



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School

**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 02/02/2024

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Week: A

Diary Dates:

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
5-8/02/24	Year 6 Mock SATs
09/02/24	ESA Family Quiz 6.30pm
13/02/24	Bake Sale – cake donations welcome
16/02/24	Year 6 Safe and Well Education Sessions
19-23/02/24	Half Term
26/02/24	6A & 6C Academic review via SchoolCloud
29/02/24	6B & 6D Academic review via SchoolCloud
13/03/24	Fullness Day (details to follow)
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 (details to follow)
26/04/24	Year 8 Thorpe Park trip (details to follow)
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

Dynamic Diversity Group Bake Sale

The DDG are hosting a Bake sale on the Wednesday 13th of February to raise money for our Fullness Day this term. The day will celebrate diversity and difference.

How about demonstrating your culinary skills by baking goodies to sell at the Bake Sale?

Cupcakes, brownies, cookies, whole cakes ready to slice, pies, rice crispy bars, fudge bars, or surprise us with something special.

How about some vegan/gluten/dairy free options? All culinary contributions welcomed.

Please kindly note: Edwinstree is a nut free school.

Will my child receive two school trips this year?

We are currently organising the remaining trips to ensure that we remain within your budget request of £16 – £35 twice a year (with the exception of the residential). Letters will go out before the end of term to confirm each year group’s trips and costings. Please always remember if you need help ask. Like you, our staff are battling the cost of living crisis and understand.

School reports

School reports were sent out on Tuesday via SatchelOne. The advantage of issuing school reports electronically is that they cannot get lost on the way home, are easier to store and can be viewed by parents/carers at different locations. Reports can be viewed via parent SatchelOne accounts using a computer or mobile phone. Below is a short guide on how to open reports using an Android or Apple device:

Android

- Open the SatchelOne App and select the red tile labelled “Documents”
- Click on the name of the report (starting with the surname of your child)
- Click on the grey box that has the letters PDF in it
- Click on the option “PDF reader”

Apple

- Open the SatchelOne App and select the red tile labelled “Documents”
- Click on the name of the report (starting with the surname of your child)
- Click on the grey box that has the letters PDF in it
- This will open a white pop up with your contacts and sharing apps. At the bottom, click on the option “Quick Look”

If you have not registered for a parent account or need assistance to open the report please email Mrs Heywood: r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

*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 Group News:

Year 6 Mock SATs week – 5th to 8th February

This is an opportunity for staff and students to have a run through before they take their tests in May. The practice tests take place from Monday to Thursday during periods 1 & 2, students will then continue with their normal timetable for the rest of the day.

Please ensure your child arrives at school for 8.30am, that your child has plenty of rest the night before and goes to bed at a reasonable time.

We have noticed that since COVID children are often more anxious in the build up to the exams and we are mindful of this, please reassure your child that their job is to try their best only. The results are not important in their lives and futures. If your child is struggling please contact their Head of year and tutor. We also have the capacity to disapply your child if their mental health is too poor due to this process. There is plenty of time for exams in the future, your children require fun and considered, detailed learning. At Edwinstree we are lucky enough to work with your children for another 2 years after these tests to help nurture their learning.

Year 8 Maths

Impact of Absence

We recognise that sometimes your child will inevitably be off school ill. Like most subjects, their Year 8 Maths knowledge builds up lesson-by-lesson. At the moment Mr Galanides' groups are studying algebra and each lesson follows on from the previous. The work is an important foundation topic in their math studies, really crucial in year 8 and beyond, in their maths studies. Though we do our best, it can be hard to catch up even from a couple of lessons of absence, because the whole class will have moved onto the next step.

Home-learning

Each week your child has 3 pieces of home-learning. One will be a quiz, the second will be a puzzle or an exercise and these are both posted on Show My Homework. There is a third piece of home-learning and this should be used to either revisit any learning that your child isn't sure about from their lessons, or alternatively it could be a piece of maths about an area they are interested in. If they are doing the latter then we regularly share this work with each other so they always have lots of suggestions on what they could do. This might be finding average scores in a sports league table, it might be drawing a graph connected with a hobby, it might be finding an exercise about a maths topic of interest online, it's their time to shine and show their initiative. Remember we regularly go over lots of ideas.

Catching-up after absence (Show My Homework New Trial)
If your child is unfortunately absent, then we will do everything we can to help them, though you can imagine when teaching a very full class that this is very hard for both teacher and student. **However, you can help them with this.** Many of our lessons have associated videos made by White Rose and as a trial we have put all of these video-links for the current topic on Show My Homework. For their Challenge Home-Learning we strongly encourage them to go through the relevant videos for the lessons missed. They may need to ask a classmate exactly what the particular topic was for the lesson(s) missed, as there are perhaps 15 videos per topic but this should help. It's not the same as attending a lesson and some lessons just won't have video links, but it can help to rebuild those foundations after absence.

Year 8 Online Maths Academic Reviews

Mr Galanides will be available to talk to you about your child's progress in maths.

Bookings will become live via SchoolCloud on Friday 2nd February at 5pm, information will be sent out via Parentmail. If due to work commitments you are unable to make these slots please contact Sharon Marler and we will look to offer an alternative
s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

Measles cases are rising in the UK

Measles cases in the UK have been rising since November 2023. While Hertfordshire has seen few cases so far, we are close to London and the West Midlands where there has been a large rise in cases. The UK Health Security Agency has declared the increase in cases of measles a national incident (19 January 2024). There is the potential for cases and outbreaks in Hertfordshire as uptake of the Measles Vaccination (MMR) in the county is lower than recommended. Please find attached a letter received from County.

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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