



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 7/01/2022**

**Diary Dates**

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
11/1/22	Y7 Science project
11/1/22	5A & 5C Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
18/1/22	5B & 5D Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
2/2/22	Y6 SATS Teams Meeting with Parents at 5:30pm
9/2/22	KS3 2 <sup>nd</sup> Covid Vaccine - Pfizer
22/2/22	7A, 7C Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
23/2/22	7C – Science Virtual Parent Consultation 4pm-7pm
28/2/22	Y6 Mock SATS week
9- 12/5/22	Y6 SATS week
27/6/22	Occasional Day

**What is the latest COVID update?**

Thank you to everyone who helped the school get a positive start to the term, by getting tested. Further testing kits are on order for delivery at the end of next week. Unfortunately, we are unable to distribute further testing kits to our younger students, but your support at the start of term is much appreciated, positive covid cases are going down. Students will continue to wear PE kit on their PE days next week as the outbreak plan remains in place, with students in year groups.

**When is 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.

**How can you help the school stay open?**

KS3 students should to continue to test twice a week [Wednesdays and weekends] in order to identify any students who are asymptomatic. If your child is displaying one of the three main symptoms (persistent cough, loss of taste or a high temperature) they need isolate and book a PCR test. Please email [covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) to inform us if your child has booked a PCR test or has tested positive on an LFD or PCR.

**Where are we heading this term and what is the focus of our School Improvement Plan?**

The four key areas for teaching and learning remain:

- To make sure that our team of teachers, and students are clear about what exactly they are expected to learn, each term and to use our work trawls and student voice to assess how effectively they are securing this knowledge.** If we get this right your child we be able to tell you in just a few sentences the crux of their learning in each subject. This information is already posted on our website for you to view – Why do we need to do this? If we take away the mystery of what students are learning, alongside explaining why they need to learn this, they will be successful. If we get this right, your child should be able

to explain clearly and succinctly what their learning is in each subject.

- To make sure that learn effective assessment techniques that speedily within the lesson pick up if a child has not understood a concept (knowledge or skill from learning) and address this.** If we get this right, your child should be able to explain how they are making progress and you should see this in their books when they go home at half term. Where in their books you could see error, they should be corrected and then not made again.
- All teachers will support students with their literacy and numeracy.** Learning and improvements in writing, reading, problem solving and reasoning will take place in all subjects. At the moment all students even higher, continue to make simple errors in their writing. So we remain focused on picking up basic grammar, full stops, and capital letters for proper nouns.
- To provide in class and external interventions that have a clear-entry criteria (what the child needs to learn) and a clear-exit-criteria.** We know when we have been successful when we see your child make a rapid improvement in a specific area of English and or Maths and you will know how to help your child to continue to make these improvements.

**How are we supporting students to live life in all its fullness and flourish?**

- Arranging Fullness Days to support students to explore areas of interest and develop their belief that we can all make a difference. We begin with a Cop 26 Fullness day in February. If we get this correct, your child will want to share their new learning and will develop a sense of “they can make a difference to whatever problem exists”. They might encourage you to help.
- By providing a series of interventions and lessons to support student wellbeing, helping them to notice when they have unregulated behaviour and provide them with coping strategies. Your child will be able to share worries and concerns with you and be aware if they are feeling unregulated. They can share strategies they use to manage these feelings.
- To plan and provide enrichment activities and trips for students which support all children to attend. Your child has fun and gets excited about events that are planned and coming up that enrich their lives.
- To increase the confidence that our BAME community can own who they are and to have a voice in the school. Our BAME community students are listened to and are able to share their voice with the whole community so we can consider their experience and support them.
- To rebuild the opportunities to explore and experience spirituality. Your child can talk about a moment of spirituality, they can recognise a feeling, a sense of wonder, peace and or calmness. They might not be able to explain it but they felt it.

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## **Maths and English Interventions - All Year Groups**

We will continue our maths intervention and English intervention programmes and you will be notified in the next two weeks if your child is due to take part in the next round of catch up and support.

We will be introducing a higher ability challenge intervention for Year 8 via a tutor for a select group of students in maths. You will be notified if your child has been chosen for the first set of sessions and if you have any questions, please contact your child's maths teacher.

**ENGLISH:** Reading Fluency Interventions continue this term, consolidating expressive and smooth reading in all students in receipt of intervention. Students are becoming more confident in critiquing their own reading and that of their group using the fluency rubric (attached). This will be used to monitor progress in the intervention. Many students have 'graduated' from the programme and will receive a certificate to mark their achievements. They are now ready to make further progress in reading within their English lessons.

