

Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**

Week Ending: 01/03/2024

Edwinstree Term dates:

<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/school/term-dates.aspx>

Homework Week: B

Diary Dates:

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
05/03/24	7C non-uniform day for winning the merit challenge last term
06/03/24	Year 7 First Aid Training
07/03/24	World Book Day Book Swap
13/03/24	Fullness Day (details to follow) & Onesie Wednesday - £1 donation
18/03/24	Year 5 Foundation Evening in person
28/03/24	End of Spring Term 1:20pm
15/04/24	Start of Summer term 08:40am
22/04/24	Year 6 Foundation Evening in person
23/04/24	Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo trip
26/04/24	Year 8 Thorpe Park trip
06/05/24	Bank Holiday
13-16/05/24	Year 6 SATs Week
20/05/24	Year 7 Foundation Evening in person
21/05/24	Year 8 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow)
27-31/05/24	Half Term
17/06/24	Year 8 Foundation Evening in person
12/06/24	Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow)
28/06/24	INSET Day
11/07/24	County Transition Day
17/07/24	Year 5 Queens Park trip (details to follow)
19/07/24	End of Summer Term 1:20pm

What events are happening this half term?

This is a very short and busy half term. We will be completing our Easter services in the last week of half term, we will endeavour to include an Egg hunt!

Students will be able to enter the Edwinstree has talent competition, and we have our Fullness Day on diversity on the 13th of March. Contributions that we will ask you to support are, a £1 donation for "Onesie Wednesday" taking place on the Fullness day to support the drama production and baked goods with an Easter theme for the student's walk to the Church and back.

Why did my child have supply staff at the start of term?

We continue to see staff and students suffering from a flu/COVID like illness, myself included in this. We are working hard to source supply, while we navigate this period of ill health in the school. Post COVID we still experience flu symptoms and sickness more frequently and more rigorous than anything before COVID. Please may we ask again that you are mindful not to send your child in, if they have flu and COVID like symptoms. While we will do everything in our power to keep the school open, please ensure you do have a back-up plan if we have to close a year group due to staffing issues. Please note, if we must make this decision, we will begin with the older year groups who are much less likely to need supervision at home and therefore cause less disruptive for parents.

We are also incredibly sad to announce that our Head of English Mrs Hayes is still very poorly and has made the decision to resign due to ill health. We are currently looking to source an English teacher for the remainder of the school year. We have managed to secure a teacher for this half term and Mrs Mayne our Deputy and former Head of English, is setting the lessons and supporting them. Both the school and Mrs Hayes are deeply saddened by this decision. Our current priority is to manage the students well being through another change and to secure their learning.

We are exploring how we support the two year 6 classes in their lead up to SATS, and we will write to parents next week to explain what strategies we are putting in place.

Please be aware that due to absence we are unable to deliver the following clubs next week:

Wednesday – KS3 Football

Thursday – KS2 Football

"Onesie Wednesday" – 13th March 2024

To raise funds for this year's school production *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* (and to help combat the chilly days) students can wear their favourite onesie to school. Please do not go out to buy anything specially – non-uniform is also welcome! We are asking for £1 donation. This is also our Fullness Day where students will be taking time out from normal lessons to learn about an area of their choice. The Dynamic Diversity Group will be leading the day and the theme is around celebrating and understanding neuro diversity. Thank you, Mrs Brock and Mrs Booth.

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

We will be holding a book swap for World Book Day. Please bring any books you wish to donate to the school hall at the start of the school day. At breaktime please come to the hall to choose one book to take home. If you could write a 3 word review it can help make choosing a book easier. This could be a post it note on the cover or a bookmark style piece of paper sticking out the top. i.e. Tom Gates Random Acts of Fun = Funny, educational & graphical. City of Angels by Cassandra Clare = Brutal, astounding & heartbreaking.

