



30/09/22 Parent News
Diary Dates – Week A

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
6/10/22	Census Day – HCL special lunch menu
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

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.

What educational visits or trips will be planned this year?

Post Covid, we made the decision in consultation with parents, to ask you at the start of the year what you felt you would be able to spend on enrichment trips and activities. Our aim was to make sure that we:

- did not put pressure on your finances with our choices and
- to try to ensure that as many of the students were able to access the trips and enrichments.

We also combined the further afield trips with ensuring that at least once a term, and preferably more, the students were able to get out and enjoy our beautiful local countryside and challenge themselves to complete the 50 things to do before you are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ (year 8 voted to be included in this work) National Trust challenge <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>

Last year we managed, kite flying, damn building, rolling down a hill, climbing trees, crabbing and building dens. This year we hope to start with a conker tournament and star gazing. All of these activities required no cost (accept crabbing) and are supported by parents and carers coming with us to minimise cover.

Can you help us to get the costs correct for this year's trips?

With the cost of living impacting on all communities, we think it is even more important this year to ask you how much you are able to spend when we put in place extra activities. Therefore, we would like ask if you would spend 2 minutes completing this anonymous form which will give us an indication of what we can book. Thank you for any help you can offer. <https://forms.office.com/r/9MTE1AQAYq>

Census Day

School Census Day is Thursday 6th October, HCL are running a special lunch menu for the day that can be purchased via SchoolGrid. If your child receives a school meal please help us by making sure they take it on this day, so that we are able to receive the money we get as a school to support your child.

When is Open Evening and how might my child be involved?

Your child may have been asked to support a subject at Open Evening from 5.45pm to 8 pm on the 6th of October. If they have, you will be sent a letter requesting that you give us permission, so that they can work in a subject area or support the tours of the school by becoming Guides. Within this letter it will ask you to confirm whether your child is being picked up or walking home. Guides can be dropped off and collected at main reception. Subject students can enter and be collected through the lower gate.

What if my child is already in Edwinstree but I want to attend the event?

You are very welcome, we are well aware not many people had chances to tour the school during COVID. However please note we will ask you to enter through a different entrance and ask that you do not go into the main hall for the speech. Thank you for your support with this.

Mrs Gant, why could our children not meet us at the side gate on Tuesday of this week?

We are sorry that our back up key system failed us on Tuesday, when we found that we were unexpectedly without our premises team at the end of the day. While we were able to open the bottom gate swiftly we struggled with the top gate. At this point the biggest risk to students is the desire to exit and get home. I made the call to come out to the gate as soon as we were aware to inform parents and to guide students back to the hall and out of Main reception. SLT and admin staff were on site to make sure that students knew how and where to exit and meet their parents. All children were informed that like always, if they could not find a parent that they return to school.

Thank you to the parent who wrote to us. It was not subsequently helpful to then open the side gate and

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this created confusion for a child who was late out. This has been duly noted. We have now reviewed all our procedures in order to minimise the risk of this occurring again. Thank you for your forbearance. We are sorry.

Edwinstree is Awarded Primary Science Quality Mark what is this?

After 2 years of working on the Primary Science Quality Mark we have been awarded the Quality mark to celebrate our commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. So far, since its national launch in 2010, over 5000 schools across the UK have achieved a prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark. PSQM enables confident, knowledgeable, reflective leadership which results in an improvement in the way in which science is planned and taught across the whole school.

The Primary Science Quality Mark is led by the University of Hertfordshire in collaboration with the Primary Science Teaching Trust.

Associate Professor Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: *"There was never a more important time for primary children to have a high-quality science education. The coronavirus pandemic and climate change crisis have made everyone aware of the importance of science in our world. Primary schools have an important role to ensure that children understand how science works and keeps us and our planet healthy and safe. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science teaching and learning. The profile and quality of science in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure scientific understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."*

Our personalised feedback about our submission included the following; "Resilience and determination show throughout with a loud voice of putting pupils at the heart of the practice. The PSQM framework will continue to support the school in its action planning for science ... To conclude, PSQM should be celebrated and recognised as significant in your developmental determination for science. I wish you well as you continue building on your known strengths and focussing on the areas of known priority."

We are very proud of all the staff and pupils involved in this journey and are pleased that the determination to improve Science learning has been recognised.

Year 5 news:

Thank you to the significant number of parents who attended the Parents evening, to hear about their child's learning this year, to meet the tutor team and observe their books, it was lovely to see your children talking to you about their start with us.

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Year 7 news:

Congratulations to year 7 on a great residential, we return them to you exhausted! Please get them rested this weekend ready for fresh learning on Monday!

Year 8 News:

Year 8's will be moving on to a new history topic next week, 'The British Empire and the Slave Trade'. Students will learn how the slave trade was organised and how it functioned. They will also learn about the conditions for slaves as well as resistance against slavery. The topic will end by showing the students the film Harriet which has strong racist language. Please speak to Miss Mursell if you would prefer your child not to watch this film or if you have any questions about the topic.

Edwinstree School Association

Thank you to all those who donated pre-loved uniform and brought items at our sale on Sunday 18th September. We raised £89 and helped reduce the environmental impact by reusing clothing. We still have good quality coats available and hope to hold another sale in November.

PE Lessons

Please ensure your child has shin pads and a mouth guard for hockey lessons and a mouth guard for rugby lessons.

Best Wishes

Jo Gant - Headteacher

Attachments:

School Nursing Newsletter

50 things to do before you are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$