[https://edwinstreehertsch-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/k\\_devonshire\\_edwinstree\\_herts\\_sch\\_uk/EaEWXuRW81pDuRqaK71UbD8B13aA9-KqX-sl2lD0WUy71Q?e=D9cwUs](https://edwinstreehertsch-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/k_devonshire_edwinstree_herts_sch_uk/EaEWXuRW81pDuRqaK71UbD8B13aA9-KqX-sl2lD0WUy71Q?e=D9cwUs)

## **What are the changes in the SEND team this term?**

Our SENCO, Miss Campany, has returned from maternity leave to support our SEND students. She will also be working in the maths team to help prepare students for the SATs. She will take the lead for EHCPs and can be contacted on: [senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). The SEND team will contact you if your child has been selected for a wellbeing and or SEND intervention this term. They will discuss the reason for the intervention and what impact we hope to achieve. The Learning Zone: [learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

## **What is our RSE [Relationship & Sex Education] plan for this year?**

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 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. Any questions about these lessons, please contact the school office on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

## **Y5 – Core Parents Evening**

5A and 5C Parents' Consultation Evening is next week and instructions on how to sign up have been emailed to you. If you have any queries, please email: [s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) who will be able to offer support on Monday. 5B and 5D have theirs the following week: instructions will be emailed to you no later than Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Year 6 SATS information**

As we move ever closer to the SATs examinations in May, we invite you to join a Teams meeting on Wednesday 2nd February at 5:30pm to discuss the next steps in our preparations for Year 6 SATs and our journey towards them. This meeting follows our mock SATs week and will include valuable information on which areas of spelling, grammar, reading, arithmetic and reasoning this cohort are having most trouble with, along with strategies to support your child at home.

We will offer parents the opportunity to email subject specific and/or general questions ahead of the meeting to Miss Devonshire (English) or Mrs Earnshaw (Maths) and will record the meeting for any parents who are unable to attend. We will also be looking for parent volunteers to support students for our mock assessments at the end of February and for the tests themselves in May.

Volunteers would need to be available:

28/2/22 – 4/3/22 from 8.45-10.50am

9/5/22 -12/5/22 from 8:45-10.50am.

Please email Miss Devonshire on [k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) if you are available to support. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered.

## **Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

## **Year 7 Science**

In science on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January Year 7 will be making bird feeders. We would appreciate any of the following donations to make the feeders:

- Empty clean yoghurt pots
- Inside of toilet rolls
- Coconut shells
- Clean empty milk cartons both plastic and tetra pack
- Large pine cones

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## Year 8 History

Next term, 8A & 8C will be shown the film 'Suffragette' during history lessons. It is rated 12 due to infrequent, strong language, moderate violence and a scene of force feeding. Any questions, please contact the school office via [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

## School meals on the SchoolGrid

Please remember to book your child's meal online by **8:55am** on the day to avoid disappointment. In the event your child is absent, the meal should be cancelled online to avoid being charged. Meals can be booked in advance.

**Please be aware of the following changes to the menu this term.**

### Week 1: W/C 24th Jan, 21st Feb & 14th March

Tuesday: Change from Lamb Slice to Macaroni Cheese.

Please note, any booking for Lamb slice **will not** automatically transfer to macaroni cheese.

Friday: Addition of Battered Fish

### Week 2: W/C 10th Jan, 31st Jan, 28th Feb, 21st March

### and Week 3: W/C 17th Jan, 7th Feb, 7th March, 28th March

Friday: Addition of Fish Fingers. If you have any questions then please contact the school office.

## Enrichment Clubs

You should have already received a Parentmail with the updated Enrichment clubs. Sport clubs will start next week, with Computing, Art and Music starting in the week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Even if you have signed up previously, we would like people to sign up again as situations and circumstances change, and we would like up to date names and numbers.

\* Art Club is now full and operating a waiting list. If a sports club falls on a day where they don't have PE, students should come to school in PE kit for the time being.

## When I have a worry or concern, who should I contact?

Please remember no problem is too small and if you have a worry, email is our best form of contact.

General enquiries: [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) To contact a subject teacher or form tutor, please name the member of staff and email into admin.

Head of Year emails:

[hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

[hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

[hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

[hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Senior Leadership Team: [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: [head@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

SENCO: [senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Learning Zone: [learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

## Co-op Community Fund Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported the fund so far by signing up and choosing Edwinstree as your community cause. So far, the fund total is just under £250 but we know there is huge potential for growing this further. We understand that Christmas was a busy time for everyone, so if you have been meaning to sign up or choose Edwinstree

as your community cause, we would really appreciate your support. If you need any help please email Mrs Heywood [r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). Remember, this won't cost you anything but every swipe of your membership card brings us a little nearer to achieving our project, as well as earning you money off your shopping! Please see the Co-op Community fund attachment for full details of our project.

## Jo Gant

### Headteacher

PSHE info

Enrichment clubs

Homework TT

Co-op Funding

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