



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 22/09/2023

Homework week: B

Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
25/09/23	Year 5 'Meet and Greet' 5pm to 7pm
05/10/2023	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm, Headteacher Speaks at 6:15pm
09/10/23	ESA meeting 7pm Venue TBC
13/10/23	ESA Stargazing
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

How do we hear your voice and act on it?

We currently have two questionnaires out for parents to complete, the first in the link here <https://forms.office.com/e/t6xkx0x7yS> is for you to guide us as to what is reasonable for us to ask for a trip, disco, and charity day. We will collate all the responses and use the most common answers to guide us. Please take the time to guide us. We are all aware of how much the cost of living is impacting us and what to support all.

The second questionnaire [Edwinstree Church of England Middle School \(office.com\)](#) is from our school improvement advisor looking a little deeper into how we help or do not help you with the cost of living. At the moment we are hearing some frustration with our PE kit including mouth guards etc. Please let us hear your voice as we will respond and act on your comments. Thank you.

Why is Attendance important and how do we manage this with you at Edwinstree school?

A high level of school attendance is essential for students to reach their full educational potential and at Edwinstree Middle School we are committed to supporting the aspirations of the whole school community. The foundation for good school attendance is a strong partnership between school, parents and students. Please find attached details explaining our process.

Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school please alert as soon as possible by email attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

How are we safeguarding your child in school?

Our annual safeguarding training has taken place for all staff, which helps us to refresh annually all the procedures we need to put in place to help you to keep your child safe. As part of this training we refresh our understanding of what the school does through education and filtering and monitoring our online activity to protect your child. We would like to recommend 2 excellent sites that you can engage with if you interested in monitoring:

- your child’s usage on the internet and what are safe times and safe amounts to avoid addiction.
- blocking their capacity to access illegal and or unsafe information
- what to do if this goes wrong.

NSPCC

Online Safety Blog

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/>

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Information and advice on keeping my child safe online

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Students in all year groups will complete an on-line safety course post half term to support their learning about how to stay safe, this will take place in PSHE.

We have briefed all students again in the morning tutor sessions and COWO that if they struggle to find their parent or carer at the end of the day or they discover that there is a cancelled club, they must come to reception to get help and not go out on their own. Please can you repeat this message at home. We will always be there for them.

What should my child do if I am late for pick up at the end of the day?

Please would you remind your child, that if for any reason you, or their transport home is late for pick up at the end of the School day and not waiting for them in the usual place, they should not panic, but should return to school and ask a member of the admin team to make contact, to ensure that you are on your way. This is particularly important in the winter months when it begins to get dark at 3.30pm. The school is the safest place for them to wait for you.

When is the best time to deliver urgent messages to the school office?

Please would you remind your child in the morning before school, if your after-school arrangements are going to change on a particular day.

If your plans change during the day, we would ask you to inform us of the change as soon as possible - preferably before lunch. We are an extremely

busy office and although we endeavour to pass on all urgent messages, if they are received by telephone late in the school day when the office is at its busiest they can occasionally be missed.

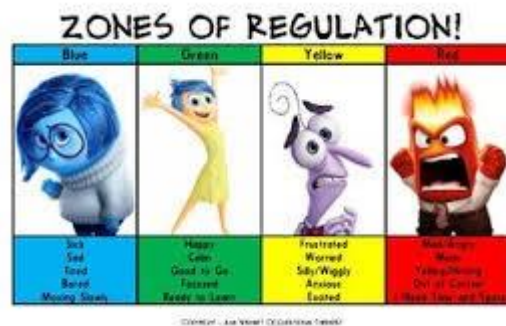
What have we been learning about in wellbeing sessions?

Like many of the first schools we use the language of Zones of regulation to help us describe and understand ours and others emotions. The slide below will help you.

We have spent time in the first couple of weeks introducing students to our motto.

At Edwinstree we believe: *It is ok and normal not to be ok sometimes, but it is **not ok to hide this feeling** and not share it with someone. You need to tell someone.*

This week students have listed the trusted 5 teachers they have found in the school that they can visit and get help from if they are worried.



We have also spent time modelling how we use music as adults and older students to help lift our mood and cheer us up, to help us rage and get the anger out or to calm us. If you need a lift, try these two songs to get you feeling better and help you realise that there are lots of great people in our world!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEsOTfcT3H8>

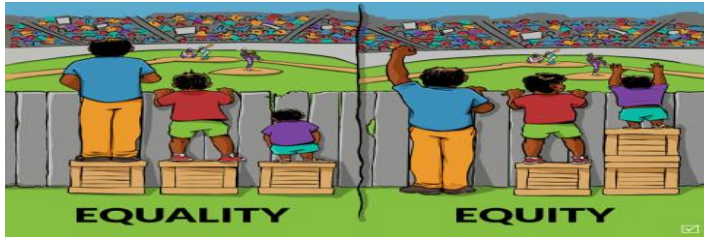
Beautiful people

[Andra Day - Rise Up \(Lyrics\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEsOTfcT3H8)

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Who are the DDG?

