



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 04/11/2022

Diary Dates – Week B

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| School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm | |
| 08/11/22 | KS2 Autumn Walk |
| 15/11/22 | KS3 Autumn Walk |
| 18/11/22 | Flu Vaccination catch up - Y5&6 Children in Need £1 for non-uniform |
| 25/12/22 | Lights of Love Ceremony Manor House Buntingford – Choir attendance 6PM |
| 30/11/22 | Fullness day Global warming – how to save energy and why should we? |
| 01/12/22 | Joint Christmas Concert with Freman |
| 07/12/22 | Students Christmas Dinner |
| 09/12/22 | Christmas Jumper day (more details to follow) |
| 13/12/22 | Year 5 Christingle afternoon – Parents welcome (more info to follow) |
| 14/12/22 | Year 8 –Geography Trip to London to visit Grenfell Tower |
| 16/12/22 | End of Term Service at Aspenden Church End of term 13.20PM |

What did our survey tell us about appropriate contributions towards trips and or residential etc. this year? And why did we do this?

As a Church of England school, we are inclusive and we try to provide opportunities for **all** our students to take part in events and extra-curricular activities. There is nothing worse than waving a trip off knowing that some children are left behind, it is our aim to always be able to provide opportunities for all.

The reason for the survey was assess, during the cost of living crisis what individuals could afford in order that we do not ask too much of you at such a difficult time. We are keen to help as many students as possible take part in group enrichment.

- We discovered that almost all surveyed would like a photograph service and we are currently awaiting confirmation of a date for the photographer to come into school. They have promised to return the photos to you for Christmas.
- The majority of those surveyed felt that a non-uniform day and a bake sale once every half term to help raise money for internal events was appropriate.
- Both Year 6 and Year 8 parents felt that if we can, a residential would be their priority for their children. Most felt with enough notice that they could afford up to £250, but there were a significant second group of parents who were limited to £150 so we will take this into account in booking these events.
- On top of this the largest majority of parents felt that 2 one day trips were appropriate at a cost of £16–25 but there were a large bulk of parents again who were asking for £15, so again we will bear this in mind.

We will now explore where and what to book this year and next.

What events are coming up?

Poppy Appeal

Our Student Leaders will be selling poppies at break and lunchtimes from Tuesday.

Autumn walk

The walk will take place on Tuesday 8th November for Years 5 & 6, thank you to all the parents and carers who have volunteered to help. Please note that children will be required to wear clothes and footwear that you do not mind them getting muddy. They will have an opportunity to complete a National Trust activity of rolling down a hill which they have requested from last year. We will be going rain or shine so water proof coats would be helpful.

Why do we do this? As part of our wellbeing sessions, we work hard to help your child to get outside to enjoy nature, to learn from it, to develop their map reading skills and to note that fun can be had without expense.

Will Year 7 & 8 have a chance to complete the walk?

We would love to take KS3 out on the same walk, but have had to delay as we were unable to muster enough KS3 support. If you are a grandparent, carer, or are a parent who could spare an afternoon on Tuesday 15th November, we would really appreciate your help. Would you be willing to help us out with the walk? It would start at 1.30pm and we will be back for 3pm. Please use the following link to sign up. <https://forms.office.com/r/RNAFCUruHp>

What events take place as we lead up to Christmas?

