



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 14/10/2022

Diary Dates – Week A

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
18/10/22	Year 5 & 6 Flu vaccination
19-20/10/22	Year 6 Lancaster Model & height & Weight
21/10/22	Bonkers Conkers Challenge Stargazing Event 6-8pm
24-28/10/22	Half Term
31/10/22	Deadline for Upper School Applications for 2023
03/11/22	Greek Day
08/11/22	Autumn Walk

What is happening with the rates of COVID and why might we be at risk of having to shut a year group?

Covid rates in staff peaked again this week, this time the impact was felt in a loss of teaching assistants in classrooms. Please make sure you continue to have a back-up plan. If your child is working from home for whatever reason, you are now able to find the Distance learning on our website on its own page titled "Distance Learning".

Here is the link to each year's schemes of work, videos and on-line lessons:

<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/learning/distance-learning.aspx>

What was the result of the questionnaire about trips?

A huge thank you to all those parents that supported us to understand how much you were able to spend on trips, and activities. We will now go ahead and plan our events based around this information. For both Year 8 and Year 6 you asked for a residential but within a set pricing bracket. We will publish the results next week.

What events are coming up before and just after half term and how can you help?

Conkers Bonkers. Oh, my goodness, I have never seen so many conkers! Thank you for the gargantuan effort and I really hope you enjoyed collecting them too!

Coming home with your child are 4 conkers and information on how they might choose to harden their conker (we are not guaranteeing any of these methods work). Attached is a link to a video showing you how to help your child make a hole in their conker and tie string to them. If you can do this with the four conkers we would very much appreciate it.

2 conkers are for practicing at home with, and 2 conkers are to be returned to school for the tournament on Friday. We have posted the information up on SMHW but are stressing to children they must make the holes with the supervision from an adult.

Why are we doing this? The Church of England asks us to Live life in all its Fullness and for the last couple of year this has meant planning fun and joy into our cycle of learning. During these events and after half term in the Autumn walk we will be learning: Fun can be had outside at very little cost – and is really good for our wellbeing.

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What about the stargazing event when is it, and how can my child attend?

We are inviting children of Edwinstree and their families to join the ESA for a stargazing event on 21st October from 6pm to 8pm. This is a free event for families to attend together, but we only have enough spaces for 100 children from Edwinstree and their families. If you would like to join us, please click on this link to sign your child up and please add the names of who from your family are attending. We will need one adult to attend with their child for this event. We would recommend ages from 4 year upwards. <https://forms.office.com/r/JGgCQKivDb>

An Expert will be there with the Science team to talk on what we hope to see, how to use a telescope etc. You can bring your own binoculars and telescopes if you are lucky enough to have them. This is particularly relevant for year 5 and 8 who are covering this topic in Science but all families are welcome.

Please note if you have a child in a lower school or upper who wants to attend with your child and Mum, Dad and/or Carer etc they are welcome but please include them on the list.

The ESA will be selling hot drinks, marshmallows and snacks. We would encourage people to bring reusable insulated cups for hot drinks, along with warm clothing, blanket to lie on and binoculars or telescopes (but not necessary). Downloading a free stargazing app onto a mobile phone could also be useful. You will be spending most of the two hours laying down looking at the stars so wrap up warm and make sure you have warm blankets.

What happens if the weather forecast is poor? If we are unlikely to see stars we have an indoor activity using our hall screen as planetarium. But if the weather is awful we will postpone for post half term.

What events are coming up after half term?

Originally, we had planned for our Autumn walk to take place next week, but with Staff COVID absence we have delayed this. Instead Autumn walk will take place on Tuesday 8th November. We have moved the date of our Autumn walk in order to make sure that we don't waste our conkers, part of the walk will be our local woodlands looking at the places the deer and muntjac inhabit. We will be leaving our broken conkers for the animals to eat. Would you be willing to help us out with the walk? We need Parent, Carer, Grandparents volunteers. 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/UOLJTFNCer>

Greek Day for Year 5 and 6.

A Greek Day is taking place on Thursday 3rd November. This will be hosted by a history company who will come in to help support students to learn about the ancient Greeks. We will be offering students a chance to come in non-school uniform to help raise funds for this day and they will be asked to contribute £2 via School Gateway. If they are willing to take on the toga challenge and dress up with a bed sheet they can contribute £1! We will send out in advance how to make a bed sheet toga and this would need to go over their non-school uniform - **this is voluntary not compulsory.**

When are our first assessments and when will you publish the parent's evening dates and times?

Having consulted you about what worked last year for Parents evenings. Mr Rowlands has been working hard to ensure that we listen to your voice, start later and wherever possible make sure that all parents have an opportunity to visit the CORE teachers. We will be publishing a timetable of evenings in the first newsletter post half term.

