



Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
10/02/23	Fund Raising Bake Sale
13-17/02/23	Half Term
08/03/23	Rescheduled Year 8 Geography visit to London
30/03/23	Year 8 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
03-14/04/23	Easter Break
17/04/23	Summer Term Begins
27/04/23	Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
01/05/23	Bank Holiday
08/05/23	Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III)
09-12/05/23	Year 6 SATs
18/05/23	Year 7 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
29/05-02/06/23	Half Term
29/06/23	Year 6 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
13/07/23	County Transition Day
21/07/23	End of Summer Term

How at risk are we currently to shutting classes?

As you were informed yesterday, we now have Covid/Sick bug and flu impacting on significant numbers of staff. Today we have continued to try to source more supply with limited success, this means that we are still at significant risk of having to close a class or year group. **Please can you check your emails as we will inform you by 5pm on Sunday evening if we are unable to open to all classes. Year 8 are still the most at risk of working from home**

To help us, could we please ask that:

- if your child has any of the following symptoms (please read below) that they DO NOT attend school until they recover.
- that you need to have a back-up plan for next week if more staff fall ill.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

Are you doubling up classes and using everyone for cover ?

Yes almost – we keep one person available from SLT for emergencies but even that has gone this week. This means that our ability to see you and/or respond to emails and phone calls is less. So please bear with us and be mindful.

What is happening for the next strike?

The remainder of the strike dates are:

- 1st March
- 15th March
- 16th March

Please ensure you have plans in place for students staying at home for these days. We are looking now at what we can offer and will once again prioritise key stage 2 over the older year groups as year 7 and 8 learn from home via TEAMS and Distance learning. Please remember if you are really struggling as a key worker or a parent of a vulnerable child, please contact Mrs Marler via email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to alert us.

Do remember strikes are designed to cause maximum disruption, I can ask staff to alert me to whether they are striking but they don't have to tell me. I can ask staff to cover lessons but they can decline.

*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.*

Advance notice of the end of term fund raising event.

Our students have requested raising funds for Cancer Research at the end of term. We will be asking for a donation of £1. If you are one of the amazing bakers in our community, or like me not but happy to contribute a shop bought cake, we would welcome support on the last Friday of term – to hold a bake sale to contribute funds to this cause. Thank you for any support you can offer.

Can you help us with the mud?

Thank you for those of you who have already supported us with a change of shoes. We would like to ask if you are able to provide a pair of slippers or spare shoes in order to help us protect the school against the mud. If students can begin to bring these in from next week we would appreciate it. They will be stored in tutor groups.

Can you advise us on a planned uniform change for September?

The Governors would like to consult you on a planned uniform change for next September. Having looked at the decline in shops like M&S selling ties for daily work wear, and the movement to work from home we would like to remove ties from our uniform. Alongside this we are keen to align further with Freman's uniform and to suggest that we move from ties and a formal shirt in Winter to a polo shirt and a blue Sweatshirt with the Edwinstree logo in red. The remainder of the uniform would stay the same. The cost of the sweatshirts is £10.25 and when we compare this to a supermarket jumper there is a slight increase but this is offset by no tie. Below is a link to gauge your opinion on this uniform change and to capture your thoughts about the remainder of our uniform.

<https://forms.office.com/e/EFj8ZqDhe6>

Year 6 SATs

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who supported us through the SATs and the strike in the middle. The children were calm and collected and are now practiced in what the real tests feel like. We could not do this without your support.

Herts Catering Limited/ School Grid price increase

Herts Catering Limited (HCL) have notified us that with effect from 1st April 2023 the cost of a school meal will increase from £2.80 to £3.20 daily. This increase will be implemented on SchoolGrid on the return to school after the Easter Holidays 2023.

If your child has a school dinner then please ensure that their dinners are booked prior to the return to school and that the dinner account remains in credit.

[Home - SchoolGrid](#)

[Guide for parents - Hertfordshire Catering Limited |](#)

[Hertfordshire Catering Services \(hcl.co.uk\)](http://hcl.co.uk)

Edwinstree School Association

The ESA will be holding a meeting on Monday 6th February 6.30pm to discuss a diary of events and fundraising ideas. Anyone is welcome to join online via Zoom. Alternatively, if you would like to attend in person, please email EdwinstreeSchoolAssociation@outlook.com for venue details.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78668780783?pwd=yCUbktiT08bS3ALVayrwXG3nBX1O95.1>

Meeting ID: 786 6878 0783

Passcode: School

Herts RFU

Please find attached details of a free 6-week course. The target audience is fathers and more broadly men who have either ceased playing rugby union but would like to return, those who would like to try it but lack the confidence to turn up at their local club to train or those who would like to learn more about the game through coaching.

Nightingale Cleaning-Supervisor Vacancy

Nightingale Cleaning urgently require a supervisor to join their team at Edwinstree School. Experience is preferred but not essential. 2-3 hours per day, 5 days per week - £12 per hour. Please contact Sharon on 07793 251716 or email a CV to s.woodley@nightingalecleaning.com

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

*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.*