplication, Division and Fractions, or for higher key stage 3 problem solving. <https://www.thenational.academy/>

**After school Music clubs**

Due to the Y5 and Y8 visits, there will be no choir or orchestra this week.

**Water bottles and lost property**

Once again, we have a huge number of unnamed items ie clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. if your child has lost any of these items you are welcome to come and check, after school if possible, all items are on the school stage. Please be aware that after Easter, any unclaimed items will be delivered to the Charity shop.

**What happens if my child does not want to attend a school trip?**

We will always provide provision for students not attending a school visit. Please send your child to school as normal and they will go into another class for the day. Year 8 students will have the opportunity to support our Year 5, who are excited that they will be helping them for the day.

**Can you help us support Ukraine?**

A colleague will be dropping off donations to The Newspaper Office in Bishop Stortford on Friday 25/3/22 They are specifically asking for the following:

Body wash

Deodorant

Liquid soap only (please note they cannot take bars of soap)

Nappies

Sanitary towels

Shampoo/conditioner

Toilet rolls

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

If you would like to donate any of the above, please deliver to the school office by Thursday 24/3/22. Thank you

**What staff changes will take place next term?**

Mrs Kelly will return for one week after Easter but then goes on maternity leave. Prior to September, Mr Bailey and Ms Elliott will teach RE lessons. After May half term, Ms Bustard our Lead for Humanities returns from maternity leave and will teach Humanities in Year 5 and Year 6 and History/RE for the last part of the year. Mr Rowlands who leads the pastoral team, will take on the Head of Year 5 role until May half term. We hope to appoint maternity cover in-house for the second half term and notify you in due course.

**Who is visiting Edwinstree on Monday 21/3/22?**

Our School Improvement Advisor and the school Governor responsible for Pupil premium will be in school on Monday. They will visit lessons, meet students and review exercise books to see what impact our School Improvement plan is having. We have also been invited by the Parish church to take part in the appointment of the new Reverend for the Parish on Monday. A group of students will be interviewing 3 candidates for the post.

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### **How are we becoming an eco-friendly school?**

Thank you to all those parents who have helped with donations, our next mad request is to ask if you have any of the following:

Potting compost, seed trays, small pots, wellies in sizes 6, 7, 8

A shed, container or greenhouse for storage

Any old pallet boards or water butts.

### **What are our future plans?**

Vicky Stothard, a parent and environmentalist is assisting us to move our small wormeries into larger homes over Easter, so we can place all our school waste into our new compost bins. If you are interested in mimicking what we are doing at home, here are the links to the compost bins and worms that you will need.

Parents get a discount on worms and all associated worm needs! Code will be

EDWINSTREE

<https://yorkshire-worms.co.uk/>

Wheelie bin convertor kits

<https://theurbanworm.co.uk/product/wheelie-bin-worm-farm-diy-kit-community-pack/>

The students were shocked to learn that after China and India, the next biggest greenhouse emitter is food waste, they are determined to do something about this. Vicky will also help us to source seeds for our wild meadow and build bee hotels during Technology and Science lessons. The Science department are busy preparing the ground around the pond while we wait for it to fill naturally. We have kindly been offered free carp from a school in Bishops Stortford, who are moving to a new site, but we will need to call on our community fishermen to help us catch and transport the carp in the Summer term.

Our caretaker is working with a charity to help our school become a recycling drop off point. Further information to follow.

### **What are the Edwinstree School Association [ESA] fundraising for?**

The ESA has started in earnest to raise funds to support the expansion of the play surface area for students in winter. Due to the increase in numbers, we have outgrown our playgrounds, and however much we repair the grass areas for children to play, you know how muddy they can get.

Any help you can offer to support the ESA would be much appreciated. Attending events to help children have fun and support the school would be wonderful. We are planning to hold a musical festival on the 13<sup>th</sup> May from

6pm to 8pm, tickets will be priced at £5 for a hot dog barbeque, snacks and a drink.

