



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 10/06/2022**

**10/06/22 Parent News**

**Diary Dates – Week A**

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
14/6/22	Yr7 Parent Consultation Foundation Subjects 4-6pm
17-19/6/22	Buntingford Summer Arts Festival
22/6/22	Yr5 Felixstowe visit
22/6/22	Police Talks Yr7 & Yr8 (Lives not Knives)
23/6/22	Yr7 Felixstowe visit
24/6/22	Twilight INSET Day – students not in school
27/6/22	Occasional Day – students not in school
28/6/22	Yr8 Parent Consultation Foundation Subjects 4-6pm
4/7/22	Online Safety talk Sessions KS2, KS3, Parents (timings TBC)
5/7/22	Yr6 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation Subjects 4-6pm
8/7/22	Yr6 Local Field Trip (in place of Felixstowe visit)
11/7/22	Yr8 visit Felixstowe
12/7/22	Sports Day
13/7/22	Yr6 Theatre Trip to see Wicked
14/7/22	County Transition Day
22/7/22	End of term 1:20pm finish
28-30/9/22	3 Day Residential Trip for Yr7 (current Yr6) more details to follow

**How do I report my child absent?**

If your child is unwell or has a medical appointment, please notify the Attendance Team via [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) or you can leave a message on 01763-271446. In the event your child tests positive for Covid-19, please email: [covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**What is happening this term?**

This term is really busy while we try to make up for all the events that did not take place this year. Trip information for each year group will be sent out over the next week, we are asking you as parents to sign up and support the seaside visits for the students in all year groups except year 6 who will complete a local trip to reduce costs. At the start of next week Year 6 parents will receive the details of the residential trip that is taking place at the end of September.

**How are we responding to previous Parent Questionnaires?**

A questionnaire was sent to parents in March 2022 it was published on the web and in our newsletter. The questions for SEND were not clear, we are therefore keen to hear your advice about parent communication

regarding your child’s progress, as 53 out of 138 felt we could improve.

We are offering parents the opportunity to come into the school to speak to the Head about 3 key areas of the school. If you would like to help us find out more about what parents think, and help us to recover from COVID please would you email Mrs Petty [s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) to indicate you are willing to attend one or more of the group discussions. Thank you for your support in helping us to hear your voice and shape Edwinstree future.

- Meeting for parents to explore; What does it mean to be a Church of England school? Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 4.30-5.30pm
- Meeting for parents to explore; Our SEND provision what is working and how we can improve? Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 4.30-5.30pm
- Meeting for parents how are we recovering from COVID what next? How can parents support? Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 4.30-5.30pm

**Will I receive a written report this term?**

At the end of the term you will receive a report that outlines, what your child has covered and achieved in each of their subjects this year. They will also receive a personal comment from their tutor outlining their growth and the Christian values we have seen them display this year. The report will incorporate their last data set.

**How are we recovering from the pandemic?**

If you would like to hear about our progress of recovery, you can attend the group sessions mentioned above but in summary, we set out to complete the following in a two-year plan:

- 1) Ensure that students return to school and attend well – we are currently 2% above the national average in our attendance despite 3 outbreaks.
- 2) Support student’s wellbeing and mental health. Our internal questionnaires from students and parents indicate that almost all students feel safe in the school and are happy. Where they are not – please do not hesitate to let us know so that we are able to work with you and them to change. They need to feel settled and comfortable within our environment. No problem is too small. The external questionnaires that students took and compare to the Hertfordshire picture indicate that students feel their wellbeing is considered and supported at the school. They know who to go to.

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Our results are very favourable compared to the Hertfordshire average.

- 3) Ensure students make rapid progress so they are able to recover. This is a two- year plan, currently students are making good progress, but not enough are making rapid progress in order to accelerate their learning to catch up.

### Which students are making rapid progress?

In analysing the students that have made rapid progress, we can see 3 distinguishing factors:

- They have good attendance and are unlikely to have had COVID.
- Their teachers have had good attendance and not been off with COVID.
- They are consistent in completing their homework.

### How do we make sure that more students are making rapid progress?

This term we have an opportunity with the pause in the pandemic. More children and staff are in school and not out with COVID, therefore, we should see more rapid progress but we need your help. To make the leap, your child needs to be completing their homework consistently and weekly.

If your child is one of the students who fell back into the trap of not consistently completing their home learning, we will be contacting you over the next two weeks to ask what support we can give you, we have a variety of strategies to support. For now, can we ask that you find the time to speak to your child about what is being set and how you can support. Make sure they have a space and a time to complete their work. Thank you for your support with this.

