



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 22/4/2022

Diary Dates – Week A

School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
27/4/22	Yr5 visit Layston – Advocacy Project
2/5/22	Early May Bank Holiday
3/5/22	Yr5 Parent Consultations Science & Foundation 4-6pm
4/5/22	Yr7 Whipsnade Zoo visit
9-12/5/22	Yr6 SATS week
13/5/22	Yr8 Visit Thorpe Park
13/5/22	Edwinstree Spring Festival (ESA afterschool event)
16-20/5/22	Walk to School Week
17/5/22	Yr6 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation 4-6pm
18/5/22	Yr5 Visit Science Museum
14/6/22	Yr7 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation 4-6pm
22/6/22	Yr5 Felixstowe visit
23/6/22	Yr7 Felixstowe visit
24/6/22	INSET Day
27/6/22	Occasional Day
28/6/22	Yr8 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation 4-6pm
8/7/22	Yr6 visit Felixstowe
11/7/22	Yr8 visit Felixstowe
13/7/22	Open afternoon 2pm-7pm
13/7/22	Yr6 Theatre Trip more details to follow
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

All enrichment clubs will resume w/c 25/4/22

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 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

What is the latest guidance from the DfE on COVID in schools?

Please see the attached information from the DFE, please be aware we have no test kits to distribute to students. If you discover your child has COVID they will need to isolate for a minimum of 3 days, however we would continue to urge that they do not return until they test negative. We will seek further information to secure clarity in the expectations of you as a parent and us as a school. If an outbreak occurs, COVID measures may be returned on the advice of Public Health. In the event your child tests positive for Covid-19, please email: covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What is the biggest risk to school closure?

A significant number of staff catching COVID and no supply available due to the demand for supply teachers in the area as many schools are in the same position.

What news is there from our new formed ESA (Edwinstree School Association formed by Parents)?

Attached is a newsletter from our newly formed ESA. I am so pleased to have a set of parents working to support the school to raise funds and provide enrichment activities for your children.

Spring Disco - The Edwinstree School Association (ESA) is very excited to announce that a Spring Disco will be held for all year groups on Friday 13th May, from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Tickets will be £5 each and will include a cake and a packet of crisps, as well as unlimited water/squash (children will be required to bring their own drinks bottle so that we can minimise waste). A local DJ will be providing the music and the children may wish to bring some pocket money to spend at the sweet stall! All proceeds will go to the ESA, who are currently raising funds to improve the outdoor spaces and facilities available to the children. More information on this will be given shortly so watch this space!

Further information will be sent out next week, including how you can advise that your child will be attending. Payment will be possible via School Gateway and we will need to know confirmed numbers by Monday 9th May. To ensure the event is successful and safe we will need additional help on the day - anyone that is happy to give up a few hours of their time to support this wonderful event for the children should please contact the ESA at EdwinstreeSchoolAssociation@outlook.com. Thank you in advance!

When will we get the next progress reports?

Progress Reports will be sent home in the second week of the Summer term and will give you the latest attainment for your child.

When are the Parents Evenings for foundation subjects and how will they operate?

Foundation subjects are those that do not form part of the Core subjects - English, Maths, and Science. We are returning to our tried and tested method of parents evening prior to COVID for all foundation subjects.

We have Y5 (Tuesday 3rd May) and Y6 (Tuesday 17th May) Foundation Parent Evenings this term, running from 4pm until 6pm.

Unlike the Maths and English evenings there will be no bookable appointments. You can arrive at school any time between 4pm and 6pm and it is an opportunity for your child to take you to their classrooms and show you what they have been doing this year. Class teachers will be in classrooms to answer any questions you may have about the subject or their learning.

If you feel you may need a longer conversation with a subject teacher, you will be able to leave your contact details on the way out.

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What are the school plans for this term?

We have been working hard with your child to help them recover their learning. You will see from the Parents and Data reports that students have grown in confidence and are now beginning to make rapid progress.

To help them this year we have been focusing on:

- Curriculum threshold concepts – these are the key pieces of learning that are essential for students to secure before they can progress. You can find the curriculum maps with the threshold concepts on our website for each subject.
- Formative assessment – not waiting for big assessments to check whether a student has secured all their learning for the lesson through mini tests, white board use etc, and if they have not, not progressing until it is secure.
- Literacy and Numeracy – we are chanting timetables in lots of starter lessons around the school, and we have been focusing on ensuring that students spelling, grammar and punctuation improves. In particular we have been working on Proper Nouns, when you use a capital and when not to. Students presentation have also been a target.

