



Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
08/07/24	Year 6 Whipsnade Zoo trip. £30.61 per student.
	Water Safety Police Presentation to Year 7 & 8
09/07/24	Sports Day.
<a href="#">11/07/24</a>	<a href="#">County Transition Day.</a>
16/07/24	Visit from Bishop of St Albans.
17/07/24	Year 5 Queens Park trip £14.50 per student.
<a href="#">19/07/24</a>	<a href="#">End of Summer Term 1:20pm.</a>
<a href="#">02/09/24</a>	<a href="#">INSET DAY.</a>
<a href="#">03/09/24</a>	<a href="#">Year 5 Induction Day.</a>
<a href="#">04/09/24</a>	<a href="#">Autumn Term Begins Years 6-8.</a>
16-18/09/24	Year 7 Residential – Essex Outdoors Bradwell. £295.60 per student.
<a href="#">28/10/24 – 01/11/24</a>	<a href="#">Half Term.</a>
<a href="#">06/12/24</a>	<a href="#">Occasional Day.</a>
<a href="#">20/12/24</a>	<a href="#">End of Autumn Term 1:20pm.</a>

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## What did we learn from the parents' consultation on communication?

Thank you to the parents of SEND students who attended the consultation evening. We were impressed and grateful for the advice you have given us, and we are feeding this back to our teams and looking at what tweaks we can make to improve our systems. We will write next week in the newsletter with the first changes we hope to make for next year.

## End of term walk to Aspenden.

The last day of term will involve walking to Aspenden Green weather dependant. We will leave school between 10 – 10.30 and return to school for 12. If you have good walking shoes and are willing to help us by volunteering to get the students there and back safely, please would you email [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

## What is happening on Sports day?

This year's sports day will take place on Tuesday 9th July 2024 and will last the whole day. Children will need to come to school in their PE kits (polo shirt, black shorts, white socks, and trainers) and will not need their school uniforms or books.

As children will be outside for the full day, please ensure that they are suitably equipped for the weather. Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle, sun cream and a cap if it is sunny, and their hoody if it is cold.

The school day will begin and end at normal times. Parents are welcome to attend sports day after our morning break at 11:10am. This will give you the opportunity to see your child compete in a minimum of four of the activity rotations form groups competing against each other in their houses. A schedule of when each group is at each activity is attached for your information.

Following the morning's activities, we will hold a picnic lunch on the school field from 12:45pm. Please remember we are a **nut free school**. **If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please ensure you cancel any school dinner order you may have placed so that you are not charged.** The ESA will kindly be selling juices and soft drinks as well as ice creams.

Following the picnic lunch, we will host several relay races followed by a presentation before pupils return to form rooms to be dismissed at 3:05pm. You are welcome to stay and spectate. If your child has signed up to compete in the relay afternoon event you will have received a Parentmail notifying you of this. If the event finishes early

and you wish to take your child home, please do so by signing out at Main reception.

## How do we safeguard the sports day event?

We would firstly ask that you refrain from taking photos at the event. We have a growing number of parents who are hesitant about photos of their child being taken and displayed without permission. Despite asking each year for photos taken to be stored privately, this hasn't always been adhered to, so we think this is the best solution.

We will instead have a resident photographer, who will take a team shot of each tutor group, that you will be able to access. If you are attending, we will ask you to come through the main reception area where there will be class lists for all year groups –please register in and out with us without fail.

## Afterschool Clubs

Current Afterschool Clubs.

**Running, Netball, Athletics, Art, Cricket** all finish this week.

**Concert and Choir** will continue until the end of term.

**Maths Home Learning, Computing and Gardening club** will continue for 1 more week.

### External run clubs:

Film club will finish on 10th July.

Basketball will finish on 10th July.

Boxing will finish on 18th July.

Yoga will finish on 18th July.

### Gardening Club:



The harvest has begun! Wow, we have had some fabulous produce grown - all the radish and turnips have been harvested. 8 bags of lettuce filled with quite a lot more to go! The leeks are doing well and will only be harvested next school term. Our tomato

plants have started fruiting, hopefully a bumper crop will appear over the holidays, ready for Year 7's to use. Our potatoes will be harvested next week too - just giving them a little more time underground to grow bigger. Our rhubarb is ready for its summer stripping. There are lots of lovely flowers on the squash plants too - hopefully they'll fertilise each other and we will have some pumpkins for Year 8 to use come September/October. Whilst our beans have not grown too tall (as yet) there are quite a few flowers, so hopefully we will get some from the plants. The gardening team has worked incredibly hard this year, and the harvest does make it worth the while! Mrs van Wyk



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## Transition Day Thursday 11th July.

Year 8 Students will have received information on the specifics of transition day, please make sure your child attends in our uniform, if it is hot, this will be PE kit and we will confirm this with you nearer the time. Your child will go straight to Freman for the day.

Our new year 4 students have received an email alerting them to what is happening on the day. For year 5,6, and 7 their timetable and day remains the same, with the students having opportunities to meet the youngest students at lunchtime.

