



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 08/7/2022

08/07/22 Parent News

Diary Dates – **Week A**

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
11/7/22	Yr8 visit Felixstowe
12/7/22	Sports Day - Parents welcome for picnic lunch and the athletics events.
13/7/22	Yr6 Theatre Trip to see Wicked
14/7/22	County Transition Day – year 8 go up to Freman for the day
15/7/22	Yr8 Camping Sleepover
22/7/22	End of term 1:20pm finish - Service to be confirmed with the new Reverend.
01-05/09/22	INSET DAYS
06/9/22	Year 5 Induction Day (all other year groups not in school)
07/9/22	Term Begins (all years in school)
28-30/9/22	3 Day Residential Trip for Yr7
24-28/10/22	Half term

What is the impact of increasing numbers of COVID cases?

Please note that COVID cases are rising rapidly in the community and we now have 3 members of staff out. A local school closed 2 year groups this week in order to staff their school. While we do not wish to do this, it will again be a potential option as more schools begin to suffer and agency staff are in short supply. Our current guidance still requires staff to be out for 5 days from test and or symptoms.

Are students in PE kit next week?

Yes, for the first two days students can come in PE kit as it is forecast to be hot and they will be completing sports day on the Tuesday.

A big thank you – to the ESA and all parents who have helped us host events this week and next. It has been an absolute joy to see students out on trips, engage in talks, and having fun in the Sun.

A huge congratulations to the District Sports team who did really well at their event, our Dynamic Diversity group who hosted such an interesting cultural celebration day, and The Pirates of the Curry Bean cast and support. The show was a great success and we saw real talent appearing from the cast members.

Who has visited us this week?

Internet Safety Session

On Monday, every child in the school took part in an Internet Safety session run by an international expert in the topic, Karl Hopwood. This was followed by a session for parents in the evening. If you were unable to attend

the evening session, there is a very useful PDF document attached with lots of links.

What internet safety websites does the school recommend?

- Our recommended website for anything online safety related: www.internetmatters.org
- Is the game my child is playing age appropriate? This website will not only tell you if it's appropriate but will offer you similar alternatives: www.taminggaming.com
- How can I set up my internet and devices safely? This is never going to be simple but this is the best website: www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls

I couldn't come to the parent session last week

Don't worry, we have a recording of the session: <https://youtu.be/RBvwtWyjnEI>

What is happening next week?

Year 8 Felixstowe Trip - Monday 11th of July

Students will leave school at 9am and should arrive in Felixstowe at 10.45am at the latest. They aim to return to school from Felixstowe by 4pm, please check Facebook and Parentmail's for updates on ETA.

Sports Day - Tuesday 12th of July

After missing out over the past couple of years on Sports Day as we know it, the PE department are excited to bring this year's back in all its former glory!

In the morning students will take part in a rotation of activities that are designed to involve and engage all students, although no one will be forced to participate only encouraged.

We ask that parents arrive from 12:30pm, when our round robin activities finish, in order to be ready for our picnic lunch on the field which starts from 12:45pm. You are welcome to bring small tents and or gazebo's if it is hot and a picnic lunch to share with your child and or friends. This is one of my favourite events of the year, as we see students and parents in a relaxed setting. Students will be able to purchase additional drinks and lollies from the ESA during this day. Please enter the school through reception where we will ask you to sign in.

The afternoon's relay events will begin from 1:30pm starting with a Year 5 house relay, culminating with the staff/Year 8 combined house relay and finally the trophy presentation to the winning house at 3pm. Students will then return to their form rooms to collect belongings before being dismissed at 3:05pm. The weather forecast looks incredibly warm so please ensure your child has plenty of water and wears sun cream and a hat.

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My child finds sports day a challenge – how will you support them?

Please reassure them, no one is forced to participate – if they are very vulnerable there will be an alternate space for children with learning set up. Encourage them to come in as no one ever regrets this decision. We will also be providing activities based around supporting sports day with photography, journalists, scorers etc. So that our most vulnerable can participate in a way that works for them.

Year 6 Wicked Theatre Trip Wednesday of 13th July

Your child will need to bring with them:

- Comfortable clothes and shoes.
- Home packed lunch
- A small snack and drink (no glass bottles or sweets)
- A small backpack [to be carried throughout the day]
- Any medication [including travel sickness tablets] clearly labelled with their name to be handed to the office prior to the visit.