### **Parent Survey results**

Thank you to those parents who found the time to complete the online Parent Questionnaire. I apologise to the kind parent or two that tried to tell me, that the SEND question and bullying question was going to create really unclear results. As we had lifted this from the Ofsted Questionnaire, I had assumed the questions would provide clear results, but I had missed that there are extra tabs on the Ofsted questionnaire ie are you SEND? Has your child suffered from bullying? Was it dealt with effectively? Therefore, our results are not a true reflection and we will address this next week in the hope of getting a clearer picture, but we found out the following:

We were really pleased to see that the vast majority of students feel happy, safe and are doing well in school. It was noted that six students felt unsafe in school, please contact us so we can address any issues your child may have as we are here to help.

The majority of parents feel that we make sure students are well behaved, when concerns are raised they are dealt with well. After Easter, we will set up a focus groups and invite parents to talk to us and discuss behaviour and expectations. We also plan to further explore communication between school and parent, which has been severely impeded by Covid. We have also noted that while the majority believe there is a good range of clubs and personal development, a proportion of parents disagree and we need to find out more.

To help you get to know us better, the ESA suggested we host an open afternoon and evening towards the end of term. This will give students the opportunity to show parents around the school, see their work and meet their teachers. We think this is lovely idea and have earmarked the 13<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm - 7pm.

### **Did someone say, 'School Production'?**

Yes! We are aiming to put on the musical **'Pirates of the Curry Bean'** in the first week of July – dates to be confirmed before Easter. This play is a lot of fun and ties into our school's vision of *'supporting one another to live life to all its fullness'*.

Acting / chorus auditions will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March, with singing auditions for the **main parts** taking place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Both of these auditions will run

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until 4.15pm. **If your child wishes to take a lead part, they need to attend both rehearsals.** Auditions will be open to all year groups, but Y6 should consider their SATS preparations - we don't want to add any more pressure onto them at this time. If your child is interested in auditioning, please can you complete the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XBjP0XzHnr>

### **What is Edwinstree Summer uniform?**

After the Easter break, students can wear a white polo shirt instead of a shirt and tie, the remainder of the uniform remains the same.

### **Year 5 Science visit**

Thank you to all who volunteered to support the visit, please arrive at school for 8:40am.

### **Year 6 - Spelling Frame**

One of our areas to work on with Year 6 students as evidenced by the recent Mock SATs is spelling. With this in mind, we have invested in an online platform called Spelling Frame. This encourages students to learn their key spellings using games. All Year 6 students have been given their login details, please encourage them to play as much as possible. They will be set new words to practise every week and this is a fun way to pick up easy marks in the GPS test. Thanks for your support, Miss Devonshire

### **Year 7 Science**

All year 7 have outside science lessons on a Tuesday. Students should bring waterproof footwear or a change of shoes and clothes suitable for working outside [a coat and jog bottoms to change into]. This week 7C will also be working outside on Monday

### **How can you help us by shopping at the Buntingford Co-op?**

We are very excited that Edwinstree has been chosen by the Co-op as one of the local causes that will be part of the Co-op Community Fund from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October for one year. By choosing Edwinstree as your local cause every time you use your membership card in store when you make a purchase, a small contribution will go into the fund. It will not cost you anything and you will also receive 2p for every £1 spent on your membership card. Please tell your friends and family and together we could raise enough funds to provide this wonderful learning opportunity. You can get a membership card in store or by following this link: [Co-op Membership -](#)

[Membership that makes a difference - Co-op \(coop.co.uk\)](#)

If you already have a card please follow this link to choose Edwinstree as your local cause **(from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October):** [Co-op - Local causes - Co-op \(coop.co.uk\)](#)

If you need any assistance to get a membership card or to choose your local cause please email Mrs Heywood [r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) who will be happy to help.

### **Which class have won a fun swim?**

Further fun swims have been booked on:

**21/3/22 – 7A**

**28/3/22 – 5B**

Please complete the online consent form in order that your child can take part in the event – Thank you. Further swim sessions are yet to be confirmed, but we hope that every class will have an opportunity for a swim.

<https://forms.office.com/r/POZaVfjESu>

### **Jo Gant**

#### **Headteacher**

Film Club information

Parent survey results

Uniform List

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