



NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 05/12/2025.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework week: B

Diary Dates:



05/12/25	Occasional Day
10/12/25	 Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch Day 
11/12/25	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Services (am)
12/12/25	Year 7 & 8 Christmas Services (am)
15/12/25	Freman College, Edwinstree Middle School, Anstey First School Christmas Concert 5.30pm
16/12/25	Fullness Day for The Child Brain Trust
17/12/25	Lister Hospital carol singing
19/12/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
05/01/26	INSET Day
06/01/26	Start of Spring Term
13/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5B English and Maths 5D English and Maths 8C English, Maths, Science
14/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 8A English, Maths, Science
15/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7D English, Maths, Science 7B English, Maths, Science
20/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5A English and Maths 8B English, Maths, Science
21/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5C English and Maths 7A English, Maths, Science
22/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7C English, Maths, Science 8D English, Maths, Science
03/02/26	Year 8 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
16-20/02/26	Half Term
24/02/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6A Maths and English 6D Maths and English
03/03/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6B Maths and English 6C Maths and English
04/03/26	Y7 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
27/03/26	End of Term 1:20pm.
13/04/26	Start of Summer Term
21/04/26	Y6 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
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.

Table of Contents

What is left on our Christmas calendar?.....	1
Christmas Jumper Day.....	1
Christmas Dinner Day.....	1
Christmas Jumper Swap Shop.....	1
Christmas Tree Festival – Deadline 11 th December.....	2
Joint concert with Freman College, Edwinstree and Anstey First School. 5.30pm start, held at Edwinstree. Monday 15 th December.....	2
Christmas Services.....	2
Hampers.....	2
My children want to wear odd socks on Monday, why?	2
How is COWO used to support advent and the Christmas story?	2
Afterschool Enrichment Clubs.....	2
You said, We did	3
Wellbeing Survey.....	3
Stranger Things Age Rating.....	3
Free Youth Activities in Buntingford	3

We hope you enjoy our occasional day and look forward to seeing the children on Monday.

What is left on our Christmas calendar?



Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Dinner Day



Takes place on Wednesday 10th December.



If your child would like a Christmas lunch, please ensure you order via SchoolGrid. Cost is £3.50, payments are made via the SchoolGrid website.

Please ensure you book your child's Christmas dinner by Friday 5th December to enable the kitchen to prepare accordingly.

Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

Our Christmas jumper swap shop will be back again this year but organised slightly differently.

The Swap shop will be open for business on Tuesday 2nd December in the outdoor classroom between 3pm and 3.30pm. Simply bring in your old Christmas jumper on the 2nd December and at 3pm make your way to the outdoor classroom to swap it for a 'new to you' one. School gates will open at the usual time and parents are then welcome to come to the swap shop as well.



T-shirts and tops are welcome, and you can bring as many items as you wish to swap. Please note you cannot buy the jumpers, only swaps are allowed so do not send any money with your child.

Christmas Tree Festival – Deadline 11th December

It's that time of year again, where we will soon be decorating the tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church, Aspenden. We welcome any handmade decorations that you would like to make together with your child! These could be made from paper, cardboard or any recycled materials you have. Our theme will be 'what brings us joy at Christmas time.'

Any handmade decorations can be handed to the Art room, the deadline is the 11th of December. Thank you, Mrs Burches

Joint concert with Freman College, Edwinstree and Anstey First School. 5.30pm start, held at Edwinstree. Monday 15th December

The Christmas concert is a wonderful opportunity for our students to display their musical talents and spread the holiday cheer. Please note that unfortunately spaces for this event are limited due to venue constraints, and as a result we are only able to offer spaces to families of the students participating in the event.

The ESA will be serving mulled wine and washing up. We would like a few parents to help us if possible. Please let the ESA or school office know if you could spare a couple of hours.

Christmas Services

Thursday 11th December – Year 5 and Year 6

Friday 12th December – Year 7 and Year 8

Christmas Services at St Peter's.

Can you help in getting the children there?

If you are able to help walk students to St Peter's Church in Buntingford, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Calling all bakers... Can you help provide a snack for our student's for the Christmas Service, If you are able to help, please would you bring your donations to the school office. Please kindly note we are a nut free school.

The ESA will be serving hot chocolate to the children on the mornings of 11th and 12th December between 9am and 11am either before or after their walk to church, we could do with a few more parents to help serve the squirty cream and wash up the cups. Please let the ESA or school office know if you could spare a couple of hours. Thank you

Thursday 11th December		Friday 12th December	
Year 6		Year 8	
8.55am	Y6 to their fire lines	8.55am	Y8 to their fire lines
9.05am	Leave school	9.05am	Leave school
9.25am	Arrive at St Peter's	9.25am	Arrive at St Peter's
9.30am	Service	9.30am	Service
10.00am	Leave church and go back to school	10.00am	Leave church and go back to school
10.15am	Back at school	10.15am	Back at school
Year 5		Year 7	
9.40am	Y5 to their fire lines	9.40am	Y7 to their fire lines
9.50am	Leave school	9.50am	Leave school
10.05am	Arrive at St Peter's	10.05am	Arrive at St Peter's
10.10am	Service	10.10am	Service
10.40am	Leave church and go back to school	10.40am	Leave church and go back to school
10.55am	Back at school	10.55am	Back at school

Hampers

We have launched our Food Bank Hamper appeal, where we ask tutor groups to collect Christmas hamper treats that are donated to some of our most vulnerable families for Christmas. Suggested items that we will be asking students to bring in are:



- Chocolate Christmas log or non-alcoholic Christmas cake.
- Children's Christmas chocolate e.g. selection box.
- After dinner/adult chocolate (no alcohol filled ones please).
- Small sweets packet (e.g. Christmassy Haribo).
- Fancy sweet biscuits.
- Pringles or similar.
- Cheesy/savoury biscuits or similar.
- Dried fruit (e.g. apricots, figs etc).
- Tinned ham.
- Tinned tuna/salmon.
- Sweet pickles/chutney.
- Jam.
- Shower gel, hand soap or shampoo.