- Children in Need - We will be asking for a £1 voluntary donation and will support a non-uniform day on Friday 18th November to raise money for children in need. If your child prefers to stay in school uniform this is always fine. Payment will be available via School Gateway.
- ‘Lights of Love’ ceremony forms part of Buntingford’s late night shopping event, it is taking place on Friday 25th November. The Christmas lights are turned on and we have a chance to post a memory of our loved ones who have passed away. As part of this event, our choir has been asked to support the event with Christmas songs. The ceremony itself starts around 6.00pm.
- Fullness day in school will take place on Wednesday 30th November – more details to follow
- Our Christmas concert with Freman involving all our musicians and choir members will be taking place on Thursday 1st December – more details to follow.
- Christmas Jumper Day will take place on Friday 9th December – more details to follow
- Christingle for Year 5 students only and parents and will take place at St Peters Church – more details to follow.
- Year 8 Geography educational visit to London will take place on the 14th of December – more details below.
- Students Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 7th December, lunch will be bookable via SchoolGrid, for a cost of £2.80, deadline for orders is Friday 25th November.
- Christmas ceremony with a walk to Aspenden church will take place on the last day of term, on return to school, students will be able to collect their Christmas Packed Lunch, this will be bookable via School Grid, for a cost of £2.80, deadline for orders is Friday 2nd December.

What Academic Consultations will take place this year and when?

Attached to the newsletter is what we propose to have in place this year. It outlines when both Core and Foundation subjects will be having their evenings, as well as the rationale behind our decision.

Are enrichment clubs back up and running?

All Enrichment clubs **except Basketball** will resume next week and finish the week before the end of term.

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

How do we support PE to stay outside in winter months but manage the mud and dirt that it creates?

The PE kit that students currently wear is now getting exceptionally muddy after an outdoor activity and this is likely to get worse as they move to team games such as tag and contact rugby. We will therefore start to use the changing rooms and ask students to bring their PE kit to school rather than wear it. This will start from Monday the 14th of November and we will prep students next week. If your child is vulnerable with sensory needs, we are working with the SEND team and we will talk to you about what would work for your child.

What uniform will your child need for winter?

Just a reminder that we are very happy for your child to have bright coats to support them to be seen. Please make sure they are waterproof because we will take children out in light rain. If your child is finding they are cold just wearing their school jumper, we are happy for them to wear their PE hoodie if they need to.

How safe is your child online?

Since the return to school, we have become involved in a number of incidents involving social media, all of which have taken place over the half term break. Please may we remind you to check your child's social media platforms, monitor what they are posting and who they are communicating with. Here is some parental guidance from the NSPCC: [Social media | NSPCC](#). To support your child, we will be reviewing our PSHE curriculum to bring forward the year 7 Staying Safe Online Training.

Year 5 and 6 news

We hope they enjoyed Greek day, we loved seeing some of the Greek outfits on display. For the Winter walk next Tuesday, they will need to come to school dressed in suitable clothing that you do not mind them getting muddy in, a bag to carry conkers and additional suitable footwear.

Year 7 news

Can you help us get the year 7's out on a winter walk? Do you have time on Tuesday the 15th November to go for a walk with us in the afternoon? Please follow the link above if you do.

Year 8 news

Can you help us get the year 8's out on a winter walk? Do you have time on Tuesday the 15th November to go for a walk with us in the afternoon? Please follow the link above if you do.

Year 8's first educational visit of the school year will be a Geography visit to London. Students will have the opportunity to visit the Grenfell tower site which they have been studying. They will then be taken to the River Thames where they will walk along the South Bank. The visit will allow them to see the different districts of London and compare these to the Geography urban models they are studying. We are just checking with the South Bank but we are hoping there will be an opportunity to visit a Christmas street market at the end of the visit, where they can get food and/or buy presents for family and friends. The visit will take place on Wednesday 14th of December and the cost will be £15.00, students will require a packed lunch or money to buy some food at the street Christmas market on the South Bank. Payments will be available via School Gateway. A letter will be out next week confirming the trip.

Computing - Year 7 & 8

In the next few weeks Year 7 and Year 8 will participate in the "Bebras" Computational Thinking Challenge during their computing lessons. This is a national challenge held in association with Oxford University. The competition encourages children to think in a logical fashion and is great fun. Further details can be found via the following link: <https://www.bebas.uk/> The outcome for each pupil will be passed on to them later this term, some students may be given the opportunity to participate in a second stage online competition.

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

Attachments:

Academic Consultations

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