On the day of the visit, students need to arrive at school by 8:40am for am lessons. There will be an early lunch and Students will need to bring a home packed lunch (a cold option will be available to book via School Grid for Free School Meal students). We plan to leave the school at 12:15pm and arrive back at Edwinstree for approximately 7:20-7:30pm. Alternative travel arrangements need to be made for those who use school transport.

District Sports

A huge well done to all our competitors at this year's district sports at Woodson Park on Tuesday. Every one of our students did themselves and our school proud, competing against 8 different schools from the surrounding areas and behaved impeccably throughout.

Selected results

100m Gold – ESS Y8

High Jump Silver – IHD Y7

Long Jump Bronze – SME Y8

Javelin Bronze – CWR Y8

1500m Bronze – EWN Y8

Shot Put Bronze – EWN Y8

Girls Relay 4th – ESS, FAN, JHT, NOH

1500m 4th – JWS Y8

Long Jump 4th – JWS Y8

High Jump 4th – AJVN Y8

Shot Put 4th – FSN Y8

What is happening on Transition day – Thursday 14th of July?

Year 8 will have received information on the specifics of transition day, but please make sure your child attends in our uniform, if it is hot this will be PE kit and we will

confirm this with you nearer the time. Your child will go straight to Freman for the day.

Year 6 and 7 will have a normal day – we are asking for year 7 volunteers to work with our year 5's for the day.

New year 5 have been sent a letter explaining the day and will arrive through reception a little later and finish a little earlier. A talk for new year 5 parents will take place at 5pm.

What's happening with the Year 6 Residential ?

The Year 6 residential at the end of September currently has almost half of the year group signed up. Ms Marler will be contacting you next week to see if we can help to encourage and support your child to attend.

If your child was worried they would not have a mobile phone, can we reassure for the residential they will, but we will be collecting phones in for the day and giving them a phone zone time in the evening to phone home before collecting again.

We look closer to securing this trip but we need to get closer to 90 to make this viable. If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We will do our utmost to help.

What have Year 8 decided to do for their End of Year Leaving Event?

Year 8 have asked for a camping sleepover to be held on the school field. You will have received a letter explaining the details but please note pick up at 8 am the next morning and please ensure that student tents are up by 7.30pm when the event starts. As well as the disco there will be some water fun, so do pack spare clothing and a towel.

Thank you to the ESA who are going to provide substantial help to support this event and to the staff who are willing to sleep (we wish) over!

Lea House Reward Fun Swim

KS3 LEA students have a fun swim on Monday 18th of July – so do any dancers involved in the Edwinstree Strictly competition, please use the link to confirm your attendance at this.

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

What is happening at the end of term?

We are really hoping to get our students to Wyddial church at the end of term for their first ceremony with our new Vicar Kirsty Wainwright. More details next week, but if you are able to support with a walk on Friday the 22nd we would be really appreciate your support once again.

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What is happening at the start of term?

Please note the calendar above for the inset days when staff are in and the start times for different year groups. For the most vulnerable children we will be offering summer sessions of support.

Edwinstree Books

We are in the process of revitalising our libraries in preparation for September. Please would you ensure that all Edwinstree books are returned, particularly Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, Trash, Skellig and Hunger Games. We have had hardly any returned despite our reminders. Students have also been reminded via SMHW. To support reading in school for the remainder of the year, please ensure your child has a book of their own in school to read

What Summer school provisions are available?

In our reception we have a variety of leaflets on the different private provision and clubs available. If you are PP, Mrs Marler is in touch to make sure you are aware of funded placements and how to get support with free school meals through the Summer. We will also be contacting PP parents about support for making sure that students keep their basic maths and English at the correct standard in the Summer – with teachers offering small tuition sessions from the 3rd to the 16th of September. These will be by invitation only.

Our vulnerable and SEND students will be phoned in the last two weeks of the holiday and offered visits to settle them into their new timetable and to meet familiar staff. If we have not talked to you about this and you think you need the service please email the Learning Zone.

When will my child know their tutor and their class? Only year 7 classes are changing and students and parents will be informed of the change at the end of term in their reports. All students voices have been listened to. If your child is SEND and or vulnerable the Learning Zone team will be prepping them in the last week of term.

How can we make parental payments from September?

Due to closures of local banks, we are finding it increasingly difficult to pay money into our school bank. With effect from 1st September 2022 Edwinstree will become a cashless school. Payments will be requested via school gateway only.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

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