



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 24/11/2023

Diary Dates: To support you to manage the Christmas season costs we have placed these in our calendar and we hope this helps.

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
28/11/23	8D Academic review via SchoolCloud
29/11/23	7B & 7D Academic review via SchoolCloud
01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
04/12/23	Year 5 Science trip to Duxford Cost £15
05/12/23	Year 6 Parent SATs Information Day 6A: 9:55- 10:55 6B: 11:10 - 12:10 Year 5 Christingle
06/12/23	Year 6 Parent SATs Information Day 6C: 9:55 - 10:55 6D: 11:10 - 12: 10
07/12/23	Christmas Concert 6pm
13/12/23	Christmas School Lunch cost £3.20 and Christmas jumper day.
15/12/23	Year 7 & 8 Christmas Service - 11am to 1pm
19/12/23	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Service - 11am to 1pm
20/12/23	End of Autumn Term 1:20pm
04/01/24	Start of Spring Term 08:40am
15/01/24	5A & 5C Academic review via SchoolCloud
22/01/24	5B & 5D Academic review via SchoolCloud
26/02/24	6A & 6C Academic review via SchoolCloud
29/02/24	6B & 6D Academic review via SchoolCloud
18/03/24	Year 5 Foundation Evening in person
22/04/24	Year 6 Foundation Evening in person
20/05/24	Year 7 Foundation Evening in person
17/06/24	Year 8 Foundation Evening in person

Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school please inform us by emailing:

attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Core academic review evenings

Thank you to all parents that have participated. Teachers have enjoyed talking to you about your child’s progress. If you find your link is not working, we will contact you within 48 hours to re-book a session with you.

Can you please praise your child for their behaviour

Over the last few weeks we have had 4 new supply staff in the school. They have stopped to praise the children for their compassion and commitment to the work that has been set. This is lovely to hear, please congratulate them.

What is happening in COWO?

Students concluded their exploration of the value Justice, here are some of their comments about what they learnt. Their Christmas tutor group challenge is to provide a crate of food parcels for the Christmas food bank and attached is the list of recommended food that would support a family at Christmas. If you can help your child to bring in one of these items, we are planning to deliver the food parcels before Christmas. Thank you.

6A- What does injustice look like?

We discussed how the largest homeless populations in the UK are in some of our richest cities e.g. London, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Manchester. We said some of the potential reasons there are so many people on the streets in 2023 are: sky-rocketing rent prices due to not enough houses for everyone, inflation (the cost of things increasing rapidly), size of food products decreasing, no access to warm shelter due to overcrowded hostels, greedy landlords.

6B - We have learned that Justice is NOT an eye for an eye. We think that it means that if you CAN help you SHOULD.

6C - We like that the food bank is there for people, but why do we need it? Shouldn’t we all earn a wage that allows us to eat well?

6D - We have learnt that we need to share with the whole world. We should be seeking peace. It isn’t all about our own Country. Equity not equality. Treat people fairly but adapt to peoples’ needs. Share our wealth (love, food, money, time)

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What were the outcomes from the parent questionnaire? Thank you to the 67 parents who kindly responded to the questionnaire we have now closed the link and will take time to listen to your voice and feedback to you our thoughts and changes based on your responses. This will be delivered to the Full Governing Body the first week in December.

Why is my child bringing home another timetable change? In order to support a member of staff who is recovering from a long-term illness we have had to make a few tweaks to our timetable. Other than 5B and 5C who are moving to Ms Saunders for their Science lessons, **all other classes remain with their same teachers and class rooms.** We have talked the students through the changes on the timetable, and SatchelOne will update over the weekend.

Year 6 Science:

6D were awesome on Tuesday! They all had a good look at the pig's hearts we used for heart dissection. They were curious, respectful and excellent scientist. They explored the different chambers of the heart and the veins and arteries that were attached. Well Done 6D!