To support student wellbeing, we have been:

- Looking to re-promote and support spirituality and reflection through COWO – this term we return to exploring values and the value we will work on is that of Friendship.
- Support students to have a voice and to learn that where you have a concern you can do something about this. We focused on climate change and students signed up to a small change they could make.
- We are now working as a school on becoming a zero-waste school. Fullness days are part of our drive to support students to have a voice and to do something about a concern they have.
- Support students to have dignity and respect for each other. This year our BAME group have been working hard to help us to make sure this group is supported and cared for in the school and that their voice is heard.
- Returning us to a “real school” that despite COVID we are able to run trips, theatre groups, musical concerts etc. Fingers crossed we have a respite from COVID and we are able to fulfil the plans listed in the timetable as your children need some fun!

What social media concerns do I wish to alert you to.

Attached is a letter for year 7 and 8 parents that was sent on Thursday and is information for key stage 2 parents. It was to highlight the poor use of social media that we have seen over the last term by key stage 3 students. As a result, we are moving our PSHE curriculum for KS3 to safety online and for KS2 post half term. We will be inviting you as a parent to a safety talk with an outside speaker (details to follow). In the meantime, we wish to encourage you to make sure you are monitoring your child's phone use at least once a week and that you have safeguarded their use with the CEOPs information and guidance that is outlined in the letter. We are also asking students to turn their mobile phones off as they come in the school gate and to only turn them on, when they leave the site.

What is Edwinstree's Summer uniform?

Students can now wear a white polo shirt instead of a shirt and tie, the remainder of the uniform remains the same. Uniform list is available on our website. We are checking student uniform this week, and you may receive a phone call asking you to support us to return your child to the appropriate uniform. We are aware where there is SEND need there are students who have an agreed exception. Please be reminded that no jewellery except a watch and only one set of stud earrings, no make-up or any nail products Thankyou

Year 8 Transition what is happening?

We will be meeting with Freman to begin the transition process for Year 8. We will arrange early transition for our most vulnerable students, to meet their link tutor and or the SEND team, with visits to the Redgrave Centre and the school site. However, if your child is anxious and would benefit from extra support, please email Mrs Petty on s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with your child's name outlining your reason for concern.

What is happening with the first school?

Hertfordshire County Council were very grateful to Edwinstree community for the offer to help for this year. However, the planned start for the new school has now been delayed a further year.

Please see below information shared on the HCC website: 'Buntingford First School is a brand new school planned to open in the south of Buntingford in September 2023 which will initially offer 30 Reception places alongside a nursery class and will also offer places in Year 1 to Year 4 to meet any in-year local demand. The county council is working with the Scholars Education Trust who will run the school and are excited about the opportunity to add to the excellent education offer already available in the town. The school was originally planned to open this September but delays in the planning process mean that the school will now open in its brand new buildings in September 2023.

Buntingford First will be a pilot to achieve the first fully net zero carbon school in the county, in line with county council's carbon neutral ambitions.

Prospective parents will be able to apply for a place at the new school through the standard admissions process at [Hertfordshire online admissions](#). The new school will be open to pupils across all other year groups from September 2023 – parents will be able to [make an in year application](#) for a place in years 1-4 in the summer term prior to opening.'

Enrichment Clubs

Sent via Parentmail Thursday and attached to this newsletter is a list of clubs running this term. If your child is interested in attending a club, please click on the appropriate link and complete the required details. Even if your child has attended the club before, please can you sign them up again as we create a different list for each term. Thank you.

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Would you be willing to help us with the Library?

We are looking to hear from any parents who could spare an hour or two here and there to support in our library. Thank you to those who have already been in contact, I will be in touch soon. We are currently undergoing somewhat of a revamp and would appreciate the consistent hand of some parent volunteers to maintain the library environment and ensure they can be used to their full potential. If this sounds like something you have capacity for, Miss Devonshire would love to hear from you. Please email: k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to discuss options. Many thanks, Miss Devonshire.

Year group news:

Y5 Visit to Millfield Y1

Y5 and Y8 Leaders presented to and worked with Y1 Millfield children on Tuesday this week. It was an absolute pleasure to see them read with such enthusiasm and care towards the younger children, they represented the very best of Edwinstree!

We were also able to donate over 100 books thanks to the kind donations of our Edwinstree families, which Millfield pupils will be able to enjoy for many years to come. I am very proud of all Y5- Thank you all! Mrs Kelly

SATs 2022

We are on the home stretch! Our Year 6 students have worked unbelievably hard this year and we all hope they will reap the rewards. Even in this first week back we have seen an upturn in students' resilience, and they are willing to give their all. The hardest work is done. From now until 9th May in English and Maths, we will be consolidating skills and giving lots of opportunity to practice them. We will also be repeating the mantra 'It's a test, don't be stressed; just relax and do your best.'