The Dynamic Diversity Group (DDG) through tutor groups have been following the theme of equity and the bible story that “the first shall go last and the last first. Here is the slide to remind of equity.



We are aware in our school that there is a small but important cohort of the Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) community students who need a voice and representation. Over 3 years ago a group of students formed to represent this community and help us hear their voice, they run Fullness days to celebrate difference. Trained staff on inclusivity will be providing PSHE lessons and are helping us to enrich our curriculum.

This is our charter:

Edwinstree Diversity Charter

Edwinstree is a community of diverse students, staff, parents and carers.

As a school we will ensure that welcoming what makes us different is part of our school culture.

The charter outlines our commitment to ensure that our differences within the school are recognised, accepted and welcomed.

To support this, we in form _____ will:

- 1) Speak out against those using derogatory words or phrases or who behave in a way that will upset others of different cultural backgrounds, ethnicity and orientation.
- 2) Consider what is said to others and be conscious of our words, actions and behaviour.
- 3) Acknowledge that we are all different and understanding those differences will help us to grow as a school.
- 4) Stand against intolerance and hate speech promoting school unity and acceptance, compassion and empathy between all members of the school community.
- 5) Recognise, respect and celebrate contributions from all, to expand and enhance the richness of our school community.

All students heard this week that this is not a school that will tolerate racism. Sadly, racism will sadly rear it's head this year, despite all the work they do. But please tell us – we will tackle it.

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BehaviourWatch notifications

Thank you for your patience whilst we ironed out issues with the new format. We think that this is now fixed and hope that, in getting a written statement about the merit or card, it gives you more information to discuss and share with your child.

Due to the issues we had earlier in the week, not every alert has gone home. However, your child should be in a better position to know how many merits they do have, given the work we are doing in tutor groups on Fridays. From next week, these alerts will routinely be sent home to Priority 1 and 2 contacts.

KS3 French Quizlet

Attached to this newsletter are instructions on how to register on quizlet, it is a free tool to support revising vocabulary set weekly for Key Stage 3 French homework.

Climate Justice Art Competition

During art club, we are creating art works for the ‘Get Creative for Climate Justice’ competition by Christian Aid. The winners will have their work displayed at the Houses of Parliament this December. The aim of the project is for young people to use their creativity to influence as many politicians as possible about the issues concerning climate justice. Christian Aid will choose art works which convey the strongest climate justice messages. If your child does not attend art club but would still like to enter, please hand in your entry to Mrs Burches by the 1st November. Entries can be on paper or card at A4 or A3 size. Children can use any materials they wish to create their art. Mrs Burches

Food and Nutrition

Welcome back to all. Please keep an eye out next week for your ingredients, tips and health and safety requirements for Food this year. The letter will come through Parentmail and is for pupils who are attending Food and Nutrition lessons until February 2024.

Year 5 - well done to all the pupils. I know the kitchen can be daunting, but soon you will be quite used to being in the kitchen. Food safety is very important and once we fully understand the rules of the kitchen, we will start cooking.

Year 6 - So far, we have reminded ourselves of the contents of our units and recapped the Eatwell Guide. No ingredients needed next week.

Year 7 - *VEG PREP* - Knife skills will be taught next week - ***please bring in 2 medium carrots and one medium onion.*** You will need a food storage bag or a takeaway sized container for storage. Please remember that you need to wear the correct shoes in order to cook, to keep yourself safe. A reminder that nail polish/false nails are not permitted in the Food Room. No fabric trainers will be allowed.

Year 8 - our theme this year is cooking for others - we're looking at vegan/vegetarian/religious choices when it comes to cooking. No ingredients needed next week.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions,
Mrs van Wyk

Equipment

Thank you for supplying your child with equipment so that they can commit to learning. We have found that those students who have their equipment are much more settled as they enter a classroom. We have found that many students don't yet have a whiteboard pen. Please could you add these to their pencil cases as soon as you are able.

PE Timetable

Please find attached our Autumn PE Timetable.

Year 5 and 6 News:

Thank you to parents the ESA and staff for supporting the Friday Disco.

We invite you and your child to the Y5 Meet and Greet evening on 25th September 5-7pm.