All other Year 6 classes will be doing the dissection in the coming weeks and we are sure they will be just as Amazing. Mrs Barrett

Governing Body Vacancy

Attached is a letter that details the position of Governor for Edwinstree School. As we at Edwinstree recognise the significance of inclusivity in our school, we are seeking to emulate that same diversity within our board, extending the invitation to those able to reflect the breadth and distinction of our student body, yielding from a variety of lived experiences and backgrounds. Should you believe you are able to fully support the school, its Christian values and diverse student body, we hope you will consider this opportunity to apply for the position of Governor.

Food and Nutrition:

Wow! What an absolute tummy filling week we have had in Food!

Firstly, a very big WELL DONE to Year 6 who completed an incredible task of marinating, grilling, making a dressing, veggie prep and then putting it together to create scrummy chicken wraps. I am so proud of them!

Secondly, we were incredibly fortunate to be one of 250 schools from across the UK to be chosen as part of the Fish Heroes Programme and had a donation of 8kg of fresh mussels. A few classes therefore had the opportunity to see how mussels are farmed and that they are a very sustainable food. I then demonstrated how to prepare and cook fragrant Thai mussels. It was fabulous seeing pupils who have never tried a mussel enjoy something for the first time. Unfortunately, there weren't enough for all classes, but I hope to be successful in future bidding. More to follow next week!

Very important: due to timetable changes, your Food lesson may be on a different day - please ensure you have your ingredients on the correct day.

Year 5: Please ensure you bring in your design and your ingredients for your pizza projects. Please remember the design is the most important. As mentioned on SatchelOne and in class, if the design is not brought in, you will not be allowed to cook - the design is more important than the practical this week.

Year 6: No cooking this coming this week. Please however practice your washing up skills at home - this is a necessary skill in the kitchen!

Year 7:

7A will make bread rolls on Thursday, your left ingredients are waiting in the store cupboard. 7B, 7C and 7D: The corridor around Food has had a marvellous bread baking aroma this week - Hope you have all enjoyed your freshly baked rolls at home.

Year 8:

8D and 8C you are making your stir-fries on Monday - please do not forget your ingredients. 8A and 8B you will have a demo on the 8th and practical on the 15th - dish TBC.

A reminder about shoes, nails and hair - please make sure you are following the health and safety rules.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Mrs van Wyk

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Snow Procedures

Attached are our snow procedures, we will post on our website and Facebook, send a Parentmail and notify the Hertfordshire information services if we are closing the school. This decision will be made in conjunction with the local Headteachers in Buntingford.

If snow is heavy overnight and leads to a closure the next morning, we will ensure that the Parentmail, website and Facebook are updated by 7:45am at the latest, however, we will aim for a 7:30am notice. Bus companies will be informed along with parents.

If a closure decision is made during the day, we will Parentmail and post on our website and Facebook. We will also publish a time for student collection. Please note the Buntingford staff and the Head will not leave the site until all students are accounted for.

Please take time to read our attached procedures and complete the Emergency School Closure consent form using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/Gdrz4eA3yq>.

Enrichment Afterschool Clubs

Due to unforeseen circumstances Maths Home Learning club on Wednesday 29th November will be cancelled.



Edwinstree School Association

Thank you to everyone who has swapped a pre-loved Christmas Jumper for a ticket this week. The Swap shop will be open in the Outdoor Classroom on Thursday 30th November from 3pm for those ticket holders to come and choose a 'new to you' Christmas jumper. It's not too late if you would like to join in, jumpers can be donated via the school office or on Tuesday 28th at the school gate to an ESA member.

Also, a big thank you for all the generous chocolate donations made today. This will enable us to have a fantastic Chocolate Tombola on the ESA Christmas market stall next Friday 1st December 4-8pm and hopefully raise lots of money for the ESA to spend enriching your children's experience at Edwinstree. We will also be selling some textile gifts made by the Edwinstree Elves (last year 7 textile club) and teachers. Please come along and support our stall if you can. More volunteers (children welcome but must be accompanied by adults) would be appreciated to help run the stall. Please contact the ESA or email edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com if you could spare just 30minutes to help out.



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

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