Students will be experiencing assessments over this week, next and the week after half term in their different subjects. This is to help us look at their progress and if they have not secured something correctly to support them to revisit this learning.

Prayer Tree:

We have created a prayer tree in school. All pupils and staff are invited to write prayers on pieces of paper and add them to the pegs along the branches. We will then share in these prayers as a school community both individually and in collective worships.



Food and Nutrition

Please make sure you have read the homework sent home on Satchel 1 - there are a number of revised dates for your practical lessons. Your ingredients list and Health and Safety advice is on the page. Please remember the correct footwear.

Year 5

Your practical lessons are the week after half term. Please remember your Cheese Straws ingredients for your lesson week commencing 31 October.

Year 6

The only class cooking next week is 6C - please remember your ingredients for Fruit Alternate Cup Cakes. I have added all the banana requests I have received through Satchel 1 but if you would still like to be added to the list, please send me a message via Satchel 1. 6A, 6B and 6D you will be cooking the week after half term.

Year 7

7D you are baking your bread rolls on Monday, 7A you will be baking on Wednesday - please ensure you bring in your ingredients. 7B and 7C you will be making your Added Fibre Bread Rolls the week after half term.

Year 8

8A, 8B and 8C, you are cooking your Alternate Protein Curry next week. Remember your recipe is to include no meat products but can include protein alternatives or complementing vegetables. 8D you will be making your Alternate Protein Curry the week after half term.

Please ensure your ingredients are in labelled containers - there are in excess of 200 pupils cooking over the next two weeks. Please make sure you are bringing in suitable containers to take your completed products home in. All ingredient lists and health and safety information are on Satchel One. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk.

Year 5 news:

Maths Adventure Day - Congratulations to Year 5 on unlocking the secrets of the vault by solving so many maths puzzles speedily.

Please see the accompanying letter that lets you know about the Greek day.

Year 6 news:

Please make sure you read the accompanying letter that gives you the detail of the Greek day that is planned.

Year 7 news:

Mr G carried out a year 7 mental health awareness COWO this week, students were given advance notice and took time to consider what this is and why it is so important.

Year 8 News:

Maths Adventure Day well done on also solving the adult maths problems they were given to unlock the box and escape!

Year 8 guides have been showing around parents from the school, we have never had so much praise from parents for the care and diligence with which they have committed to this work. A huge well done to year 8.

Additional news:

Years 5 & 6 Flu Vaccination

This has now been rescheduled for the morning of Tuesday 18th October 2022.

Please see attached a letter containing the consent link. If you have previously consented you do not need to access again.

The Nursing Team ask for you to complete the form, even if you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine.

If you have any questions, then please contact the Nursing Team direct on the number detailed in the letter.

The E-consent form must be completed before Monday 17th October 15:45

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

Please see attached letters from the School Nursing Team regarding the Lancaster Model Questionnaire and Measuring the height and weight of Year 6 students taking place Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th October.

Enrichment Clubs

There will be no enrichment the first week back after half term, clubs will resume the week after.

Community news to share with you:

Road Closure -

London Road, Buntingford improvement works due to start on 31 October – temporary road closure in place

Please find details attached.

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Apply for Freman: deadline approaching

If you have not yet applied for a place for your son or daughter at Freman, please remember to do so as soon as possible. [Hertfordshire online admissions](#)

The deadline is 31 October 2022.

If you do not apply on time, you may not be allocated a place.

Kind regards

Freman Admin

Services for Young People Buntingford Friday Night Project at Buntingford Young People's Centre

On Friday evenings the Young People's Centre in Buntingford is a safe space in which to meet new people, develop positive relationships and try out new activities or participate in workshops. You'll develop your skills, experience and confidence and find out about opportunities for your future.

At the Services for Young People Buntingford Friday Night Project you can join in with exciting projects, learn new skills, get careers guidance or just relax with your friends. Activities on offer include cooking, drama and football.

You will also have the opportunity to voice your opinions and get information on issues that are important to you such as alcohol, drugs, health, education and bullying.

Venue: Buntingford Young People's Centre, The Technical Institute, Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Age Range: 11-17

Cost: Free

Days and times:

Every Friday, 7-9pm

Term time only

Booking Info: Drop-in / no booking needed

Useful Links: <http://https://twitter.com/WelHatTeam>

Contact: Services for Young People East Herts Team, tel: 01992 588220, text: 07860 065173,
email: sfyp.eastherts@hertfordshire.gov.uk,

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant

Headteacher

Attachments:

Conkers

Flu Vaccination Consent

Lancaster Model letters x 2

Road Closure

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