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Year group news:

Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo Educational Visit – 23rd April

We are delighted to be able to offer Year 5 the opportunity to visit Whipsnade Zoo. Our next unit in Humanities has a Geography focus. We will be learning about different climates and biomes and the unique plants and animals that live within them. Visiting the zoo will help bring to life this learning. Whipsnade is the UK's biggest Zoo and is home to 3,626 animals, many of which are endangered in the wild. The children will experience the heat and humidity of the tropics in the butterfly house, meet giraffes from the African savannah face-to-face at the custom-built high-level viewing platform and walk through the new Monkey Forest habitat which is opening this Easter. Each form will decide where they will visit and move around the zoo together attending talks that the Zookeeper team offer throughout the day.

Payment via SchoolGateway and consent form should be completed by Friday 12th April 2024. Please see letter attached. If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 6 Educational Visit

Will be offered the same trip to Whipsnade to enrich their Humanities learning, this will take place post SATS in July, the letter for this trip will be out soon.

Year 7 Last Half Term Merit Winners

Congratulations to 7C who have won last half term's merit challenge. Mr Wainwright-Meekins and the form have decided on the date to be Tuesday 5th March to wear non-Uniform.

Year 7 PSHE News - First Aid Training

On Wednesday 6th March we are delighted that The Red Cross have agreed to deliver introductory first aid sessions to the whole of year 7. This is a great opportunity for your children to learn such an important life skill and to be delivered by such a wonderful organisation.

Year 8 Thorpe Park Educational Visit -

All Year 8 Students are invited to Thorpe Park to look at energy transfers on the roller coasters. They also thoroughly deserve some fun to reward them for all their hard work in science this year. Payment via SchoolGateway and consent form should be completed by Friday 12th April 2024 (deadline extended). Please see revised letter attached.

We are aware this is an expensive trip and are mindful that parents guided us that £75 pounds for two trips was what most parents could afford. There will be a further trip offered in the Summer and a camp over in the field to cost for, so we should manage to stay within this target.

If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Questionnaire

As you may have seen from recent newsletters, we are continuing to teach RSE in PSHE lessons. A summary of our scheme is shown here.

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

Please continue to read the newsletter as this will be the main place that we communicate about any changes. A big thank you to parents who have contacted us to give input about the teaching of these topics.

We would love to know how you feel about our school teaching of Relationships and Sex Education(RSE).

Here is the link to a short survey to gauge your opinion:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrIzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8NhoCSp8e_tKrBmMueqBv5UODYOT0Y3TEpWSTeZU05LWjRMU0ZRTU9QNC4u
If you are at all nervous about what we are teaching, please speak to us by initially contacting admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Food and Nutrition:

A very big well done to all who have been in Food and Nutrition since September! You have managed to create some wonderful dishes, making changes and additions to many of the recipes cooked at school. I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed yourselves.

Mrs Booth is looking forward to the cohort joining her in Design and Technology. The groups will swap over from Monday, 4 March 2024.

I look forward to welcoming the rest of the students into Food. They will be cooking until July 2024. Parents/Carers please keep an eye out in the next few weeks for a letter stating health and safety requirements, as well as top tips, recipes and ingredients needed for those new to the subject.

We have a few exciting projects coming up in the summer months - including growing our own food in our recently increased food garden. More information to follow. Best wishes, Mrs van Wyk

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Herts Catering Limited/ SchoolGrid price increase.

We have received notification from Herts Catering Limited (HCL) that with effect from 1st April 2024 the cost of a school meal will increase to £3.35 daily. This increase will be implemented on SchoolGrid.



Edwinstree School Association

Friday Night Treat - Postponed

Unfortunately we have to postpone our 'Friday Night Treat' which was planned for the 15th March but hope to host this event soon.

The ESA will be present at the Year 5 foundation evening on Monday 18th March selling pre-loved uniform and coats (we can take cash or card payments) and sharing ways you can help raise money for the school without costing you anything. Anyone can pop in if you want to browse our pre-loved uniform and coats but we hope to be at the year 6 and 7 events later in the year as well. Please do take the time to find us and say hello!

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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