



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	
24-28/10/22	Half Term
	There will be no school enrichment clubs the first week back except for externally run clubs (Starlights and Film club) and our music clubs who are getting ready for their concert. All school enrichment clubs will begin week commencing 7th November
31/10/22	Deadline for Upper School Applications for 2023
03/11/22	Greek Day
08/11/22	Autumn Walk

Enrichment Clubs

There will be no enrichment clubs the first week back after half term, clubs will resume the week after so please put a provision in place. **The only exceptions** are the paid for clubs, these will continue (Film and Starlight Stars) and our music clubs as they have four weeks till their concert.

Why might we have been a little slower to get back to you following an enquiry?

Due to a significant rise in COVID your children have seen an increase in staff covering absences, staff have been asked to cover additional classes which has depleted and/or left them with no administration time within the week. As a result, you may have experienced a slower turnaround time than the 24–48 hrs commitment to returning a phone call and or email. We do hope that COVID is now through our staff and we will be returning to full capacity next half term. Please make sure that if you have not received a response you do get back to us, this will not be intentional.

Safeguarding – Stranger Danger

Please be assured if your child is ever in any possible danger we will notify you, we are always guided by police before any communications are sent out.

What events are coming up after half term?

Originally, we had planned for our Autumn walk to take place before half term, but with Staff COVID absence we have delayed this. Instead Autumn walk will take place on Tuesday 8th November. We do not want to waste our conkers, part of the walk will be our local woodlands looking at the places the deer and muntjac inhabit. We will be leaving our broken conkers for the animals to eat. Would you be willing to help us out with the walk? We need Parent, Carer, Grandparents volunteers. It would start at 1.30pm and we will be back for 3pm. Please use the following link to sign up. <https://forms.office.com/r/U0LJTFNCer>

Academic Consultations / Foundation Evenings

We are aware that we have not shared how these events (Parents' evenings) will be running this year. We have listened to parental feedback about the Foundation subject evenings that we ran last year, as well as the online evenings with Core subjects. Staff too have also had an input.

As in previous years, everyone in the school will be offered the opportunity to have a 1:1 appointment with their child's English and Maths teachers, as well as a 1:1 Science appointment if your child is in KS3. We will be sharing all these dates in the first newsletter after half term.

What are show case lessons?

After half term we will be publishing a series of lessons to show case the learning that is taking place around the school. We hope that where you have capacity you might take the opportunity to come and visit your child in their learning environment and experience what they do on a daily basis.

Is there homework over the holidays?

We work students hard over the term and like everyone we think they need a break so you should see minimal homework coming home for the holidays, however, all children have a reading book and would very much benefit from keeping up their reading habits at home over half term. A 20-minute read 5 times a week would be great. If you can also ask them about what they are reading, who is their favourite character? Why? What is the plot line? What do they predict will happen next this would really help? Don't forget that numeracy games such as darts, cards and snooker are wonderful for supporting student's numeracy. Monopoly really helps them to practice money and baking is great for ratio and fractions.

KS3 Scientific calculators

Many students have now purchased a calculator and we are using them regularly in maths lessons.

We would like to begin using more of the functions, but we are unable to do this until all pupils have a scientific calculator in school with them. In line with other schools, your son/daughter will need a scientific calculator for their lessons, they will be able to use this same calculator at Freman College, where it is also a requirement for the curriculum.

The cost of buying a calculator from the school is £8.32, which is a reduced price. To purchase a calculator, payment can be made via the school Gateway. If your child is PP and this cost will cause you financial difficulty, please email s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What is happening in Food and Nutrition?

Please make sure you have read the homework sent home on Satchel 1 - there are a number of revised dates for your practical lessons. Your ingredients list and Health and Safety advice is on the page. Please remember the correct footwear.

If your child is PP and you are struggling to purchase any ingredients please don't hesitate to contact s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

8D, you are cooking your Alternate Protein Curry next week. Remember your recipe is to include no meat products but can include protein alternatives or complementing vegetables. You will be making your Alternate Protein Curry the week after half term.