Thank you for any donations you can offer. The children are challenged to create a hamper that any family would feel loved and blessed to receive. If you have decorations, paper, tinsel to decorate the hamper these will be welcome as well.

My children want to wear odd socks on Monday, why?

As part of the national campaign for Anti bullying, students can wear odd socks on Monday's until the end of term. This is a silent protest, please let them if they request it!

How is COWO used to support advent and the Christmas story?

We will be using the Church of England resources which are focusing on the advent theme of joy in the Christmas story. Attached to the newsletter are slides that we are using as part of COWO if you would like to share in the messages your children are receiving.

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

Please note that afterschool enrichment clubs will not run on the last week of term.

Netball, Football, Rugby and Basketball have now finished for the term, all students have been made aware.

You will have an opportunity to sign your child up at the start of the term – clubs will be up and running from the 2nd week of term.

*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 5 News

You said, We did

Thank you to those Parent/ Carers that completed our Year 5 parent survey- your feedback is greatly appreciated and helps us improve.

Below we have focused on your suggestions and how we will respond.

You Said...	We did...
"PE kit on PE days"	<i>We do all-weather PE which means they get muddy/wet. However, we recognise that post-covid many schools moved to wearing PE kit all day. We do review the decision about PE kits every year.</i>
"Feedback and Meeting with Tutor has not happened"	<i>We held a "Meet the Tutor" event on Tuesday 30th September where there was the opportunity to liaise with the tutor. Attendance to this evening was less than 40%. If you ever want to discuss your child let us know and we will reach out.</i>
"Less Home-Learning"	<i>Liaison with first schools suggested we were setting less than they did in Y4- we will go back and look again.</i>
"Concerns in school"	<i>We will always listen. We are human and do not get everything right, please do always talk to us.</i>
"More Transition"	<i>We are looking to run more visits throughout the school year, such as delivering a PE lesson.</i>
"In year entry- delayed start?"	<i>If we are taking a mid-year student, we have to collect data from their current school and meet them and yourselves. This does make the process slower but we want to ensure we have as much information as we can to help your child have a smooth start to the school and succeed with us. Thank you for your patience.</i>
"Extra SEND and Well-being support"	<i>EHCP and SEND families are encouraged to meet the SEND team prior to starting to consider how we can best support your child. Over the summer, the wellbeing hub holds sessions for new students to come in when the school is quiet. We have offered open afternoons this term for parents to book in and visit the Learning and Wellbeing Hubs. Several parents have taken up this opportunity. If your child ever requires support, please do contact us.</i>
"Apps and Forms were confusing"	<i>We agree, it was a new system this year and there were teething issues. We will look to create a better timed and more streamlined communication of this.</i>

Wellbeing Survey

Since Covid many of us are talking about wellbeing a great deal more. Some of us have noticed that we are ourselves struggling with our wellbeing and perhaps our children are struggling too. At Edwinstree we do our very best to support through our tutors, pastoral teams and the wellbeing hub.

We are keen to track wellbeing within the school and are looking to perform a very short wellbeing survey called the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale. It is a very simple age-appropriate survey with 12 questions and has been used by many schools and outside organisations such as CAHMS.

By using such a simple survey, we can also compare ourselves to the average score. The idea is that we repeat the survey for 3 times within the year to track the overall direction of wellbeing within the school and we can also see whether there are particular groups (i.e. a year group, boys/girls) that are impacted more.

The Anna Freud Centre have produced an overview of the survey here: [Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale](#) and the questions themselves are shown here: [Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale with Example Report.pdf](#)

Stranger Things Age Rating

We hope you are not offended but we wanted as a staff to flag our concerns about younger children anticipating watching this drama.

Netflix's *Stranger Things* has been given a **15 certificate** in the UK. This rating reflects the show's mature themes, including violence, frightening imagery, and occasional strong language.

- **What the rating means:** Officially, the BBFC advises that children under 15 should not watch.
- **Your role as parents:** Ultimately, you know your child best. Some young people may be more sensitive to scary or intense content, while others may handle it differently.
- **Guidance not rules:** The certificate is there to help you make informed choices, but it is not a substitute for parental judgment.
- **Practical tip:** If your child is interested, consider watching an episode together first. That way, you can decide whether the tone and content feel appropriate for them.

Free Youth Activities in Buntingford

Please find attached a flyer promoting two youth projects being delivered at The Sports Pavillion, Norfolk Playing Fields, Buntingford, on Friday 19th and Tuesday 23rd December. Aimed at 11-16 year olds, they are free to attend, all equipment is provided, and there is no need to book.

Mrs J.Gant – Headteacher
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