



## Edwinstree Term dates:

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

## Homework week: B

## Diary Dates:

08 & 09/10/25	Year 6 Lancaster Model
09/10/25	Open Evening 9th October 2025, 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
23/10/25	Year 5 Duxford Educational Visit
27-31/10/25	Half Term
11/11/25	School Photographs
05/12/25	Occasional Day
10/12/25	Christmas Dinner Day
19/12/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
05/01/26	INSET Day
06/01/26	Start of Spring Term
16-20/02/26	Half Term
27/03/26	End of Term 1:20pm.
13/04/26	Start of Summer Term
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
25-29/05/26	Half Term
26/06/26	INSET Day
09/07/26	County Transition Day
17/07/26	End of Term 1:20pm.

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## Edwinstree Open Evening

For prospective Parent/ Carers.

9th October 2025, 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm

We invite the community and prospective parents into the school to tour and hear the Heads speech. If you are a parent of a Year 6 or 8 student, we would like them to attend to help us with the tours of the school, and Year 5 and 7 to help with subject demonstrations.

If you are able to support by allowing your child to take part between 6 and 8pm, please reserve the date. The students know if they have volunteered for this event and letters confirming this will go out early next week. We will ask you to confirm if they are being picked up by you or walking home alone. Pickups for student guides will be from our Reception area and for Subject students the lower gate. Drop off for all students will be 6.30pm at the bottom gate. Thank you for allowing your child to be part of the evening.



## How much money was raised for Fullness Day?

A big thank you to Parent/ Carers for supplying a great display of treats for the students to purchase and for those parents who supported their child with a talent show video. We are just waiting for the last tutor groups to finish judging the talent show, and then we will announce winners next week, their tutor group will get to choose a fun afternoon at the start of next term. The amount we have raised is significant at over £700 which is amazing. Thank you for all your support for Cancer Research. The team of year 8 boys were rightly proud of their day and the funds raised.

## Morning drop offs

We know that just before school can be a busy and rushed time for people, but we are seeing more and more students being dropped off in cars outside the school gate in the bus bay.

This is impacting not only on the buses being able to stop outside the school gate in the morning, but also causing issues with cars swinging around in the road opposite, cars blocking the flow of traffic when leaving the bay and, most importantly, creating added danger to students as they walk up the road to Edwinstree and Freman, particularly at the point right outside the school gate.

From Monday, we will be trialling blocking off the area directly outside of the school gate at the busiest time in the morning. This will enable the buses to stop outside the school gates. You will see a member of staff standing in the bus lane where the school gates are and cones marking that this is a park space only for buses.

A reminder that, if driving to school, we encourage Parents/Carers to drop their children off at Bowling Green Lane Car Park (Sainsbury's), or somewhere further away from the school gates.

### Bowling Green Lane Car Park

[Bowling Green Lane | East Herts District Council](#)

This car park is open 24/7 and is **FREE** on Saturdays, Sundays, and Christmas Day.

**Chargeable** hours are Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 15.00

- 1.5 hour - **FREE** (motorists must obtain and display a ticket)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in trying to make this a safer part of the day.

If your child is late, we never shout and moan at them, we are busy parents too and know how difficult the morning rush is, we will just welcome them into school, so parking a couple of minutes away won't cause them added stress.

Would you please back up the conversations we are having about road safety next week. In our morning PowerPoints to students, we will be talking about road safety, as our lollipop man and members of the public have reported a few younger children running across the roads at various points in the high street. They are excited to see friends, or too busy on a phone to look out for traffic, and we have had a few near misses reported.

## Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

If your child is signed up to attend an afterschool club and will not be attending on a particular day, or no longer wishes to attend, please ensure you email us for safeguarding reasons. [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**Art club** will not run on Thursday 9th October, this is due to our Open Evening taking place in school that evening, and the preparation of the room. Please note all other clubs will still run on this day as normal.

**Football Clubs** on Wednesday and Thursday and **Basketball Club** on Thursday will now finish 4.15pm weekly.

We still have spaces available for our Thursday

**Basketball Club and**

**Percussion Groups.**

If you would like to sign up to either of the clubs, please use these links to give consent.

Basketball: <https://forms.office.com/e/XNveCfFC6C>

Percussion: <https://forms.office.com/e/HebnxBHmpD>

## Term-Time Holidays and Leave of Absence

Hertfordshire County Council are committed to ensuring every child receives a high-quality education. A key part of this is regular school attendance, which is essential for your child's academic success and personal development.

Following changes to legislation introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) in August 2024, schools are now required to treat requests for term-time leave—such as holidays—as unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such cases, a penalty notice must be considered. Exceptional circumstances are typically unavoidable, one-off events. Holidays taken for leisure or recreation do not meet this threshold.

