



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 21/01/2022

Diary Dates

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
25/12/22	7A & 7C Maths & Eng Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
26/1/22	7B Maths Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
27/1/22	7D Maths Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
2/2/22	Y6 SATS Teams Meeting with Parents at 5:30pm
9/2/22	KS3 2 nd Covid Vaccine - Pfizer
10/2/22	Y8 Wellbeing Day
14-18/2/22	Half Term
22/2/22	Year 8 Foundation Subjects Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
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
27/6/22	Occasional Day

I need to alert you that this morning's song choice had an inappropriate swear word in the lyrics. I have spoken to the students and explained that this language is not acceptable. Please accept my apologies.

What is the latest COVID update?

We are pleased to announce that Public Health have advised that due to the low number of positive cases, we can now begin to release our COVID Outbreak plan, students will return to eating in the hall and we will trial mixing in groups on Wednesday for the next two Wednesdays. COWO will take place in the hall for one or two year groups at a time. Please see attached information from County.

What are the new guidelines for face masks?

On Thursday 20th January, it was announced that students were no longer required to wear face masks in class, but are still expected to wear them in communal areas, such as corridors, toilets and the hall for COWO. At the moment bus children must continue to wear the masks.

Should KS3 students continue to test for Covid-19?

Yes, we are advised to continue on a Wednesday and a weekend. Thank you. Unfortunately we are still awaiting a delivery of Covid home testing kits which should have arrived on 11/1/22, they will be distributed to students as soon as they arrive.

When are the next Covid-19 vaccinations taking place?

We have received notification from the NHS Immunisation team that the second Covid-19

vaccination for **Year 8 [and children aged 12 and above]** will take place on 9/2/22. They have confirmed it will be a Pfizer vaccine. We encourage you to get your child vaccinated, as while not completely secure, it was evident that those vaccinated were far less likely to get the virus prior to Christmas.

Hertfordshire & East Anglia School Immunisation Team

If your child/young person still requires a Flu Vaccination and is not yet protected against this year's Flu, then please contact your regional team below, via email, to arrange an appointment for them.

Hertfordshire: Hertfordshire@v-uk.co.uk

Please see attached for more information

What is happening with the new Buntingford First School?

Last week, we met the Scholars' Trust and the Executive Head teacher to begin the process of supporting the primary school's temporary accommodation with us next year. Regular meetings are planned throughout this year. The site teams have been in discussion with County to look at drainage and electrics for the temporary accommodation and entrance and exits, which will take place for the primary school at the exit onto the field. There will be a fenced entrance in and out of the school to support safeguarding.

Timings for the school day are currently being discussed but the new school is committed to making sure that we do not add any more pressure to Norfolk road by, starting at different times to Fremen College and Edwinstree. Students will be informed on Friday about what is happening.

How will the Attendance Team address poor attendance?

Having reviewed our attendance data during COVID, we now return to our normal attendance procedures.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 Section 12 requires schools to inform the local authority of any pupils who are regularly absent from school, have irregular attendance, or have 10 or more consecutive day's absence without the school's permission. Schools are also under a safeguarding duty, under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to investigate any unexplained absences. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if Please visit our website for information on our Attendance Policy –

www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

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
Thank you

What staffing changes are taking place?

We are sorry to confirm that Mr Wreford will be leaving us next Friday for a trading career in the city. Year 7 parents evening has been brought forward so you can talk with Mr Wreford before he leaves. Mr Bailey will support with lessons for Year 7 for the last two weeks of term. After half term, Mrs Barratt returns from maternity leave and will take over some maths lessons. A new timetable will be issued for Year 7 before the end of term and we will make sure students are made aware of any changes well in advance. Any student who does not cope with change, will be given sufficient explanation as well as visual support.

Year 6 SATS update

We would like to invite you to a Teams meeting to update you on our Journey to SATs. The meeting will be held via teams on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 5.30pm. Please follow the link to join the meeting: [Click here to join the meeting](#).

If you have any specific questions for Miss Devonshire or Mrs Earnshaw regarding the specifics of English (reading or grammar, punctuation and spelling) or maths, please use the following link to ask those questions ahead of the meeting: <https://forms.office.com/r/BQ0RnpU156> We would also like to extend our plea for parent volunteers for the weeks of the final Mocks from 8.45- 10.50am on 28th Feb- 4th March and for the real SATs, from 8.45- 10.50am on 9th-12th May. Please email Miss Devonshire via k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you have capacity to support students during this time. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered.

After school Enrichment Clubs

If your child signs up to join an after school club, they are expected to attend. It is important we have your consent along with your contact details in line with our Safeguarding Policy. Please let the school know if your child changes their mind and no longer wants to attend. – Thank you

Justice Friday

As you are aware, if a student receives a card during the week they attend 'Justice Friday' at lunchtime, where they sit and discuss with their tutor or HOY why they received the card and discuss a way forward. The majority of students find this works, however for some, particularly at KS3, we feel that more intervention is required to try and get to the bottom of this repeated behaviour.

In Year 7, we are trialling an extended form of 'Justice Friday' where, if a student receives three cards in a half term, they will complete Justice Friday after school until 4pm. Mr McCarthy or Mr Rowlands will ring parents to get permission and they will be collected during COWO on a Friday. The same restorative work will take place but, as a consequence, is more aligned with what they might experience in a Secondary school or at Freman College. We will trial this for the next term, review, and decide whether this is something that we may trial in other year groups.

Can my child continue to wear PE Kit to school?

Students can wear PE kit on the days that they have PE lessons. Thank you to all those parents who have supported the school by providing and extra pair of indoor or outdoor shoes.

Year 8 Wellbeing Day - Thursday 10/2/22

As part of 'Feeling Good' week and we will hold a Year 8 Wellbeing Day. This will involve sessions on:

- Laughter Yoga presented by an external yogi (☺)
- Food tasting and healthy eating
- A lesson on self-acceptance
- Positive body image.

On the day, students will be encouraged to express their positive body image by wearing clothing and make-up (if they wish) that makes them feel positive about themselves. Students who do not wish to take part in this event will have the option to opt out. Further information to follow nearer the time.

PSHE Curriculum Reminder

We have introduced a new PSHE curriculum this year in line with the new government statutory curriculum and the non-statutory schedule suggested by the PSHE Association. We do encourage parents to spend a few minutes looking at the overview of all the planned lessons which is included with this

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

week's newsletter. Although the lessons will give you a good idea of what we plan to teach, we are keen to ensure that they can change to meet the needs of individual year groups and events such as coronavirus. This is also the first time that we have taught this new curriculum in full. Thus it is highly likely that some lessons may be omitted, some added and some rescheduled. Lessons in PSHE also include aspects of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and those that are particularly relevant have been highlighted in the attached plans; several of these will be taught this term.

Should we be teaching FGM at such a young age? This is a question that some parents have asked us and we have thought long and hard about. This is an important and very sensitive topic and we have looked at the PSHE Association guidance and they are clear that this fits into the Health and Wellbeing section of the curriculum in years 5 and 7 as the younger of these ages can be when this practise occurs and when children have made disclosures to either the school or other pupils. These lessons will be taught with particular sensitivity and in an age-appropriate manner.

If you have any questions about these lessons please contact the school office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

What are our snow procedures?

Please kindly complete the online form, as we need your consent to release your child from school and the named designated person to collect them in the event of a snow emergency! Thank you to those parents who have already provided the required information.

[Snow Procedure online form](#)

Jo Gant
Headteacher
County Update

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*