



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 29/4/2022

Diary Dates – Week B

| School day – 8:40am – 3:05pm | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 2/5/22 | Early May Bank Holiday |
| 3/5/22 | Yr5 Parent Consultations Foundation Subjects 4-6pm |
| 4/5/22 | Yr7 Whipsnade Zoo visit |
| 6/5/22 | Yr8 HPV vaccination (second dose only) |
| 9-12/5/22 | Yr6 SATS week |
| 13/5/22 | Yr8 Visit Thorpe Park |
| 13/5/22 | Edwinstree Spring Disco (ESA afterschool event) |
| 16-20/5/22 | Walk to School Week |
| 17/5/22 | Yr6 Parent Consultation Foundation Subjects 4-6pm |
| 18/5/22 | Yr5 Visit Science Museum |
| 30/5/22 – 3/06/22 | HALF TERM |
| 14/6/22 | Yr7 Parent Consultation Foundation Subjects 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 Foundation Subjects 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 to see Wicked |
| 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 |

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

How are we following up on our concerns with students use of the internet?

Year 8 have started their work in PSHE on how to stay safe online and Year 7 are beginning to explore this in their year group COWO. They will move onto this topic once they have completed their current PSHE scheme.

To support this learning, we have secured an outside guest who is an experienced speaker on this topic for Monday 4th of July. They will be talking to both KS2 and KS3 students about online safety. We will also be offering parent/carers the opportunity to attend a talk, to understand how they can best protect their child and support them to minimise the risks with on line behaviour.

On the 19th May 2022, as part of a review of online behaviours and risks, we will have a Live performance from solo artist "Lex Gibbon," followed on with a talk on

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Mental Health, Body Image/Cyber Bullying & a live Q&A for all students.

Year 5 and 6 session from 9.50-10.50

Year 7 and 8 session from 11.05-12.05

Originally from Hertfordshire, Lex is the first plus size teenager to walk the catwalk in London, New York & Paris Fashion week. Lex was badly bullied at school which led to her having her own mental health / body image issues, so she feels she is in the perfect position to speak to young people about these very important issues that teenagers face. Her talks look to inspire others to believe they can achieve anything – but to be conscious and wary of oversharing on social media and the impacts this can have.

When will I receive my data report for last term?

Next week students will receive their data report to bring home. You will receive a Parentmail to let you know it's on its way.

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 Yr5 (Tuesday 3rd May) and Yr6 (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.

Vaccination UK

Vaccination UK have thanked us for all the support we gave them to deliver the Flu programme. They would love to hear feedback from Parent/ Carers regarding the Flu Programme. They have asked if you could to fill out a short survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/family-feedback> Thankyou.

Fun Swim Sessions

As a result of the Best T-Shirt Design Competition for Fullness Day, the winners have been awarded a fun swim on Monday 9th May at Freman Pool, a link via Parentmail will be sent to relevant Parent/Carers to give consent. On the 16th Ms Theroude's year 8 class will have an opportunity to swim based around their reducing food waste, worm warrior work.

Tennis at break and Lunchtimes

All pupils are invited to bring their racquets and tennis balls safely into school and play at break or lunch. We have 16 mini courts for skills-based use and enjoyment. All pupils are invited to enlist and attend Tennis Club on Monday until 16:00pm and play fun games. Please use this link to enrol in the Tennis club [Tennis - all years \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)

School Production:

Students who are in the school production: there is a rehearsal schedule attached to the newsletter with a list of characters required. This will also be on Show my Homework and sent via Parentmail. Please ensure you attend all rehearsals you are called for or let Mrs Brock know if you are unable to attend. The schedule is subject to changes but please be assured you will be notified in advance.

ESA Event: School Disco:

The first event will be a Spring Disco on Friday the 13th of May, please find attached flyer. The event will be from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at a cost of £5 via School Gateway. Please also give your consent by using the following link <https://forms.office.com/r/6ME5nNBa82>. Drinks and small baskets of sweets will be on sale during the event. There will also be a pre-loved uniform sale taking place on the night of the disco should parents wish to have a browse. All proceeds will of course go towards the ESA fundraising.

