



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 20/10/2023

Homework week: Week off !

Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
23-27/10/23	Half Term
01/11/23	Open Morning 10am booking via School Office Year 8 Autumn Walk 1.45-3.10pm (Non-Uniform)
08/11/23	Open Morning 10am booking via School Office
10/11/23	ESA Family Fun Night – Escape Challenge
15/11/23	Open Morning 10am booking via School Office
16/11/23	8A Academic review via SchoolCloud
21/11/23	8C Academic review via SchoolCloud
22/11/23	Open Morning 10am booking via School Office 7A & 7C Academic review via SchoolCloud
23/11/23	8B Academic review via SchoolCloud
28/11/23	8D Academic review via SchoolCloud
29/11/23	7B & 7D Academic review via SchoolCloud
01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
07/12/23	Christmas Concert (venue TBC) 6pm
12/12/23	Year 5 Christingle (TBC)
13/12/23	Festive School Lunch
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

Open Evening Comments

We would like to thank Parents who took the time to send in emails of thanks for their experience with our outstanding Year 5 and 8 tour guides, your comments are always taken on board and valued.

Reminder Secondary and Upper School Admissions 2024

This is just one last gentle reminder before half-term in regards to your Year 8 pupils making their upper transfer application, as the deadline is fast approaching.

Parents should apply online at

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

What reward did the tutor groups that received the most merits get on Friday?

Congratulations to **5B, 6A, 7B, 8B** who received the first non-uniform day Friday for achieving the highest merits this term. All counts reset and students have another chance to win at Christmas.

Academic Reviews and Foundation Evenings 23/24

At Edwinstree we have two different types of Parents Evenings: Academic Reviews for Core subjects and Foundation evenings for the other subjects. The Academic Reviews take place online via SchoolCloud, with the Foundation evenings being in person. Attached is the schedule for this academic year.

Uniform Update

In line with Freman our uniform list will be updated to incorporate thick plain black leggings for girls.

Cold weather, students are permitted to wear coats in classrooms and we welcome bright coats that stand out in the dark winter evenings.

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Year 5, 6 and 7 Parents

A huge thank you to those parents who were able to help us with the Autumn walk this week.

We are sorry that we were unable to run the Autumn walk for year 8 as we did not have enough volunteers. You may have been thinking like us that they are too old for this exercise and rolling down a hill, but they tell us they are not! The walks are designed to remind them of simple and non-expensive pleasures! We will attempt to take them the first Wednesday back but require 4 parent/ carers to support this from 1.45pm to 3.10pm. If you are able to support please alert us by emailing admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy and 2024 Lesson Curriculum

We wanted to make all Parent/Carers aware of the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) lessons for 2024. We will be sharing our updated draft RSE policy for you to read after half term. The Department for education asks us to consult with parents and the wider community in terms of this policy. Amongst other things the policy does is include what lessons we define as “sex education” and your rights to withdraw your child. Please also note that this year we are considering changes in what time of year we deliver these and will confirm beforehand in the weekly school newsletter, please keep an eye open for this.

Lesson topics that we intend to cover as part of our RSE unit are on the table to follow. We purposely adapt these lessons as best as we can to meet the needs of our students as well as meeting government requirements. We take a great deal of advice from the PSHE Association, who are the national body for PSHE education.

This year we have again decided to primarily base our RSE lessons on those supplied by the PSHE Association with some additions and changes. This helps to ensure that lessons are appropriate and cover the necessary content.

The following topics shows our planned topics. If you have any questions or concerns about the curriculum or about the policy in the first instance please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Time to Change	Puberty recap	Puberty and emotional changes	Relationship values
Menstruation and Wet Dreams	Puberty: Change and becoming independent	Menstrual wellbeing	Influences on Relationship Expectations
Personal hygiene	Positive, healthy relationships	Healthy and unhealthy relationships	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
Emotions and feelings	How a baby is made	Managing conflict	Consent – avoiding assumptions
FGM KS2	Consent KS2	Introduction to consent KS3	Sexting
Boys Talk/Girls Talk on puberty		Body image	Pornography, Sexting and the Law
		FGM KS3	Contraception/STI's

The lessons that we define as Sex education are highlighted in **Red** in the table above.

As we continue to adapt the curriculum, there will likely be further teaching and overlaps that refer to the Relationships aspect of RSE. Although this is not currently expected, in the event of any additional teaching that refer to the Sex aspect of RSE parents will be pre-warned within the school's weekly newsletter.



Vaccination UK

Flu Vaccination Catch up Session

Please find attached details of the Nasal Flu Vaccination being offered to your child at school on Monday 30th October 2023.

The consent/decline needs to be made via a link in the attached letter. There is no need to consent again if you already done so. Please ensure you complete this or the nursing team will have to telephone you on the day of the vaccinations to confirm if you consent or decline.

What is happening with the zebra crossing?

We are so pleased to hear that the work on the zebra crossing will take place over half term to create a safe crossing from the Sainsbury's Carpark to the school. Hurrah and thank you to the council for arranging this.

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What equipment are we asking students to bring in to school with them next term?

We have noticed as half term approaches that many children are now missing the basic equipment they require for their learning. To support your child to learn, please can we ask that you provide them with the following:

- Pencil case
- Blue or black pens
- Green pen
- HB pencils
- Ruler (30cm measured in cm and mm)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Whiteboard pen/rubber
- Glue stick
- A small pack of colouring pencils (basic colours)
- Year 7&8: scientific calculator (available to purchase at a discount from school)
- You may wish to provide highlighter pens.

Any parent that is struggling to manage this please contact s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk



Festive School Dinner

Our Festive School Dinner will take place on the 13th of December, the menu is available to book on SchoolGrid now and the deadline to book is 08.55am on 13th December.

Buntingford Library Poetry Competition

A huge congratulations and thank you to EW from 5C,



who won a stack of books for our school library by winning Buntingford Library's poetry competition. The judges were very impressed by her passion and enthusiasm that shone through in her poem. The competition was entered by many students from many different schools so this is a huge achievement! Well done!



ESA Events

Family Fun Night

Please join us for a family fun night escape style challenge on Friday 10th November. Doors open at 6pm the challenge starts at 6.30pm. Be the first team to find and solve all the clues to walk away with the pirate booty! Book tickets and pre order drinks at Edwinstree School Association Online Shop (sumupstore.com). Everybody welcome (not just Edwinstree families) suitable for ages 8+. Haven't got a team? Buy a single ticket and form a team on the night. Please see attached leaflet for more details.

East Herts Council



Sport and Fitness for 11-19 Year Olds.
Tuesday 24th October 1-3pm.
Please see flyer attached.



Half term free workshops

Please find attached a flyer from Step2Skills which provides information on Family Workshops being held across the County over half term. Step2Skills are funded by the Government, are part of Hertfordshire County Council and provide services in Hertfordshire for learning within the community. Further information can be obtained from their website:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/adult-learning/step2skills-home.aspx#>

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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