



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 07/10/2022

Diary Dates – Week B

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
w/c 10/10/22	Open Mornings all week. 9.55am – 10.55am (more details to follow)
24-28/10/22	Half Term
12/10/22	Maths Adventure Day – Year 5 and Year 8
14/10/22	Bake Sale
18/10/22	Autumn Walk
21/10/22	Bonkers Conkers Challenge
31/10/22	Deadline for Upper School Applications for 2023
03/11/22	Greek Day

How was Thursday Open Evening?

It has been three years since the students and staff had the pleasure of welcoming our prospective parents and students to the school. We were so proud of the compassion and humility your children displayed as they guided nervous year 4's around the school and into subject areas. Thank you for your support in helping us to show Edwinstree at its best.

If your child was a year 8 or a year 5 guide we will use them for one morning during period 2 to show prospective parents around the school. If you are interested in visiting the school to see us in action, we will be offering opportunities to show case a lesson for parents next half term.

What is happening with the rates of COVID and why might we be at risk of having to shut a year group?

We currently have 5 members of staff out of school. As the numbers climb our ability to put staff in front of a class reduces. As our rates rise, they also rise in other schools and the pressure to find a quality supply teacher grows. At the moment we are managing the absences through cover by other teachers which means they are receiving no or very little non-contact time for planning and marking. Please be aware if your child is in 5 or 6 they will have experienced a significant number of supply lessons this week.

As a parent, we ask you to make sure that you have a back-up plan and if we are going to give you bad news that a year group will be distance learning at home, we will try our very best to tell you the night before to give you time to get organised. If this happens, distance learning is ready and will be published on our SMHW site. Please note it is linked directly to the schemes of work the students are currently studying.

Why can't they have Teams lessons?

If a teacher is ill with COVID, they will be unable to deliver lessons via Teams. COVID still impacts on our staff, despite jabs and our remaining teachers have been covering additional lessons in school so there is no capacity to offer this facility.

What is the quality of learning in a supply lesson?

We are fortunate to have 3 members of staff who are part-time supply who know the students and know our schemes. While the teacher sets the work in line with the scheme, you may see a decline in homework set this week. This is because the teacher is poorly and they are unable to set it and explain it well to the students. We have found in the past that poorly set homework causes stress at home for both parents and students so you will see it simplified, particularly in year 5 and 6. If the absence rate continues at this level we will review.

Have you completed the anonymous survey on how much you are able to spend on trips and activities for your child?

Please can you help us to understand what trips and events you can afford this year that won't break the bank and support you to manage the cost of living. Please complete the anonymous survey that was sent out last week to help us to cost and plan for the in-house school events and ESA trips.

<https://forms.office.com/r/9MTE1AQAYq>

What events are coming up for students to support them to live Life in all its Fullness?

While we wait for your survey results we are keen to continue to help students to have fun with nature and realise joy that comes without a cost. Two events are going in the calendar for the last week of term, an Autumn walk and the first house competition - a conkers tournament. As part of the house competition your child has been asked to collect as many conkers as possible and bring them in for their house. We hope you get to enjoy the joy of collecting on a sunny Autumn day and thank you for any help you can offer.

We are also starting with small spends and events to help raise funds for the Maths day and the Greek day which is coming up.

Bake Sale

As part of our continued fundraising towards enrichment activities for students we are having a bake sale on the 14th October. Please contribute any cakes either homemade or shop bought, ensuring that none of the ingredients contain nuts. Whilst baking, see if you can find where any maths comes into it. For example, when buying the ingredients, scaling up or down the recipe or perhaps making a mathematical style cake! Mrs Earnshaw would love to hear any examples of this! Please drop off any baked goods at school on Thursday the 13th or on the morning of the sale. Thank you for your support students will need 50p or £1 in order to purchase.

Maths Adventure Day

As part of our continued enrichment for students, on Wednesday 12th October a Maths Adventure Day has been arranged for Years 5 and 8 (Years 6 and 7 will have theirs later in the year). This will consist of a range of maths activities, such as code breaking, for each tutor group for an hour during the day. Optional: If your child would like to wear non-uniform for the day, please make a voluntary contribution (min £1) via School Gateway, which will go towards the cost of the day.

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As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

Greek Day

A Greek Day is taking place on Thursday 3rd November. This will be hosted by a history company who will come in to help support students to learn about the ancient Greeks. We will be offering students a chance to come in non-school uniform to help raise funds for this day and they will be asked to contribute £2 via School Gateway. If they are willing to take on the toga challenge and dress up with a bed sheet they can contribute £1! We will send out in advance how to make a bed sheet toga and this would need to go over their non-school uniform - **this is voluntary not compulsory.**

Year 5 Space Project

Wow! We have had some amazing home learning coming into school and are really impressed by the effort and time that pupils and families have spent on it. There have been lots of amazing facts shared and we hope this has helped the pupils learn more and share their learning at home. Thank you to everyone for such an amazing start to Science Home learning.

Year 5 news:

Thank you to the huge number of parents who attend the year 5 parent evening. We appreciate your time and effort and hope that we were able to give you an insight into some of the learning that is taking place. Watch out post half term for opportunities to come to watch a lesson or two.

Year 6 news:

A challenging week for year 6 this week who were hit with the most supply lessons as their English and Maths teachers have COVID. Please be mindful to check for symptoms and if in doubt don't send your child in if they are unwell.

Year 7 news:

Congratulations on a great residential! The teachers really enjoyed getting to know the students and were proud of their achievements. Thank you to Mr Galanides for supporting those students who stayed in school and thank you to the students who supported year 5 and 6 for the two days with compassion and care.

Year 8 News:

Please read accompanying letter with regard to a tweak to our behaviour system for year 8. As a result, this week has been a positive and calm week in classrooms with good learning taking place.

Maths workshops are taking place next week on the 12th for year 8. To support this event, we are asking students to pay £1 or £2 for a non-uniform day.

Edwinstree Singers/ Choir club

Please note that the Edwinstree Singers next Tuesday 11th October will not take place, this will resume again the following week.

Food and Nutrition

Welcome to our first practical! Please read the homework sent home on Satchel 1. Your ingredients list and Health and Safety advice is on the page.

Year 5 - Please remember your Cheese Straws ingredients for you lesson next week.

Year 6 - Please remember your ingredients for Fruit Alternate Cup Cakes. If you need a banana and haven't told me, please send me a note on Satchel

Year 7 - 7A, 7B and 7C you will be making your Added Fibre Bread Rolls.

Year 8 - 8A, 8B and 8D you will be making your Alternate Protein Curry. Remember your recipe is to include no meat products but can include protein alternatives or complementing vegetables.

8C and 7D no cooking this week you will be cooking w/c 17 October .

Please also ensure you are bringing in suitable containers to take your completed products home in. If parents/carers have any empty sweet tubs looking for a new home, I would be very grateful if they were sent into the school. All ingredient lists are on Satchel One. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk.

Additional news – getting out and about for free!

National Trust

The National Trust are holding a free day out for families until November.

Each free visit ticket is single use, and available for up to two adults and four children at a participating venue. The offer is valid until 30 November 2022.

Cut and paste the below link into your browser and add your tickets to your basket and enjoy a great day out.

<https://www.nationaltrust-tickets.org.uk/category/33142?branches.branchID=2286>

Music Lessons – Sign up

More information regarding Herts Music Service attached.

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant
Headteacher

Attachments:

Music Lesson Sign Up

Year 8 Parent Letter

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