



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 11/3/2022

Diary Dates – Week A

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
7/3/22	5D Fun swim
14/3/22	6D Fun swim
14/3/22	Y6 Lancaster Model 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D
15/3/22	Y6 Lancaster Model
17/3/22	Edwinstree celebrates Comic Relief Edwinstree does Strictly House dance competition afternoon
24/3/22	Year 5 Science visit
25/3/22	Y8 Thorpe Park visit
1/4/22	End of Term 1:20pm finish
4-18/4/22	Easter Break
19/4/22	Summer Term - students return to school
9- 12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
24/6/22	Occasional Day
27/6/22	Day in lieu of Queen's Jubilee

What progress is my child making?

Data Reports will be issued at the start of next term so you can see what progress your child is making. You will see progress as students are growing in confidence.

Can you help us?

We would like to find out your thoughts on how the school is doing as we continue to recover from the Covid pandemic. The Governing Body have asked that we conduct a parent, student and staff survey to look at where we are as a school. Below is the link to the parental survey which is taken from the Ofsted Parent View portal which allows a parent to complete a survey about the school at any time they wish. The survey is anonymous. We will collate the results and publish to all stake holders, if you have time to take part it would be much appreciated – Deadline midday 14/3/22

To complete the survey please click the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/kX3fiqwCjp>

Support for school visits this half term

A huge thank you to all those parents who have volunteered to support our school visits and the SATs, this really makes a difference. Parental support means we can reduce the number of supply teachers, save money and reduce disruption to the rest of the school.

Would you like to join the Edwinstree Association?

We hope that this Summer allows the ESA to run some of the planned events cancelled due to Covid. The ESA are meeting with Mrs Gant at 6pm on Monday 14th at the school. If you are free and would like to join the ESA, please meet at the school reception at 6pm.

How will Edwinstree support Comic Relief?

We will celebrate comic Relief on **Thursday 17/3/22**. Students can wear non-school uniform

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[optional] and/or a red nose, plastic or painted if they wish. They will have a comedic end to the day with a Collective Worship led by our resident comedians in Year 7. We are also looking to host a 'Strictly Come Edwinstree' House dance competition in the afternoon. Volunteers will learn a dance during the day to present to the whole school during last lesson. This is the last request for £1 this half term, we promise and you if would like to contribute to Comic Relief, we will collect on Friday 18th March.

I heard there was a dog in school?

Two years ago, we held a Fullness Day on the request of a diabetic Year 6 student, now in year 8, to raise funds for the Hypo-Hounds who support children with diabetes. Two members of staff brought their dogs into school, along with the Flyball Racing Team who gave a demonstration as the dog's race professionally. The students so enjoyed the experience that on occasions, both members of staff have brought their dog into school to meet the students. If you have not already made us aware your child has a fear of dogs, please email:

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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.

My child is talking about chanting, what is it?

In order to support Year 6 build towards SATs and also to finally secure in all student's memory the times tables, all teachers will be using the end of their lesson to chant the times table with their classes, each teacher will take one version and will chant using the following method. If you would like to get involved please follow the advice below.

How you can help with times tables:

1 times 6 is 6, 2 times 6 is 12.

Week 1: 2 mins of the lesson, chant the times table, you say, they say.

Week 2: 3 mins of the lesson, include the commutative fact, you say, they say

Week 3: 3 mins of the lesson, use the division facts, you say they say.

Week 4: 2 mins of the lesson, times table fact you point they chant

Week 5: 3 mins of the lesson, you point they say both facts.

Week 6: 3 mins of the lesson, use the division fact, you point they say.

Order to learn times table in:

2,5,10 (Year 2) – suggest Year 5/6 begin here

3,4,8 (Year 3) – suggest year 7/8 begin here

11,6,9,12,7 (Year 4)

How is COWO changing?

As we are now released from Covid restrictions, Key stages return to the hall for Collective Worship. Students are to be commended on their calm and reverent like behaviour in the first week. We all enjoyed being together as a community and have missed the spirituality of Cowo. Those students that struggle with crowds and loud noise or are anxious,

know they can wear ear defenders or sit on the blue carpet (closest to exits). We are currently exploring Lent in the lead up to Easter and students have been thinking about Jesus in the Wilderness. This week we have been discussing his key message, that worrying can take away moments in life and does not help. We related this to the current news and how we might manage hearing about the war in Ukraine in a way that supports our mental health.

Will Year 6 be offered any visits this year?

Yes, we are finalising the details and will let you know asap, but please be aware they will not take place until the writing element of the SATS has been completed in June.

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 6 Lancaster Model 14/3/22 and 15/3/22

We highly recommend that you support this programme. It has been operating for at least 3 years and provides your child with a 'one to one' check with the NHS Nursing Team. Year 6 students are required to complete a questionnaire which helps to identify any medical concerns either physical or mental. This will take place during school time in the ICT suite. To opt out, please contact the Nursing Team on **0300 123 7572**.

Year 6 Science

Our current topic in science is all about the circulatory system. As part of this the children have been learning about the function of the heart. We have looked at lots of diagrams, some film clips and practised explaining the purpose and processes that happen within our circulatory system. To enrich the learning further we are able to complete a practical where the children dissect a lamb's heart. This is often a highlight of the Year 6 Science curriculum. Looking at diagrams and pictures is great but the opportunity to hold a heart and see the way the 4 chambers are linked so they receive and send blood deepens the children's understanding. The teachers will demonstrate the dissection first to ensure that the pupils know what they are looking at. Prior to the practical we also discuss the respect needed around dissection and how the opportunity to complete this is a privilege. Should you have any questions please do contact the Science team.

Year 7 Science

All year 7 have outside science lessons on a Tuesday. They need to bring, preferably waterproof footwear, or a change of shoes. Plus, clothes suitable for

working outside, a coat and jog bottoms to change into.

Extended Friday Justice - Year 8

Y8 Students were informed they will be joining the Extended Friday Justice trial that has been running in Year 7 since Christmas. As a school, we absolutely accept that it is ok for students to make mistakes, but it is also important that students then learn from these mistakes and from the subsequent conversations with their tutor. As from Monday 7th March, if your child receives **three** cards in a half term, you will receive a call from either Mr Galanides or a member of the SLT to arrange an Extended Friday Justice consequence. This is held after school on a Friday until 4pm, where they will be supervised by their HOY or member of the SLT, discussing further the reasons for this consequence. This is more in line with the consequences they may receive in a secondary school setting. When you receive the text about a card being given, please do have a conversation about what happened and how to prevent a repeat occurrence. We appreciate parental support with this.

Book donation drive!

Do you have any good quality books your child has outgrown? Perhaps a beloved childhood classic or some phonics "learning to read"? Any book donations would be gratefully received, students can bring books to school and hand them to Mrs Kelly in room 13 or drop at office by 31st March 2022.

Which class have won a fun swim?

Further fun swims have been booked on:

14/3/22 - 6D

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
HCC info

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