Year group updates:

Year 5:

Thank you to Yr5 for visiting our local partner First Schools to support a reading programme and to gift money to support their libraries. We were able to raise £47.10 to support Millfield and Layston First Schools from the Robin Hood Day.

Wow! Yr5 have done it again with another visit to a first school, Layston, as part of their social advocacy. A huge well done to both our Yr5 and Yr8 helpers who helped read with the Yr1 children. Layston staff were very complimentary on their kind and caring approach with the children. We were again able to hand over 100 books

from the donation drive and a cheque towards their library. Well done Yr5! Mrs Kelly HOY5

Food and Nutrition

Well done to all those pupils who cooked fabulous dishes this week. I know a number were eaten in school, but I do hope parents/carers were able to sample the delights from Year 8, 7 and 6!

Year 5 - A reminder that ingredients for your pizza project are personalised to your taste and that your design is your ingredients list. There are reminders on Satchel One.

5C and 5D you are cooking next week so don't forget your design home learning and ingredients!

5A and 5B you will cook the following week.

Please ensure you have the correct shoes and ingredients for your practical lessons. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk.

Year 6:

How can I support my child in the build up to SAT's? You will be fully aware we have taken the decision as a Middle School to not make SAT's our priority and to ensure that your child has a stepped and considered approach to recovering missed learning. They are still very much feeling the anticipation of the SAT's. At school we reminded students we are a Middle School and that we have two more years of learning to complete with them, these exams are important for the Government but not for us, and for them they are a marker to tell us what we can do next to help them improve. If you are noticing your child is feeling overly stressed, please let us know by emailing the admin office at

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

We are looking for one or two more parent volunteers to support students during the SAT's week. If you have any availability between 9th and 12th May from 8.30 to 11am, please email k.devonshire@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

We are delighted to be able to offer Yr6 the opportunity to visit The Apollo Victoria Theatre to watch the award winning Musical *Wicked*. The musical follows the story of the Wicked Witch, following her struggle for acceptance. This visit will take place on Wednesday 13th July 2022. Any school meals booked and not cancelled by 10.00am on this day will still be charged.

Year 7:

Congratulations to Yr7 who behaved beautifully and really got stuck into the Rivers work this week in the River Rib. Students are currently investigating which part of the river runs through Buntingford. It was great to see the River had low pollution rates based on the amount and type of species we found in it. We hope that you have been able to support your child to come and visit the safari park with us.

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Year 8:

A few parents have raised concerns that the disco is booked on the same day as the rescheduled Thorpe Park trip. We note this, and want to reassure you that year 8 will be planning their own end of year ceremony and will have plenty of opportunity to celebrate and disco in the future.

Year 8 Transition - 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.

Information and updates from County:

Nexus Fostering - *We have been asked to highlight the following.*

Nexus Fostering, based in Lolworth Cambridge, has been making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in care since 2002. They currently have 2000 children referred to them each month from the local authorities who are unable to find families so they really need to recruit more foster carers in Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area, please see attached flyer for information.

Herts Fire & Rescue

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep people safe in the community, Herts Fire & Rescue have sent a newsletter aimed at parents around relevant issues of fire safety, please find attached.

How do you think schools should be celebrating Black History Month?

Information received from Herts for Learning (flyer attached)

Race Equity and Anti-racism work continues to progress in Hertfordshire and we want to ensure that we include the voices and experiences from parents and carers. HfL would like to inform families about a free online forum they are hosting on Thursday 19th May 5.30 – 6.45pm. This event is cross-phase (open to parents/carers with children in early years, primary, secondary and post-16) and fully-funded by HCC.

This is an opportunity for parents and carers who are and/or have children from Black and mixed heritage backgrounds to participate in a facilitated discussion (with

Wellbeing and Race Equality Advisers) about Black History Month. We want to hear direct experiences, find out what is working well and hear suggestions about where improvements could be made. We will share our findings and use the feedback to provide further resources and support to maintained schools in Herts for BHM 2022 and beyond. To attend, parents/carers will need to book their free place in advance via the [Black History Month Parent and Carer Online Forum](#) event platform.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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