Year 5 - Your practical lessons are the week after half term. Please remember your Cheese Straws ingredients for your lesson week commencing 31 October.

PE Lessons

After half term in PE lessons:

- Year 5 boys and girls will need football boots and shin pads.
- Year 6 girls will need football boots and shin pads.
- Year 7 boys and girls will need football boots and shin pads.
- Year 8 boys will need football boots and a gum shield.

PSHE

Attached is a list of currently planned PSHE lessons. Please be aware that these are under review and likely to change during the year – we will publish an update as necessary.

Also, please note that shortly after half term, Year 7 will have a lesson about prejudice and discrimination and will include stereotypes around race, body size and Islam. This is a "light touch" but we wanted to make parents aware beforehand.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

Year 5 news

Well done year 5 on a really positive start to the term. Thank you to parents for working with us and attending our information events. We have been really impressed with year 5's commitment to learning.

Greek Day for Year 5 and 6.

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.

Year 6 news

What a really positive start to the term, this year group are focused, engaged and determined to do their best in their SAT's. They have picked up their year 5 learning after a long summer and are building on this learning. We are all really enjoying working with them.

Year 7 news

Have made a really positive start to key stage 3 and are managing to cope with the uplift in the numbers and length of homework being set. They were exemplary on their residential.

Year 8 news

Raising the level of expectation in behaviour is having impact and students finish the term more focused and determined than when they started. As representatives of the school we have never had so many parents write in and tell us how good year 8 tour guides were on Open Evening and during the day tour events. The confidence and maturity that we are beginning to see our year 8's display is fabulous, particularly when they take on leadership responsibilities.

Y8 Computing lessons

We are trialling the use of videos as a teaching tool and considering whether this is something we introduce at Y7 as well. If Y8 would like to bring in their own headphones in to use in the lessons, they are welcome to do so (the students will be responsible for security of their own property). They need to have a mini jack input as they cannot be connected via Bluetooth.

Apply for Freman: deadline approaching

If you have not yet applied for a place for your son or daughter at Freman, please remember to do so as soon as possible. [Hertfordshire online admissions](#)

The deadline is 31 October 2022. If you do not apply on time, you may not be allocated a place.

East Herts and Broxbourne District Community Fire Safety

Attached is the third edition of their school's newsletter aimed at the parents of your pupils around relevant issues of fire safety. It has lots of useful tips to keep people safe over the coming months.

What is the National Sleep Helpline?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand-new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice. Please find flyer attached.

Families feeling Safe

Families feeling Safe have a few spaces available on their online course for Dads, Step-Dads and Male Carers 'Supporting Families with Protective Behaviours' starting after half-term on 3rd November 7.30pm – 9.00pm. The course is funded by HCC Targeted Parenting Fund for Dads, Step-Dads and Male Carers with existing needs.

The Dates are: Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 24 Nov, 1 & 8 December 7.30pm – 9.00pm

The course can help to:

- Understand the links between Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour
- Understand what may be influencing their child's behaviour
- Respond to a range of feelings e.g., stress, anger, anxiety and worries
- Improve communication and build better relationships
- Build their own and their child's strengths
- Learn strategies to help them and their family feel safe and have problem-solving skills for life

Please find flyer attached

Children's Services Hertfordshire County Council

Support for Autism and ADHD in Hertfordshire:

The Autism and ADHD transformation programme, which includes Hertfordshire County Council, NHS trusts, HPCI and local voluntary organisations, has been working hard to improve services for families and young people.

A key area of work has been ensuring you know where you can go to access support in your local area. This will hopefully help you get access to support as early as you can.

To find out more about the support available please watch this 3-minute animation or visit the Herts Local Offer.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/autismADHDsupporthertfordshire

Citizen Advice East Herts

Please find attached contact details.

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

Attachments:

PSHE

Fire Safety

Families feeling safe

Nation Sleep

Citizen Advice contact details

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