



Edwinstree Middle School
 A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 23/09/2022

Diary Dates – Week A

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
28-30/9/22	3 Day Residential Trip for Yr7
29/9/22	Year 5 Parents “Getting to Know You” Meeting 5pm – 6.30 latest
6/10/22	Open Evening Thursday 6th October 6.15-8.00pm / Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
w/c 10/10/22	Open Mornings all week. 9.55am – 10.55am (more details to follow)
24-28/10/22	Half Term
31/10/22	Deadline for Upper School Applications for 2023

What have we been covering in COWO?

This week we had the opportunity to talk to children about how faith can bring hope and new promise. The resources we used to mark the end of the mourning and the new King are found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-her-majesty-queen#prayer>

The message that resonated most with students and staff from these resources were:

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new” - Socrates

Jeremiah 29:11

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

We spent time as a school looking out the plans we have for this year and what impact this will have for children.

What is the big read? One of our key school plans is called the big read, this is the plan to support all students to read in tutor time in the morning with various levels of support from TA withdrawal to teacher led reading for groups. Students will use their library books to do this. How will this help them? The impact we plan for is to help all students to feel confident in their reading and to engage and support students to find that wonder and awe that a great story or documentary can create in you. Without reading students cannot access the curriculum. How can you help at home? Support this initiative by sitting with your child and reading together, whatever you are interested in, or if you have a confident older reader, engage in discussions about the stories, characters and analysis of what is happening and why.

How can I find out about the school and what my child is learning?

Year 5 parents will have a “Getting to Know You” Meeting at 5pm on the 29th of September.

We would encourage you all to come. You will have an opportunity to hear from the Head of Maths, English and French about the learning that is taking place this year, and how you can support with homework. You will also have an opportunity to meet the tutor and to view your child’s books. The event should take no longer than an hour. Please note we actively encourage you to bring your child with you. Ms Heywood will also attend to support any parent or child struggling with SMHW.

Year 6, 7 and 8 - We are currently finishing the calendar for parents evening and will be offering one CORE evening of Science, English and Maths and a Foundation evening in Key stage 2. At key stage 3 we will offer the more traditional parents evening opportunities that you would see in a secondary school, with a booking system to see a variety of subjects on one night. Dates will be published by the end of September. At all parents’ evenings we will encourage you to bring your child, their books will be available.

Year 6 - We will be offering an introduction to the SATs meeting post half term – where our Deputy lead for teaching and learning and the maths and English teams will talk you through how they prepare your child and how you can help.

I haven’t seen the school and I would like to visit on the Open Evening, can I?

Open evening takes place on the 6th of October and while this event has in the past been for prospective year 5 parents, we are happy to welcome all year groups, particularly year 6 and 7 parents who have had very little opportunity to experience the school. If you would like to attend please come for the 6 – 6.15 start, where you can pick up a tour guide and complete a tour. Please be aware that we will offer prospective parents the HT speech as you will have seen a version of this via a video link.

This year we will be offering opportunities for parents to visit in the morning to experience lessons and get a feel for learning in the school. Year 4 prospective parents can visit pre-half-term, we will publish a timetable for post half-term for all parents to book in, if they would like to see a lesson in a particular subject.

Our website displays each subject and the year group learning for you to access. We will be streamlining this but start by looking at the curriculum maps and threshold statements.

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What homework should my child be receiving?

Attached are the timetables for homework for each year group, this can also be found on our website. We will begin to follow these in earnest from Tuesday. Week beginning Monday 26th September is **WEEK B**.

All homework will be set using our Show My Homework App and you have received a letter with regard to this. If you are struggling to set this up at home, or if you are struggling with providing your child with the equipment or power to access their learning online, please contact: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

What homework will take place for French in KS2 and 3?

Year 5 and 6 will receive a weekly reading task about French culture, geography and history From Tuesday 20th September.

Year 7 and 8 will be given vocabulary to practice and they will be tested on it every second week.

To support them in their learning the vocabulary will be on Quizlet, attached is a form explaining how to sign up to Quizlet (free). All home learning can be found on SMHW

Enrichment

Clubs are now up and running, if your child is **not attending** please ring into school to notify or email the attendance email address which is attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What additional year group news is there?

Next week we will be asking you, to help us understand what you think is affordable for trips and fund-raising activities during the cost of living crisis. However, we give the following year groups advance notice of costs coming up:

Year 6 Please see the attached Lancaster form which is a nursing service that is offered to all students in year 6. You do not need to confirm if you are happy for your child to take part in this health and well being check but will need to let the School Nurse team know if you do not wish for your child to be included (details are included in the attached letter). In the past 98% have signed up to this check.

Year 7

Information on the year 7 residential – Letters have gone out this week to confirm the final arrangements for the trip. If your child is not attending, we will be expecting them in school but we are planning a one- day trip of fun to enrich them during this period. Timetables for those staying will be out next week. A phone call home by Ms Marler will confirm arrangements with you for the 3 days, this will take place on Monday.

Other News

Cost of Living Support

With the cost of living on the rise, Herts CC have put together some key links for local people which offer advice and practical help to manage finances and make savings, these can be viewed on this page:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/families-first/news-and-campaigns/cost-of-living.aspx>

COVID-19 Guidance

Since returning in September we have had very few COVID-19 positive students and staff. However, as the guidance is updated regularly, clarification of the most recent guidance taken from the NHS website is as follows:

Children

Children who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for three full days starting from the day after the test was taken. They may return to school after the three-day period is over, as long as they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to return. They do not need to test again before returning to school.

Staff

Adults who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for five full days starting from the day after the test was taken. They may return to work after the five-day period is over as long as they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to return. They do not need to test again before returning to work.

Attendance

As we learn to live with COVID. We thought we would republish the school's procedure for attendance in order to help you understand the statutory duties we carry out to help you get your child into school. Please take the time to read the attached letter.

Starlight Stars Speech & Drama Club

Please be reminded that the class will **not run on 27th** September, and therefore an additional session is booked for 13th December.

Edwinstree School Association

The ESA are hosting a pre-loved clothing and uniform sale, all money goes to Edwinstree School Association.

Sunday 18th September - 10am - 11.30am,

Attend2Health, 27 High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AH
Everyday jumpers, hoodies, t shirts and hats, Coats, School uniform and shoes. £1- £5 cash or card

I am having trouble with Show My Homework It appears that many student accounts were logged out of Show My Homework over the summer. Parents are able to view a PIN code on the app which can be used to re-set the student password. To view the recovery PIN, select: settings, student management and then your child's name

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on the parent app and it will appear at the bottom. Use the PIN in the password box when logging in and you will be prompted to re-set your child's password.

Pokémon Club - Monday after school.

Pupils attending Pokémon club may bring in a 60-card deck to play the card game. The decks should be in a named box/container with a deck list. These should be dropped off to Mrs Barrett in the Science labs first thing Monday morning. These decks do not need to be overly competitive as we have some club members who are new to the card game and the aim is for us all to have fun. If your child doesn't have a deck to play, please don't worry, we will pair them up and still have lots of Pokémon fun.

Best Wishes

Jo Gant - Headteacher

*Homework Timetable
Lancaster nursing letter*

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