### PSHE Update

Please note that there are some sensitive topics coming up shortly for the following year groups:

- **Year 5** were unable to do their FGM lesson previously and our intention is that they cover this topic in an age appropriated manner. The lesson will come from the PSHE Association, who are the national body for PSHE education.
- **Year 6** are starting to look at puberty for both boys and girls, building on what they have learnt in year 5.
- **Year 7** are finishing off their online safety topic by looking at a hard-hitting film about Breck Bednar – a BBC documentary titled *Murder Games: The Life and Death of Breck Bednar*. It is hard hitting and is

about a child who was groomed on line, but we believe the messages are powerful and students will remember this. We are shortening this video to omit some of the more sensitive aspects.

We encourage parents to view this beforehand, the link for this is here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p03cqt5/murder-games-the-life-and-death-of-breck-bednar>

This programme is a true hard-hitting docudrama about what happened to Breck Bednar when he befriended an online gamer, which ultimately resulted in Breck losing his life. Lorin, the mother of Breck came into Edwinstree in 2017 to talk through what happened to her son to emphasise the dangers of careless online behaviour. It was a talk that children, staff and parents who attended will not forget. We realise that this programme may be emotional for some students and we appreciate your support in allowing us to support your children on this important aspect. Students will be informed in advance and have the option to step out and or not view if they don't wish to. If you have concerns, please contact the school office on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

After completing this online topic, they will be revisiting puberty and will also have a lesson on FGM. We understand that this is a very difficult topic and this will be addressed in an age appropriate and sensitive manner. This FGM lesson will be taken from the PSHE Association, who are the national body for PSHE education.

### Year group news:

#### Year 5

A letter regarding the Felixstowe trip on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June will be sent out via Parentmail.

Mr Kelly has returned to school after paternity leave, he will now be supporting Mr Rowlands to lead the Year 5 group. Mr Kelly will take over fully from September 2022 as Year 5 move into Year 6. Classes will stay as they are for next year, with only individual tweaks not whole school class changes.

#### Year 6

Details regarding the residential trip for the end of September will be out early next week.

The theatre trip to London is taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> July and there will be a local field trip day rather than Felixstowe to manage the costs for you, more information to follow.

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Mr Kelly and Ms Company will be working on new classes for Year 6 as they move into Year 7 and the secondary system. Any vulnerable student will be carefully considered and you will be consulted about the change. We will use our "ring of friendship" to ensure that the change is supported and that friends move together, particularly the most vulnerable.

### **Year 7**

A letter regarding the Felixstowe trip on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June will be sent out via Parentmail.

Classes will stay the same with small tweaks as students move into year 8.

### **Year 8**

A letter regarding the Felixstowe trip on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July will be sent out via Parentmail.

Mr Galanides and his year group will be communicating their plans for the leaving celebrations, but get ready they are keen to camp on the back field so we will be calling on support for tents!

### **PSHE in Year 8**

- Students are learning about stereotyping, including looking at how this affects the disabled, LGBT and different age groups.

### **Humanities in Year 8**

- This half term Year 8 will be learning about the Holocaust. Understandably this can be quite an upsetting topic and so will be taught very sympathetically. We will never show students any images that depict death but we are aware that students may wish to do their own research into the topic. Please be mindful of the content that your child is researching at home. We appreciate your continued support.

Please contact the school on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) if you have questions about any of these topics.

### **Do you have a few library books sitting at home?**

We are looking to make sure we are fully stocked with our core texts for September. Please could you have a check at home for any books your child has taken home and not yet returned and send them in, either with your child to their English teacher, or to the school office.

We are especially looking for copies of The BFG, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, Skellig and The Hunger Games. Thank you for your support, Miss Devonshire

### **How can you help us to gain National Book Tokens**

Our school needs you! Help us win £1,000 of National Book Tokens and a membership to the School Library Association to help rebuild the library and encourage reading for pleasure - plus you could win £100 for yourself! Enter here:

<http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

### **Local information that can enrich Students Science learning.**

Foxholes Farm in Hertford are holding Open Farm Sunday (a free charitable event) on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 11am to 3pm. This is a national event to educate visitors on food and farming. Please find attached leaflet

### **Can you help a parent with a Lift Share Request?**

Stevenage family looking for a lift share to Edwinstree/Freman College. One child, due to go into year 9 at Freman in September. Please contact [marialynch8@icloud.com](mailto:marialynch8@icloud.com) if interested.

### **Ms Devonshire - Head of English**

Finally, congratulations to Ms Devonshire who recently secured the well deserved Assistant Headship at Ralph Sadlier from September 2022. We are really looking forward to using this appointment to further the links between Ralph Sadlier, Edwinstree and Freman College.

### **Jo Gant Headteacher**

*Attachments:  
Foxholes Farm*

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