



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 4/3/2022**

**Diary Dates – Week B**

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
7/3/22	5D Fun swim
14/3/22	6D Fun swim
14/3/22	Y6 Lancaster Model
15/3/22	Y6 Lancaster Model
17/3/22	Edwinstree celebrates Red Nose Day
17/3/22	Edwinstree does Strictly House 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

*Many thanks for your support with World Book day – students and staff had fun discussing books and giggling at the community dressed up and in character for the day!*

**What is the latest COVID update?**

We finally received notification from Public Health last night that we are no longer an Outbreak school. The one exception is 6D currently have two cases. Until posting negative results, 6D will be asked to eat their lunch in their rooms rather than the hall. We can now make the following changes:

- Students are no longer required to wear masks, but can continue to if they wish. This includes no masks on public transport.
- We can release segregation of students so that they can eat lunch together in the hall, this will begin next week.
- Students no longer required to complete mandatory testing twice a week.
- Staff or students who test positive for Covid will no longer be legally required to self-isolate but are still advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least five full days.
- Routine contact tracing will end, so fully vaccinated close contacts and those under 18 will no longer be legally required to test daily for seven days

**What is the follow up from Fullness Day on climate change?**

If we got it correct, we hope your child came home and wanted to talk to you about one or more of the following:

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- What global warming is, why it is a good thing and what Enhanced Global warming is
- How humans are increasing green-house gases
- How a change could help to reduce their green-house gas emissions
- How the school is moving to as close to zero food waste as possible
- Including the cake sale, we raised over £500 for our pond and wildlife meadow, thank you.

**How will Edwinstree support Comic Relief?**

We will celebrate comic Relief on **Thursday 17/3/22**, students can wear non-school uniform and or with a painted red nose. [optional] 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 then we will collect on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Will a school visit be organised for all year groups?**

Yes, all year groups will find out about trips in the next few weeks, Year 8 and Year 5 had letters sent home last week. Year 6 trips won't take place until all their SATs and writing, and Science assessments are complete in June. A trip for Y7 trip being planned for after Easter, further information to follow. We will keep to the request of a £50 to £75 budget.

**How are we supporting students to understand the war in Europe?**

Students have been worried about what is going on in the world. Attached is a Powerpoint slide show that three Year 7 boys put together to talk present to the school. It explains what is happening and how students manage their mental health. Their key messages around managing the sadness of this news were:

- If you are going to watch the news, make sure you know when is a good time – many of us struggle if we listen or look for news in the morning.
- If you are reading about it on social media, alert your families and or friend. Be careful, not all social media sites are accurate, they provided links to the BBC and Newsround for children.

Students then watched at a Church of England Powerpoint and guidance notes, which focused on peace and reconciliation and how to find peace when all around you could not. We would recommend this Powerpoint and guidance notes for anyone who maybe struggling with the news. It is attached for your information. We would advise that you follow up with a conversation and that are vigilant in checking what your child is viewing online. Understandably, those facing the atrocities of war are videoing what is happening to them, and positing on social media sites. This means we can all access some horrific images and scenes very quickly, so we are guiding students and staff to take care.

### **What are the trial changes we are making for Bus students?**

This week, we have been trialling a new meeting point for students who travel by bus.

Previously, students have had wait in the hall for ten minutes before leaving to get the bus, but having spoken with students, they have asked if we could meet outside the school gate adjacent to the playground, by the park. Their argument is, they can have the opportunity to run off some of their energy in the park, before heading to the bus. A member of staff will be with them for the ten minutes before escorting them to the bus collection point at Freman College. We will continue with the trial this week, but if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

### **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 you as a parent to complete a survey about the school at any time you 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 14/3/22

To complete the survey please click the link below:

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

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **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)

### **Can you help us with a Year 8 Physical Education Survey?**

Miss Petts is currently completing an educational course, and as part of this study, she is required to undertake a survey on Year 8 physical education lessons. The online survey will take part during an ICT lesson, but as we require parental consent for students take part. Please kindly complete the online consent form – Thank you

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

### **Extended Friday Justice - Year 8**

Pupils were told yesterday in Collective Worship that Year 8 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 7<sup>th</sup> March, if your child receives **three** cards in a half term, you will

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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.

### **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.

### **Something Fishy for Year 7's in Food and Nutrition.**

We are incredibly lucky to have been chosen as one of 200 schools in the UK to be included in the 'Fish Heroes Wild Alaskan Salmon programme'. Current Year 7 Food and Nutrition students will have the opportunity to cook and experience a product that we normally would not prepare in school on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please make sure you pay careful attention to the homework that has been set on SMHW. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk.

### **Will HCC School Meals increase in the new financial year?**

As from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 school meal prices will increase to £2.80 per day. Please ensure your child's meal is booked before 8.55am daily. If your child is unwell please cancel the booked meal for the day as you will still be charged. Herts Catering Limited is a Nut Free service; however, if your child has any other allergy please register this directly with HCL using the following link: <https://hcl.co.uk/allergy-overview>

We have had to swap the dates over for 5D and 6D as there are still just a few cases in 6D of COVID.

Dates for the next fun swim:

**5D – Monday 07/3/22**

**6D – Monday 14/3/22**

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**  
**Diocese Powerpoint**

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

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