



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 25/3/2022

Diary Dates – Week A

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
28/3/22	School Production Auditions 3:15-4:15pm
30/3/22	School Production Auditions 3:15-4:15pm
31/3/22	Y5 Robin Hood Non-uniform day
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
3/5/22	Y5 Parent Consultations Science & Foundation 4-6pm
9-12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
13/5/22	Y8 Visit Thorpe Park
17/5/22	Y6 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation
18/5/22	Y5 Visit Science Museum
14/6/22	Y7 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation
24/6/22	Occasional Day
27/6/22	Day in lieu of Queen's Jubilee
28/6/22	Y8 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation
13/7/22	Open afternoon 2pm-7pm

Please do not forget the clocks go back this weekend! The last day of term school finishes at 1.20pm

COVID update:

We look forward to welcoming Y7 back on Monday and all year groups in school. Whilst we do not expect a significant change, please check your emails on Sunday at 4pm for any updates on year groups (5,6,8). Please make sure you have a back-up plan in the event we have to return to remote learning on Monday.

What have we discovered about Y7 learning online this week?

Thank you to all Y7 parents who have managed another week of remote learning. We have monitored the remote learning in Y7 and the following summarises our discoveries:

- Very few students chose to attend Live Lessons, they were more likely to use the video pieces and written instructions.
- Students were more likely to read the work, but less likely to submit work. It is only when students submit work that we are able to assess their learning. We will make sure students understand that unless they submit the work, the full benefit of learning will not occur.
- Students were trained during lockdown to prioritise Maths, English and Science, we need to ensure students know that our expectation is that they complete **all online learning**.

We have a daily analysis of the work completed and have spoken with parents and students who were struggling to complete work. The small number of students unable to access learning, were offered support with our Y7 LSA in school. We will ask all stakeholders, staff, students and parents to complete a questionnaire so we can evaluate our latest online learning as we continue to learn from this experience. We will give Y7 feedback and training again to make sure students understand that submitting work back to the teacher is important.

What parent consultation events take place next term?

Whilst this information has been published previously, we have made one amendment to the schedule due to its proximity to the start of term (and potential outbreak status). They are as follows:

- Year 5 Science and Foundation - **New date:** Tuesday 3rd May 4pm to 6pm
- Year 6 Science and Foundation - Tuesday 17th May 4pm to 6pm
- Year 7 Science and Foundation - Tuesday 14th June 4pm to 6pm
- Year 8 Science and Foundation – Tuesday 28th June 4pm to 6pm

When will we get the next progress reports?

Due to heavy absence our Data Manager has been unable process the data and create reports. These will be out to you in the second week of the Easter term and will give you the latest attainment for your child.

What planned visits will take place during the Summer term?

Public Health advised us that all visits should be postponed due to the recent Covid outbreak. We have rebooked the Y8 visit to Thorpe Park for Friday 13/5/22 and the Y5 visit to The Science Museum has been rescheduled for the 18/5/22. As part of Y7 Geography and Science learning, we hope to plan a Y7 visit to Whipsnade Zoo after Easter. If you would like to volunteer to support any of these trips, a Volunteer form is attached. We also hope to plan a seaside visit for all students.

Our end of term Easter service will take place online via Teams, as we are unable to take students to the Church. Our last day of term will be a quiet affair and students will remain in normal lessons and school will finish early at 1:20pm.

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

What about residential visits?

We are investigating a residential visit for Y6 for when they start Year 7, and for Year 8 next Spring. This would then become our pattern of residential visits.

How can we avoid the disappointments a Covid outbreak causes?

We are learning that we tend to have 4 to 5 weeks of no Covid and then as we reach the end of term we experience another outbreak. Therefore, we plan to move our “fun” events to earlier in the half terms, to try to avoid the likelihood of a Covid outbreak causing further disappointment.

What do students learn during these times?

We talk to students about resilience and help them to understand that if things do not work out, we try again. Your child may talk to you today about a small treat we organised at lunch time. The ice cream van arrived to cheer us all up!

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/>

Do you have any of our books at home?

We are currently doing an audit of our core text stock. We are particularly low on ‘Skellig’ (Year 7) and ‘The BFG’ (Year 5). If your child is in Year 7 or Year 5, please could you have a good look at home and send them in with your child as soon as possible?

Year 5 - Can they bring toys into school?

We have spoken to the students about limiting the amount of toys they are bringing into school as we notice they continue to lose them. Please support us in the good weather and encourage them to enjoy our outside space to play.

Reminder - 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.

Where students are without a water bottle, we have been using plastic cups but we are getting through over 150 a week. We are therefore looking to use the plastic bottles that have not been reclaimed, instead from post Easter.

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 28th March, with singing auditions for the **main parts** taking place on Wednesday 30th March. Both of these auditions will run 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'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 is attached.

Year 6 Revision for SATs

Y6 students will be coming home with some revision materials for their English and maths SATs. We will be giving a pack of CGP papers for reading and GPS, alongside workbook pages to cover in their SATs workbook for maths. We expect students to work through these at their leisure, so they keep their skills ticking over between now and the exams in May. The exams take place only a few weeks after we return for the summer term. The last thing we want to do is overwhelm students at this time, and we are supportive of a nice relaxing break. These activities should hopefully be able to slot in nicely between leisure activities and can be done all in one go or broken up into small chunks to do a bit each day.

Miss Devonshire and Mrs Earnshaw
Head of English and Head of Maths

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Libraries

We would like to hear from any parents who could spare an hour or two to support in our library. We are currently undergoing somewhat of a revamp and would appreciate the consistent hand of some parent volunteers to maintain the library environment and ensure they are used to their optimum capacity. If this sounds like something you would be interested in please email Miss Devonshire via:

k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to discuss options.

Year 6 - Spelling Frame

One of our areas to work on with Y6 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 Y6 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 – Support for learning their times

table. Any help you can give us to chant times tables on journeys to places and or at those what to do moments of the holiday, we would very much appreciate, to help them to become or to remain fluent in all the times tables is a good step to supporting their SAT. Start with 2,3, 5 and 10, but do move onto the 4,6,7,8,9,11 and 12. It is always good to see you struggling and then improving as you do this with them.

Who will be my Personal Assistant after Easter?

Maureen Matthews retires after 19 years of supporting the school in various roles and 5 years supporting me. She has been an invaluable colleague, who has helped me to understand the inner workings of Edwinstree and has remained professional and supportive throughout. I will miss her. We welcome Mrs Sam Petty, who is an experienced School Admin Officer who will take over as my Personal Assistant after Easter.

Which class have won a fun swim?

Further fun swims have been booked on:

21/3/22 – 7A postponed until 25/4/22

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

School uniform

Volunteer Form

Starlight stars flyer

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