## Food and Nutrition All Years

**Year 5:** Fruit salad practical for 5C on Monday. Please bring in your 5 Fruits including an apple and grapes. Your choice for the other 3 fruits. School will provide the fruit juice. Please remember your liquid tight container.

**Year 6:** Broccoli Salad practical for 6C on Friday. All information is on Satchel 1.

**Year 7:** We are continuing with our Food Science experiment. No ingredients are required as school provides for this lesson.

**Year 8:** Gingerbread demos this week - ingredient requirements will be on Satchel after next week's lesson. A busy two weeks until the end of term. If you are missing any plastic containers, please ask your child to look at the selection of left containers in the Food Room. There are about 25 containers of all sorts of shapes and sizes, but unfortunately not named. Mrs van Wyk

## If you are worried about your child's mental health over the holidays who can support you?

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Mental health services - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#)

[Just Talk \(justtalkherts.org\)](http://justtalkherts.org)

## Year 5 news:

Police Talk

On the last day of term, the police will be visiting in the morning to talk to both year 5 and 6 about how to stay safe in the holidays and play well.

## Year 6 news:

Police Talk

On the last day of term, the police will be visiting in the morning to talk to both year 5 and 6 about how to stay safe in the holidays and play well.

Whipsnade Zoo.

We are looking forward to the visit, we aim to return for 3.20pm but there is a risk we may not make this as we navigate the M1 and M25. Please have back up plans for your child if they normally catch the buses as traffic may delay us, we will send an estimated arrival time when we have departed Whipsnade – to alert you. This will be posted on our face book page and a Parentmail will be sent.

## Year 7 news:

Water Safety – 8<sup>th</sup> July

Year 7 & 8 will be having a presentation from the Police on Water Safety. They have an online survey that students can complete so that Herts Police can get an understanding of students' knowledge and experience. It is worded from the perspective of asking adults about the safety of their children but could equally be completed by students themselves, please us the school postcode of SG9 9AW.

<https://survey.hertsconnected.co.uk/Survey/REGISTRATION/709BF52EED41F862C8C5DE72485F40FB>

## Year 8 news:

Water Safety – 8<sup>th</sup> July

Year 7 & 8 will be having a presentation from the Police on Water Safety. They have an online survey that students can complete so that Herts Police can get an understanding of students' knowledge and experience. It is worded from the perspective of asking adults about the safety of their children but could equally be completed by students themselves, please us the school postcode of SG9 9AW.

<https://survey.hertsconnected.co.uk/Survey/REGISTRATION/709BF52EED41F862C8C5DE72485F40FB>

Pre-loved uniform

Do you have uniform that you would be willing to donate to the nearly new ESA sales? If you do, please drop off at reception before the end of term and or during the holidays. Thank you in advance for any donations it really helps.

SchoolGrid

Please ensure your SchoolGrid account for Year 8's is in credit/cleared prior to the end of term.

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## Camp Out

We were very sad to cancel Fridays planned event, due to the weather forecast.

This event has been planned to provide fun and togetherness, at the end of the student's time here at Edwinstree, and it evolved post COVID as a means of providing a low-cost event for your child. Sadly, we do not have the equipment or facilities to cope with a very wet camp out and can therefore not proceed. We also know that this would be a miserable and diminished experience for all.

I am really pleased to say that having met with the staff who have volunteered to host the event, the majority of them are able to rearrange their calendars so that we can try again to host the event next Friday instead. Where staff are unable to make it, due to family commitments other staff members have stepped into support.

**May I warn you**, that should the weather not improve substantially next Friday, we will be unable to host a third date. So, we are hoping and praying that the weather improves substantially towards the end of next week. We will keep you informed and make the decision on Wednesday. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Information and Preparation for next academic year.

### When will I know my child's tutor and timetable?

For year 5 and 7 the tutor groups stay virtually the same with only minor tweaks that we will speak to individual parents about. Mr Galanides is currently in the process of rearranging the year 6 groupings as they move into year 7. Tutor groups for year 7 will be released in the last week of term. Tutors and timetables will go out with the newsletter next week.

### When do we return to school?

Staff return to school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September for an INSET day. We will welcome Year 5 into school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. School starts for year 6,7, and 8 on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### Extra Transition Visits to current Year 5,6 & 7.

#### How are we supporting children who are extra nervous about returning to school in September?

If you feel your child will struggle coming back into school after the holidays, please book in for a visit before the end of term. We would rather you booked one now and cancelled later, than attempt to book in the holidays. This helps us to plan before the break.

Please contact Mrs Harris from 21<sup>st</sup> of August onwards. From 27<sup>th</sup> August, Mrs Harris will show the students who have booked an appointment, the classroom they will be going into; can go through their new timetable and talk about any worries they may have.

