



**Diary Dates – Week B**

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
14-18/2/22	Half Term
21/2/22	Students return to school
21/2/22	Textile Club cancelled
22/2/22	KS2 Image Musical Theatre
22/2/22	Year 8 Foundation Subjects Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
23/2/22	6D Fun swim
25/2/22	Fullness Day rescheduled
28/2/22	Y6 Mock SATS week
14/3/22	Y6 Lancaster Model
15/3/22	Y6 Lancaster Model
9- 12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
24/6/22	Occasional Day
27/6/22	Day in lieu of Queen's Jubilee

**What is the latest COVID update?**

We are currently a Covid 'outbreak' school which will continue at the start of term. We have issued further tests to KS3 and would ask that students test on Sunday afternoon to check they are negative and able to attend school on Monday 21/2/22. Key Stage 3 students will be expected to wear masks to school when they return. Thank you for your support. Due to the current outbreak causing a high rate of staff absences, we were unable to staff and run the Fullness Day on Friday, which was disappointing for students. We plan to hold this event after half term on Friday 25/2/22. We continued with the non-school uniform and cake sale and students were able to watch a block buster film about global warming and climate change in the afternoon.

**How do I report my child absent?**

To report your child absent for all other reasons other than COVID, please email: [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

If you child tests positive for COVID, please email: [covid@edwintree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@edwintree.herts.sch.uk)

**How will my child know about the maths changes in Year 6 or Year 7?**

Students in Year 6 and Year 7 will be given a letter to advise who will be their maths teacher after half term. Please make sure you ask your child about the letter when they get home. The new timetables for students have been posted on our website and, on the first day back, students will be taken through the changes again. Please note, if they have a PE lesson, they can continue to wear their PE kit to school.

**What staff return to the school?**

We welcome back Mrs Barrett who returns from maternity leave. We also welcome Mrs Norman, who will be teaching PSHE in Year 5 and 6.

**Will clubs be clubs be running as normal after half term?**

All clubs will run as normal, if the situation changes, we will notify you by Parentmail.

**Changes to Year 6 English Homelearning**

After half term, students will be coming home with two books to use for their English HL: a 10-minute GPS buster and a 10-minute reading buster. The work to be completed will be set on SMHW, so students can check each week which activities they should complete. Please support your child to stick to the 10-minute time limit and to mark their work using the answers provided in the books. Students will be asked to identify one piece of learning they need to do based on an area they went wrong, and this will be an expected part of their home learning. In addition to this, spelling HL and further GPS HL will be set on SMHW. Students will receive an in-depth explanation of this in their English lessons in the first week back after half-term. To support with students' test resilience in school, Thursday afternoon CoWo time will be used to provide Y6 students with an opportunity to calm their bodies and minds and achieve a level of focus that will enable them to get the most form their learning. Students and their teachers will enjoy a session reading in silence to do this.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**Year 8 Parents' Evening**

A thank you to those parents who contacted us with questions about the setup of the Parents Evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February; we genuinely do value your feedback. Whilst all Y8 parents were given the opportunity earlier in the year to meet their English, Maths and Science teachers, if we offered the same kind of set up for Foundation Subjects we would be looking at having to set up 12 hours of appointments for each year group - something that isn't sustainable for all year groups across the school year. What is clear is that the way we set this evening up - which was how we used to run Foundation Parents Evenings in pre-COVID times - doesn't necessarily work with the SchoolCloud set up we have used this year. The Leadership Team are looking at how Freman run their Parent Evenings to see if we can replicate this or a

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similar set up at Edwinstree for future evenings.

Finally, can we please ask that if you made any appointments, you attend all the slots you have booked, especially as there were a considerable number of parents unable to make any bookings. If you are unable to attend, please cancel your appointments so others can take your place. It would be really helpful if you could also email Mrs Marler so we are aware of any changes being made.

[s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

As we said in the Parentmail yesterday, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February will run as planned, but we will try to explore alternative arrangements for those who were unable to book.

### **Year 5 'Get Playing' - Hertfordshire Music Service**

10% of the Y5 have signed up to take up the offer of half a term's worth of free music tuition - it would be great to make that even more! Here is the link to sign up if you have yet to do so. [Get Playing Families \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/get-playing-families)

### **Image Musical Theatre**

The Image Musical Theatre Company are returning to visit us on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February with their rendition of 'Robin Hood'. This performance will provide KS2 students with a swashbuckling visual representation of a well-known legend and ties in with both the Myths unit in Year 6 and Legends unit in Year 5. Due to Covid restrictions, we will only be able to hold Year 5 in the hall. Year 6 classes will be sent a link to watch on Teams or by video in their English lessons to avoid further disruption to their timetables in the lead up to SATs.

### **Are there any trips planned for students?**

Despite COVID, we will be releasing a calendar of trips for the students and asking you to contribute. Following the results of the parent survey, trips will be priced between £50 – £75. Please note, Year 6 are limited around the SATS, so their trips will be arranged after June, in order to secure writing assessments.

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

After half term, **6A** will have the opportunity for a fun swim session at Ward Freman pool, this will take place from 1:45pm until 2:45pm and students will have arrive back at Edwinstree for the end of the school day. 6D were winners of the Christmas Quiz, unfortunately due to our outbreak, they have had to wait a long time for their reward. Dates are yet to be confirmed for 6D, and 5D won the funky slippers competition!

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 update**

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