If you believe your request involves exceptional circumstances, please discuss it with the Headteacher. Schools must consider each application individually, taking into account the specific facts and background of the request. To do this email [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) or [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

If leave is granted, the Headteacher will determine the number of days permitted

### Please note:

- All requests must be made in advance by the parent/carer with whom the child normally resides.
- The decision to authorise or not authorise absence rests solely with the Headteacher.

Schools may apply to the Local Authority for a penalty notice to be issued for unauthorised leave.

### Once issued

- There is no statutory right of appeal.
- The Local Authority may only withdraw a notice if it was issued incorrectly.
- If the penalty is not paid within the required timeframe, the Local Authority will initiate legal proceedings.

We know that you want the best for your child. By ensuring that any leave of absence is taken during designated school holidays, you are helping to support your child's learning, development, and attendance.

## The Importance of Regular School Attendance

Hertfordshire County Council are committed to ensuring every child receives a high-quality education. A key part of this is regular school attendance, which plays a vital role in your child's academic progress, personal development, and future opportunities.

While we understand that children may occasionally be unable to attend due to illness, frequent absences can lead to them falling behind their peers—both academically and socially.

### Why Attendance Matters

Attending school regularly helps children to:

- Achieve stronger academic outcomes
- Build friendships and develop social skills
- Strengthen emotional wellbeing and resilience
- Establish positive habits for future education and employment
- Engage fully in school life and activities

### Commitment to You

In Hertfordshire, we are dedicated to working with families to remove barriers to regular attendance wherever possible. We recognise that challenges may arise, and we are here to support you and your child.

### Hertfordshire County Council Key Expectations

We ask that all families support the following expectations:

- Children attend school every day it is open, unless they are unwell or have a valid statutory reason
- Children arrive on time and ready to learn
- Families follow the school's attendance policy
- Parents/carers notify the school promptly when their child is absent unexpectedly
- Medical appointments are scheduled outside of school hours where possible
- Requests for leave of absence are made in advance and only in exceptional circumstances

### How You Can Help

You play a crucial role in supporting your child's attendance. You can help by:

- Encouraging daily, punctual attendance
- Communicating with the school about any concerns or barriers
- Engaging with any support offered to avoid the need for more formal interventions

If you have any concerns or need support, please contact your child's school in the first instance. Schools are here to work with families to ensure every child can thrive.

For further resources and support, please visit:

- Families First
- Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer

## Food and Nutrition – All Years

What a busy week! Our first practical lessons took place, and the corridor outside the Food Room smelt just like a boulangerie on the Champs Elysee in Paris. Well done bakers, so many varieties of fibre filled bread rolls.

**Year 5:** We have had a couple of theory-based lessons so far, to get used to the kitchen, and learn about health and safety and why it is important. Demonstrations will be starting soon, so keep an ear out for excited pupils who will be requesting ingredients for Dippy Divers.

**Year 6:** Practical's start soon too! Layered Pasta Salad will be demonstrated next week.

**Year 7:** Congratulations on the bread making practical! For your next lesson, please make sure you bring in 2 medium sized peeled carrots and one medium onion – we have to practise our knife skills to be prepped for our Spaghetti Bolognese practical.

**Year 8:** Some good results all round on your first assessment – who knew so many curry variations were out there? Which country sounded the best to you?

8B and 8D, don't forget your ingredients for your Alternate Protein Curry. Remember, you do not have to follow my recipe, and you are welcome to make a vegetarian or vegan curry of your choosing.

If you require a spice pot, please message me on the Satchel H/L sent home.

8A and 8C will have demonstrations next week.

Letters to all years will go out next week with hints and tips to save money and what you are cooking for the half year.

Please do get in touch if there are any allergy requirements you have not already let the school know about. Please be aware we are a nut free school, so no nut products are allowed in the Food Room at all. Mrs van Wyk

## Year 5 and 6 news:

Reading has begun in tutor times this week and several students have asked if they can bring in a kindle to do this.

We are happy for them to do this as long as parents and children are aware like mobile phones, it is at their own risk, and that at the end of the reading session, kindles go in the trays along with mobile phones, we would ask that students download their books before coming to school if possible.

## Year 6 News:

### Year 6 Lancaster Model – 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October

Questionnaire and measuring the height and weight of Year 6 students.

Please see attached, letters from the School Nursing Team regarding the Lancaster Model Questionnaire and Measuring the height and weight of Year 6 students which will be taking place on 8th and 9th October 2025.

Please note If you **do not** want your child to participate in this questionnaire then please contact the school nurse team as soon as possible, Email: [hct.shwbswh@nhs.net](mailto:hct.shwbswh@nhs.net) / Telephone: 0300 123 7572 If they do not hear from you then they will assume you are happy for your child to complete the questionnaire.