This will allow you to meet your child's form tutor, see some of the work they've been doing and hear from our department heads of English, Maths and Science.

Form tutors will be based in their form rooms- the pupils should know their way!
(5A- 14, 5B- 2, 5C- 11, 5D- 12)

English, Maths and Science Heads of Department will deliver their presentation in the hall at 5:30pm.

We look forward to welcoming you all.
Mrs Kelly- Head of Year 5.

Year 7 News :

Thank you to staff and parents for supporting the Residential, we hope the students came home full of fun stories and friendship and created life long memories. For the dream team students that stayed in school don't forget to send your permission slip in for a Fun swim on Monday afternoon.

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Year 8 News:

Are your children completing their homework? You should feel a significant up lift this year in work in preparation for Freman. Use your SMHW app to check what has been set and help them to make the deadlines. Thank you.

Year 8 students are able to apply for leadership next week, we would love as many as possible to apply to help us. Applications can be accessed via SMHW and/or hard copy from outside Ms Gant's office.

PSHE for parents!

Here I Stand, I Can Do No Other.

A live-streamed Lecture Series from St Martin-in-the Fields, London.

As a Church of England school, we encourage all in our community to consider life in all its fullness.

The quote "Here I stand, I can do no other" came from Martin Luther during the Reformation in the 16th Century. To me personally it is equally relevant today, when we choose where we stand on matters that affect our lives today, be they social, political or personal matters of principle.

The link below is an opportunity to hear live-streamed lectures on Monday evenings this Autumn from people who have chosen to make a stand. The series includes a variety of people from those who have stood on the front line in Ukraine, those who have held the hands of the dying, those who work in politics as well as those who work in high profile positions within the Church. Each lecture is being live-streamed from St Martin-in-the Fields in London on a Monday evening at 7pm. You can choose whether to attend the live-stream free-of-charge or pay a donation of £10.

St Martin-in-the-Fields is a very special church for me. I come from a mixed religious background with my father being Greek Orthodox Christian and my mother Jewish, nevertheless I feel totally at home

whenever I walk into this incredible church right by Trafalgar Square. I often attend classical music concerts at St Martin's as well as their Sunday evensong when I'm in London. It is here that I first discovered that listening to a choir can be both incredibly moving as well as spiritual and it was also here that I started to discover my love of classical music and the revelation that organ music can be powerful and fun!

Please note that this is not a school event. If you are interested then the website address is www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/congregational-life/lecture-series-2023

- 6 Sep Here I Stand: Reconciliation
- 18 Sep Here I Stand: On the Front Line in Ukraine
- 25 Sep Here I Stand: Martyrdom
- 2 Oct Here I Stand: My Name is Why?
- 16 Oct Here I Stand: Films that Give Voice to the Voiceless
- 23 Oct Here I Stand: Politics on the Edge
- 30 Oct Here I Stand: With God
- 6 Nov Here I Stand: Death and Dying
- 20 Nov Here I Stand: Women's Advancement and Role in Tackling Climate Change

Mr Galanides

Parent Governor Vacancy

Would you be willing to support the school by agreeing to be a Parent Governor? A vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor – would you be willing to devote your time and expertise to support the Governing body?

If you are interested in the position please email: s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk If we have more than one applicant we are obliged to ask parents to nominate their candidate, and candidates will be asked to complete a small pen portrait.

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Edwinstree School Association

Monday 9th October ESA meeting 7pm. Venue tbc.

New members are always welcome to attend our meetings. Parents, grandparents or anyone that has an association with Edwinstree is welcome. Have your say on how ESA events are planned and run and what we should spend our funds on.

Friday 13th October Stargazing.

Pupils and their families are invited to attend for a relaxed evening of stargazing on the field 6pm - 8pm. You are encouraged to bring your own telescopes, binoculars and mobile phones with stargazing apps on. By bringing picnic blankets or similar you can enjoy the darkness of the school field and gaze at the stars. The science staff will be available to support and offer guidance on getting the best from gazing at the stars. The main purpose is carving out some quality time together to observe what is around us every night, but we so rarely get to stop and wonder at. As Year 5 are currently learning about Space and this would be a great enrichment activity to support their learning. The ESA will be selling hot drinks and marshmallows. In the event of wet weather, we will gather in the hall for some Space and Star related quizzes.



Online courses 'Supporting Families with Protective Behaviours' for Mums, Dads and Carers

<https://familiesfeeling-safe.co.uk/courses-and-workshops-for-parents-and-carers/>

*Mrs J Gant – Headteacher
admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk*

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