Please email Mrs Harris to arrange a time and date [a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

## New Afterschool clubs starting in September 2024.

Sign-up sheets for afterschool clubs will be sent out in September at the end of the first week of term, and clubs will begin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the new term. The majority of clubs offered to students remain free to the school. However, we do have some private tuition available from the Film Club, Boxing and a new dance class advertised below:

### Edwinstree School Street dance classes

OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS.

Christina Marks will be offering the students of Edwinstree School Street dance classes every Monday after school. Learn the latest dance moves to popular music, these lessons teach a mixture of styles and steps. Classes are taught by our team of passionate CMSOPA teachers who all have showbiz CVs and enhanced DBS.

Class times will run from 3:15-4:15pm

To register and book please follow the link below.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.classforkids.io>

Any queries please do not hesitate to ask.

The ethos which lies at the heart of the school is to dream, aspire, achieve, and excel. Christina Marks Email:

[Christinamarksschoolofperformingarts@hotmail.com](mailto:Christinamarksschoolofperformingarts@hotmail.com)

Tel 07525850232

### PE Reminder

For PE next year, all classes will need a mouth guard, black football socks, shin pads and football boots in order to safely participate in hockey, football, and rugby lessons.

### What is our Uniform reminder for next year?

Our uniform list is attached. Please do not forget the ESA offer a nearly new service for parents and this will be on display at transition evening on Thursday of next week and available for a view to other parents on Friday pm after school. Please also find link here to their website:

<https://edwinstree-school-association.sumupstore.com/>

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## What equipment are we asking students to bring into school with them next term?

To support your child to learn, please can we ask that you provide them in September with the following:

- Pencil case
- Blue or black pens
- Green pen
- HB pencils
- Ruler (30cm measured in cm and mm)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Whiteboard pen/rubber
- Glue stick
- A small pack of colouring pencils (basic colours)

Year 7&8: scientific calculator (available to purchase at a discount from school)

You may wish to provide highlighter pens.

Any parent that is struggling to manage this please contact [s.marler@edwinstree,herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.marler@edwinstree,herts.sch.uk).

## Why are we asking students to bring in this equipment?

Firstly, during the pandemic, we moved to the school supplying students with basic equipment as a safety measure to prevent the spread of Covid. This has cost the school many thousands of pounds, which we simply can no longer budget for. Secondly, we have found that students who are prepared for lessons are also prepared for learning. As we begin to introduce our new ethos of 'commitment' we will be asking students to be committed to their learning by being fully prepared. We appreciate your support with this.

## Local Events

What is available for my child to participate in, during the Summer?

### Swimathon

Flyer Attached

### Summer Reading Challenge



Get ready for a summer of imagination and creativity at your local Hertfordshire Library! The **Marvellous Makers** Summer Reading Challenge is here to

spark the joy of reading and creative arts, while addressing the dip in reading levels that can often occur during the summer holidays.

In collaboration with The Reading Agency and Create, a leading arts charity, we're celebrating creativity and storytelling for our young readers. This year's Challenge is an open invitation for children to explore books and stories, while taking part in free activities. From poetry and

music to arts and crafts, there's something for every young creator.

The Challenge begins at all Hertfordshire Libraries from **Saturday 6 July**, and continues until **Saturday 7 September**. Children are encouraged to read six library books and collect exclusive stickers along the way. And that's not all—finishers of the Challenge will receive a medal and certificate, and a chance to win tickets to an interactive poetry workshop with the celebrated poet, Joshua Seigal. Keep an eye out for pop-up Maker Stations at select libraries during the summer holidays, offering simple, engaging, and free activities designed to unleash the creative spirit in every child.

Curious to learn more? Visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge) for all the details on the Challenge and discover some marvellous makes to create at home.

### Theatre Based Workshop at Edwinstree

Below is a flyer advertising an opportunity for students who would wish to engage in drama -with our local drama team, who have worked both nationally and internationally with children – providing meaningful drama.

From the 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of August students will have the opportunity to participate in drama workshops based around thinking about what they would like to see and be in their future. At the end of the week parents and local dignitaries will be invited to view their drama pieces based around this discussion. To sign up for this event please contact [rosey@peacechild.org](mailto:rosey@peacechild.org)

A blue flyer for a workshop titled 'Creating the Future You Want'. It features a group of diverse children standing in a circle with their arms around each other. Text includes 'BUNTINGFORD LIVE!', 'in association with Peace Child International and Kaleido Theatre presents', 'Creating the Future You Want', 'A week of fun theatre based workshops for 8-12 year-olds to explore what they would like the world to be like when they grow up. Through games and improvisations the children will create a short performance that will be shared with friends and family at the end of the week.', 'Monday 5th - Friday 9th August 10am - 2.30pm, Edwinstree School Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford', '£40 for the week (£20 deposit on booking)', 'To book please contact Rosey: [rosey@peacechild.org](mailto:rosey@peacechild.org)', and 'Scholarships Available'. Logos for 'Peace Child International' and 'Kaleido Theatre' are at the bottom.

*Mrs J Gant – Headteacher*

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

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