At home, we would appreciate your continued support with home learning and ensuring students get enough sleep and time away from devices. Students may come into school wearing PE kit for SATs week if they feel more comfortable wearing this. We are also looking for one or two more parent volunteers to support students during the SATs week. If you have any availability between 9th and 12th May from 8.30 to 11am, please email k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Many thanks, Miss Devonshire

Year 7

Year 7 Geography - Students are concluding their 'Rivers' unit of study with a mini project that involves a visit to the river Rib in Buntingford week beginning: 25th April 2022.

Students will be going during their normal Geography timetabled lesson (apart from 7B). The trip will involve students getting into the river to carry out a number of experiments, therefore, it is advised they wear wellies or suitable footwear. If your son/daughter does not have wellies, please send them in with a pair of old trainers as there are tests that they can be carried out on the embankment (Please do not go out to buy wellies especially for the trip!). I would also advise that students wear their PE kit on that day, even if they don't have PE for

that day. Students will need a waterproof jacket if the forecast is for rain

Dates:

27th April – 7D

28th April – 7A and 7B (7B will go during the timetabled PSHE lesson)

29th April – 7C

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact with me. Kind regards, Mrs Booth.

In addition, to enrich year 7 Science and Geography learning we are planning to take the students to Whipsnade Zoo on Wednesday 4th of May. We apologise for the short notice but the coach company who presented the fairest prices had a limited range of dates. The letter is attached, we need to confirm numbers by 29th April. If you are interested in your child attending, please complete the link on the attached letter asap.

Year 8

We are looking to speak to the year 8's about their plans for the end of term and how they would like to say their goodbyes, more information to follow. In the meantime, please note the new date for Thorpe Park and the Seaside trip towards the end of term. Please see the calendar dates above.

If you are keen for your child to attend early transition additional visits and would benefit from extra support, please email Mrs S Petty on s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with your child's name outlining your reason for concern.

Which class have won a fun swim?

25/4/22 – 7A the afternoon is the fun swim.

If we have already received your consent for 7A on Monday 21/3/22 we do not require a further consent for the date change to 28/4/22, however if you have not submitted your consent, please complete the online form in order that your child can take part in the event – Thank you. Further swim sessions are yet to be confirmed, but we hope that every class will have an opportunity for a swim. <https://forms.office.com/r/P0ZaVfjESu>

Pirates of the Curry Bean

Congratulations to our new cast for Pirates of the Curry Bean! Your auditions were fantastic, and you all did a great job. The cast list was posted on Mrs Gant's door and Room 2 on Wednesday and scripts have been available in Rm 2 since then, so hopefully, you know if you have got part and collected a script. The first rehearsal will be Monday 25th from 3.15pm - 4.15pm. Please can the cast ensure they bring a pen or pencil and, if they will need it, a drink and small snack. Rehearsals will take place on Mondays (acting and dancing) and Wednesdays (singing and dancing) from 3.15 – 4.15 and a specific schedule for what will be covered each session will be given to them on Monday as we may not require the whole cast at every session. This information will also be provided on the newsletter each week.

Save the dates – 6th July and 7th July so you can book tickets to see the students be amazing!
Many thanks Mrs Brock.

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Food and Nutrition

A reminder that ingredients lists are set as home learning on SMHW, but that they can also be found the school's web page or on the letter which was emailed home at the change of the rotation.

Please ensure you have the correct shoes and ingredients for the following practical's happening next week:

Year 6 - Layered Pasta Salad

Year 7 - added fibre Bread Rolls

Year 8 - Quick and easy Stir Fry

Year 5 - no cooking this week - they will either be designing their pizza or taking part in a taste testing session. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk.

Walk to School Week 16-20 May 2022

With so many children leading sedentary lifestyles, we want to encourage active school journeys which can help towards children achieve 60 minutes of activity every day.

Government guidelines recommend that children and young people should get 30 minutes of their daily physical activity in the school day and 30 minutes outside of school. In a recent study, children that exercised before school had improved concentration levels in school. With regular physical activity children improve cardiorespiratory fitness, build strong bones and muscles, control weight and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Hertfordshire's Walk to School Week has previously won a National Award for Excellence in Walking with Modeshift STARS which recognises an excellence in cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Over 50 percent of Hertfordshire primary schools took part, encouraging active travel to school.

Please support Walk to School Week and ask children to walk, cycle, scoot or use any other forms of sustainable travel they can think off.

HPV Vaccine 2nd dose Yr8

We are pleased to announce that we have heard from the immunisation team, they have advised that they will be administering the HPV vaccine 2nd dose in the next few weeks, our usual practice is not to disclose the date to prevent students from worrying.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

Attachments:

DfE advice

ESA Newsletter

Online Safety Letter

Enrichment Clubs with sign-up sheet

Yr7 Whipsnade trip

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