## Year 8 News:

It was lovely to hear how excited Year 8 were about their visit to Freman Open Evening. We look forward to working with the upper school to ensure they transfer well. Congratulations to the students who applied and been accepted onto leadership this week.

## Parent Governor Elections

We have four parents who have volunteered for the 3 vacancies of Parent Governor available at the school, all are strong candidates.

We are therefore asking you to read their profiles below and vote for the 3 candidates you would wish to see represent Parents on the Edwinstree Middle School Governing Body.

**Please Vote using this link:**

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

**Voting closes 8<sup>th</sup> October**

### Nichola Lomax

Nichola Lomax is an Associate Director with over 15 years of experience in biomedical chemistry and science education. As a STEM Ambassador, Nichola has inspired students and educators, fostering a culture of curiosity and engagement in science and technology.

With two children currently attending Edwinstree, Nichola is deeply invested in the school's success and community. Nichola's active involvement in ESA activities and fundraising demonstrates a commitment to supporting school initiatives and enhancing opportunities for all students. Nichola's leadership experience, practical approach to problem-solving, and dedication to bridging academic learning with real-world application make them well-suited for a school governor role.

By combining professional expertise with a passion for education and community engagement, Nichola is ready to help guide Edwinstree's strategic direction and ensure the best outcomes for every child.

### Nicola Harker

I am Nicola I am 35 years old and mum to 3 girls, my daughter Molly joined the school March 2025. In this she has gone from strength to strength with her learning, formed wonderful friendships and embraced the community of Buntingford as have we as a family unit. I would love to be considered for the above position. On the grounds of the following

- I have experience and extensive knowledge of SEND with my eldest daughter who attends Amwell View Specialist School and College, I say this as a parent of her and eyes and ears of our ever-extending world of Send which is becoming more and more apparent week by week within schooling communities now even more so with the pressures on Mainstream schooling with send and would love to support the middle school.
- From my experience and perspective of running a PTA in my daughter's previous school I would adore bringing fresh ideas and eyes to the school and would love to bring that to Edwinstree.
- To gain an identity to myself outside of being 'Mum', to work alongside a team to support each other and support the school in the future as long term my younger daughter will come to Edwinstree in her schooling journey.

### Tracy Harper

After serving a 4-year term as Parent Governor at Edwinstree, I am standing for re-election because I care deeply about our school community and want to continue making a difference for every child.

During my term, I have been the school's Mental Health and Wellbeing link governor, championing initiatives that support pupils' and staffs' happiness, resilience, and success.

As a parent of twin daughters at the school, I bring both a family perspective and professional expertise. I have worked in education for over 20 years and am currently Lead Adviser for RSHE and Wellbeing at HFL Education. In this role, I work with schools and alternative provisions across Hertfordshire, supporting leaders daily on curriculum, wellbeing, SEND, safeguarding, and school improvement. I also train governors—experience which helps me strengthen governance here at Edwinstree.

I have supported the school through Ofsted, school events, and as Vice Chair of the Curriculum Committee. I would love the opportunity to continue working with you all, providing ongoing support for our school community to thrive and our pupils to flourish. I am committed to working in close partnership with you, ensuring your voices are always heard. Thank you for considering me for re-election.

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As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

### Frazer Willett

I am seeking re-election as a parent governor, having served on the governing body since 2021. I am the parent of a year 7 child, my older three children all having passed through Edwinstree. I am therefore grateful for the opportunity to give something back to the school which has been a part of family life for nearly ten years.

It has become clear to me that there are so many facets to running a school, that a variety of skills and knowledge is required of the governing body. Whilst there are others with far more educational expertise on the governing body, I see my contribution as to bring my experience of management in the public sector and perspective as simply being a parent of children at the school, to the discussion. I look forward to continuing to play my part in the exciting times that lie ahead for.



### Edwinstree School Association

We will be holding our AGM at school on Wednesday 22nd October doors open 5.30pm for refreshments and chat with the meeting starting at 6pm. This is an

opportunity to come along and find out what the ESA have achieved over the past year and what we have planned for the coming year.

Thank you to all the teachers and parents for helping out at the 'New Friends' disco on the 19th September. The weather was perfect, the DJ had the school field rocking, and the children seemed to enjoy themselves. £845 was raised at this event and if you have suggestions on how this money should be spent, please come along to the AGM.

If you want to get more involved with the ESA but are unable to make the AGM please email us

at [edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com](mailto:edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com)



### Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Education

Carers in Herts are running a session for Parents/Carers on understanding self-harm in children and young people and giving strategies and practical help to support your child.

Please see flyer attached.

**Mrs J Gant – Headteacher**

[admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

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