



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 01/4/2022

Diary Dates – Week B

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
4-18/4/22	Easter Break
19/4/22	Summer Term - students return to school Summer Uniform
2/5/22	Early May Bank Holiday
3/5/22	Y5 Parent Consultations Science & Foundation 4-6pm
4/5/22	Y7 Whipsnade Zoo visit
9-12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
13/5/22	Y8 Visit Thorpe Park
16-20/5/22	Walk to School Week
17/5/22	Y6 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation
18/5/22	Y5 Visit Science Museum
14/6/22	Y7 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation
22/6/22	Y5 Felixstowe visit
23/6/22	Y7 Felixstowe visit
24/6/22	INSET Day
27/6/22	Occasional Day
28/6/22	Y8 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation
8/7/22	Y8 visit Felixstowe
11/7/22	Y6 visit Felixstowe
13/7/22	Open afternoon 2pm-7pm
22/7/22	End of term 1:20pm finish

All enrichment clubs will resume w/c 25/4/22

Covid update:

Attached with this newsletter is the latest advice from County. The key pieces of information are:

How to vaccinate your child and reduce the spread and impact of COVID? COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

The national booking system for healthy 5-11 year olds to receive their COVID-19 vaccination will open from 2 April. Parents and carers can book appointments at larger vaccination centres and in some community pharmacies. Appointments will also be available at some GP run sites, if so they will contact you directly and you can book through your practice.

What is the current guidance if you suspect COVID?

Guidance remains that if you have symptoms of COVID-19, **(a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)**, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, **regardless of a positive test result.** Get advice about staying at home and avoiding contact with others

There is support available locally to help people who need to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Please do not send children and young people back to school following the Easter holidays if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare and education settings – they need our support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

How do I report my child absent?

If your child is unwell or has a medical appointment, please notify the Attendance Team via attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or you can leave a message on 01763-271446. In the event your child tests positive for Covid-19, please email: covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Why should I check my Parentmail on Easter Monday 18th April?

In the event of high staff absences due to Covid positive cases, we may have to move some classes or year groups to online learning after the Easter break. Historically, the number of Covid cases shrink after a holiday, so this is a precautionary measure but please check, Thank you.

How can the school support students with mobile phone use?

During the last two weeks we have been alerted by parents of students in Years 5-7 using their mobile phones inappropriately. Students have been involving themselves in various communications on social media. Year 5 students were using inappropriate language, Year 6 students social media activity related to racism and transphobia. Year 7 students were involved in posting pornographic images, which is now a police matter.

Is my child ready for a mobile phone?

If the answer is yes, we strongly advise that as a parent, you check your child's phone regularly, weekly as the minimum. Every time we share something online we add a bit more information about ourselves to the online world. This includes posting a photo, writing a comment or liking someone's video. The trail of information we create when we share things online is often called our 'digital footprint'. People we know, and people we don't know, can see our digital footprint and use it to learn more about us. This means sometimes people can see things online or learn things about us we don't want them to see or know. It is important that privacy settings are in place to keep us safe. This was not the case for the students involved.

How can the school support online safety?

We are in talks with the Head of PSHE about moving our mobile phone schemes of work for Y5–Y7 to the Summer term. This will make sure we educate students on how to use them safely and help them understand the risks and implications. We plan to set up an online safety event with an external advisor next term for parents. Please help your child to make the right choices online over the holidays. Here is a link to the Thinkuknow CEOP's website which has excellent guidance on how to keep your child safe online. https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/online-safety/

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

When will we get the next progress reports?

Progress Reports will be sent home in the second week of the Summer term and will give you the latest attainment for your child.

What visits are planned next term?

Whipsnade Zoo has been booked for Year 7 on 4th May priced £25, a letter will follow next term, so wanted to give you advance notice. This fits with their Geography scheme of work where they have been learning about national parks and safaris in Kenya.

All year groups will be offered an opportunity of a seaside trip to Felixstowe next term, and we will consult with Year 8 on their leaving event after Easter, so we can begin to plan for a goodbye celebration.

We have made a provisional booking for the 28th - 30th of September at Essex Outdoors - Bradwell, for our current Year 6 going into Year 7 in September. The cost is currently priced at £182 and we will consult with parents after Easter if this is considered affordable. We are aware of the rising cost of living, so want to make sure this does not overburden you.

We plan to use our new strategy, not wait till the end of term to carry out our trips as this seems to be when COVID strikes staff most.

Reminder - Water bottles and lost property

Please be aware that after Easter, any unclaimed items will be delivered to the Charity shop. Students without a water bottle have been given a plastic cup but we have been supplying children with over 150 per week. Therefore, after Easter, we plan to use the unclaimed plastic bottles once they have been sterilised.

What is Edwinstree's 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. Uniform list available on our website.

Year 6 Parent Volunteers for SATs

Thank you to a number of parent volunteers who have signed up to support our Year 6 students in their SATs on the 9th-12th May. We are looking for one or two more volunteers to support on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May. If you are able to help, please email k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
Thank you Miss Devonshire - Head of English

Year 8 Transition

We will be meeting with Freman after Easter to begin the transition process for Year 8. We will arrange early transition for our most vulnerable students, to meet their link tutor and or the SEND team, with visits to the Redgrave Centre and the school site. However, if your child is anxious and would benefit from extra support, please email Mrs S Petty on s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with your child's name outlining your reason for concern.

Which class have won a fun swim?

Further fun swims have been booked on:

25/4/22 – 7A

If we have already received your consent for 7A on Monday 21/3/22 we do not require a further consent for the date change to 28/4/22, however if you have not submitted your consent, please complete the online 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/P0ZaVfjESu>

Walk to School Week 16-20 May 2022

With so many children leading sedentary lifestyles, we want to encourage active school journeys which can help towards children achieve 60 minutes of activity every day.

Government guidelines recommend that children and young people should get 30 minutes of their daily physical activity in the school day and 30 minutes outside of school. In a recent study, children that exercised before school had improved concentration levels in school. With regular physical activity children improve cardiorespiratory fitness, build strong bones and muscles, control weight and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Hertfordshire's Walk to School Week has previously won a National Award for Excellence in Walking with Modeshift STARS which recognises an excellence in cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Over 50 percent of Hertfordshire primary schools took part, encouraging active travel to school.

Please support Walk to School Week and ask children to walk, cycle, scoot or use any other forms of sustainable travel they can think off.

New priest for the Benefice

The following announcement was released 27 March 2022 at 9.00 am:

We are pleased to announce that The Reverend Kirsty Wainwright, currently Assistant Curate in the St Albans, St Stephen's benefice, has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill. This is subject to the completion of the usual legal formalities after which further information will be announced. Meanwhile please remember Kirsty, Paul and the family in your prayers as they prepare for the move. The Venerable Janet Mackenzie, Archdeacon of Hertford

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Easter, and look forward to welcoming students back for the Summer Term on Tuesday 19th April.

**Jo Gant
Headteacher**

Attachments:

HCC OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION - COVID 19 UPDATE

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