



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 08/09/2023

Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
18-20/09/23	Year 7 Essex Outdoors Bradwell – Educational Visit
20/09/23	Freman College Open Evening 6-8:30pm, Headteacher Speaks at 8pm
22/09/23	Year 5 & 6 ESA New Friends Disco 5-7pm details to follow
25/09/23	Year 5 'Meet and Greet' 5pm to 7pm
05/10/2023	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm, Headteacher Speaks at 6:15pm
17-18/10/23	Year 6 Lancaster Model
23-27/10/23	Half Term
01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
20/12/23	End of Autumn Term 1:20pm
04/01/24	Start of Spring Term 08:40am

Are students able to wear the short or skort next week with their white polo top?

Monday is set to still be very warm therefore students can continue to come to school in their white polo shirts and their skorts or shorts. We will review on Monday morning but it is likely to cool down considerably and we will return to their new uniform on Tuesday.

Please note that on the days they have PE we expect students to bring their kit into school and get changed for the lesson, as soon as the rain begins, the school field will become very muddy. For some children with additional needs, this is too difficult for their stage of development. If you believe this would challenge your child please email s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you haven't already alerted us.

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What have we been talking to children about in COWO?

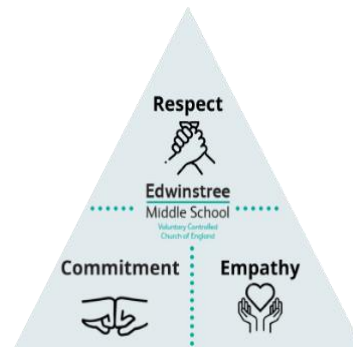
It has been a pleasure to see your children return to school. This week we have been reminding them of what it means to be working in a church of England school. We have reminded them of our vision 'As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community we support one another to flourish, and live life in all its fullness'. This is what guides us to our values.

Respect:
Reverence, Humility, Justice, Koinonia, Peace

Commitment:
Wisdom, Endurance, Service, Creation, Thankfulness

Empathy:
Hope, Trust, Forgiveness, Friendship, Compassion, Love

Students and staff explore these in Collective worships and this year we begin with the value of Justice. This year we have introduced virtues. These are behaviours we support our students to display on a day to day basis.



Mr Rowlands introduced the tweaks to the behaviour system and the biggest changes are for Year 8. Next week we will share these changes with you.

As part of our vision, we are guided to support students to 'live life in all its fullness' and that is recognising and supporting children to have fun but also tackling and talking about sad times and how to manage these.

Note from Mrs Kelly Head of Year 5

What a fantastic start our Year 5 have made. A smooth transition is a real team effort, so on behalf of myself and the Year 5 team – Thank you for contacting us, working with us and helping your child be ready to learn. Please keep doing so and remember no matter is too small. Here's to a great Autumn term.

RAAC Information

Attached to this newsletter is a letter explaining the situation regarding RAAC and the assurance that Herts County Council have no reason to believe that RAAC is present in Edwinstree school buildings

What equipment are we asking students to bring in to school with them next term?

To support your child to learn, please can we ask that you provide them with the following:

Pencil case

Blue or black pens

Green pen

HB pencils

Ruler (30cm measured in cm and mm)

Rubber

Sharpener

Whiteboard pen/rubber

Glue stick

A small pack of colouring pencils (basic colours)

Year 7&8: scientific calculator (available to purchase at a discount from school)

You may wish to provide highlighter pens

Any parent that is struggling to manage this please contact s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Satchel One Logins

New joiners in Year 6-8 and all students in Year 5 have been issued with letters containing the information required to set up Satchel One accounts. They were handed out by form tutors on Wednesday afternoon - please check for them in bags. Satchel One is the system that Edwinstree uses to set home learning and can be accessed by a computer, tablet or mobile phone.

Tutorial videos for parents can be viewed on the following link: [Satchel One Parent Video Guides](#)

If you need any assistance please email Mrs Heywood r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

PE Lessons – All Years

All classes will need a mouthguard, black football socks, shin pads and football boots in order to safely participate in hockey, football and rugby lessons.

How do we support your child's wellbeing?

As part of this strategy your students will be introduced and guided each morning on how to support their well being and mental health. We would like to introduce you to what we do and how we do this. We will be setting up a 30-minute session on mental health strategies and how you might support these at home, more details to follow next week.

When will my child have home learning?

The full home learning timetable will start WB Monday 18th September. The Timetable will be shared in next week's newsletter. In summary, KS2 will receive Maths, English, French and DT. KS3 will receive homework from each subject but the foundation subjects will be set every two weeks.

What about trips and enrichment?

We are extremely aware of the cost of living crisis and the impact this is having on all of us. We are therefore very mindful about the trips and activities we offer to students and the costs that will be incurred by you. We also want to ensure that as many students as possible are able to attend, below is a link to a questionnaire that we send out each year to parents, asking you to anonymously help to guide us in how much a trip should cost, and/or our enrichment activities i.e. disco's. Last year the most common response was that trips needed to be around the £25 – 30 cost, and discos £5 max. Our residential takes place for Year 7 in September and parents guided us that a maximum of £250 with plenty of time to pay was important. We will listen again this year as to what Year 6 can afford. We would really appreciate you taking the time to complete this and help us to make sure we are supporting you. With most enrichments and trips to allow all students access to them <https://forms.office.com/e/t6xkx0x7yS>.

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Year 6 Lancaster Model Questionnaire and Measuring the height and weight of Year 6 students

Please see attached letters from the School Nursing Team, sessions are taking place on 17th and 18th October 2023. **If you do not want your child to be included in this programme, please email hct.shwbswh@nhs.net**

Year 7 Residential

Attached is information regarding the residential for year 7 pupils. We are looking forward to spending time with your students.

Year 8 French

Students had a positive start this week. As part of their curriculum we have introduced the opportunity for students to attend Freman for half of their year 8 French course. Ms Theroulde will be teaching one topic and Mrs Smith from Freman the other. This benefits the students as they get used to attending Freman and are familiar with some of the staff, it goes a long way to calming any transition nerves, and helps to get them ready and excited about next year. The first two groups to go up until the end of January are 8C and 8D. A member of staff registers them out and walks them up to site and another returns them.

Music France Tour

Below is a unique opportunity that we have been offered by Freman which is an expensive tour, but the Head of Music felt that the opportunity was too great not to offer to you.

We are excited to announce that we are going on a joint tour with Freman College to France. This will be in the first week on the summer holidays 2024 and will include concerts and some super fun activities during the day! There are still a lot of details to iron out, but we hope to stay in a Chateau (A French castle) and it will either be full or half board. We expect it to cost around £500 per student, but we are in the early stages, so will hope to confirm the price and give more details around the October half term when we send out the 'register your interest' sheet. There will only be 50 spaces and, if oversubscribed, we will do a random selection, making sure we cover both choir and orchestra. Therefore, to be

in with the best chance of a space, we recommend being in both the music extra-curriculars that we are offering this year. Please see flyer attached.

Enrichment/Afterschool Clubs

Attached is the list/ signup sent out this week with regard to Clubs. Please make sure you sign up. We will register children from the sign-up list and cannot accept a child who has not been registered. Enrichments begin on the 18th of September.

What is The Happy After-School Club?

Is a weekly hour-long session, involving games, movement, mindfulness and relaxation. It gives students the opportunity to offload any stresses from the week and let go of difficult emotions, whilst learning valuable techniques to self-regulate and feel calm. Sessions involve positive mindset activities to build confidence and self-esteem, along with breathing techniques, gentle stretches and end with a guided meditation. Numbers are strictly limited and places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Please complete this form if you wish your child to attend

<https://forms.office.com/e/kYHcRhznna>

Contact Details

We look forward to working with you, please remember no worry or concern is too small to share with us via one of these contacts:

- Head of Year 5: hoy5@edwintree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 6: hoy6@edwintree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 7: hoy7@edwintree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 8: hoy8@edwintree.herts.sch.uk
- School Office: admin@edwintree.herts.sch.uk
- To report a student absent from school: attendance@edwintree.herts.sch.uk
- If you are worried about your child's mental health: wellbeinghub@edwintree.herts.sch.uk

School Applications for 2024

Please find attached a guide for parents and carers of children applying to secondary or upper schools for September 2024.

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ESA

The ESA would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the students, parents, businesses and residents of Buntingford who over the past year have helped us reach our target of £12,000 to build an outdoor classroom. £12,863.50 and gift aid still to be claimed. We hope to get the Outdoor classroom built as soon as possible.

We will be hosting our first event on Friday 22nd September a School Disco for years 5 and 6. We hope it will be a great way to start the new school year and help make new friends. Tickets will be £5 including a snack and unlimited drinks. Details of how to sign up and pay will be shared early next week. We would also like to invite parents to come along and help out at this event (serve refreshments, wash up) and get to know other parents and ESA members. The money is to help support the development of Forest schools within Edwinstree and to buy a series of equipment to support this work.

Our first ESA meeting will be on Monday 11th September 7pm. New members are always welcome. Please email us EdwinstreeSchoolAssociation@outlook.com if you would like to know the venue or find out more about the ESA.



Beezee Bodies would like to invite

Parent/Carers to join their FREE Body Image Masterclass next Tuesday, 12th September from 6pm til 7pm online!

Just sign up via Eventbrite for your free ticket (these are limited). <https://beezeebodies.com/>



Online Workshops

Our children's wellbeing practitioners offer online workshops to parents and/or young people focused on emotional wellbeing, sleep and mental health. Please the link below for details of future workshops and booking details. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787>

Chathealth texting service - 07480 635050

This service is available for young people aged 11 to 19. We discuss Chathealth at the Year 6 TLM session. Children and young people can use this service to text a school nurse directly to ask questions about their health and wellbeing. They can also use this service to request advice and support from their school nurse. Texts are responded to by a School Nurse between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher
admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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