



Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

06/12/24	Occasional Day.
11/12/24	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas School Lunch £3.35
12/12/24	Year 7 and Year 8 Christmas Services at St Peter's
13/12/24	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Services at St Peter's
18/12/24	Joint concert with Freman College. 6pm start, held at Edwinstree.
20/12/24	End of Term 1:20pm.
06/01/25	INSET Day
07/01/25	Start of Spring Term
13/01/25	Year 8 HPV Vaccination
14/01/25	7A & 7C - Online Academic Review
16/01/25	5A & 5D - Online Academic Review
21/01/25	7B, 7D, 5B - Online Academic Review
23/01/25	5C - Online Academic Review / Year 8 In Person Foundation Evening
03-06/02/25	Year 6 Mock SATs
17-21/02/25	Half Term
25/02/25	6A & 6D - Online Academic Review
04/03/25	6B & 6C - Online Academic Review
10/03/25	6A Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6B Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
11/03/25	6C Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6D Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
20/03/25	Year 7 In Person Foundation Evening
04/04/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
22/04/25	Start of Summer Term
05/05/25	Bank Holiday
08/05/25	Year 6 In Person Foundation Evening
12-15/05/25	Year 6 SATs
26-30/05/25	Half Term
05/06/25	Year 5 In Person Foundation Evening
27/06/25	INSET Day
10/07/25	County Transition Day Parent Transition Evening 5-6pm
18/07/25	End of Term 1:20pm.



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Music Events

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

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Christmas Tree Festival at Aspenden church.

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Year 5 students from Layston First School

Year 6 Science

Year 8 Life Skills

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Music Events

As we approach the season of Advent and head towards Christmas, we would like to share with you the music events that are coming up between now and the end of term.

- Thursday 12th December** – Year 7 and Year 8 Christmas Services at St Peter's. Timings to be confirmed but services between 10am and 12pm.
 - Can you help in getting the children there?
We always have a cookie and/ or cake treat during the Christmas service and a hot chocolate.
 - Can you help?
Bakers to the ready, we will need some treats to hand out and you are always brilliant at this. Please drop off either on the day before or the morning of the service.
- Friday 13th December** – Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Services at St Peter's. Timings to be confirmed but services between 10am and 12pm.
 - Can you help in getting the children there?
We always have a cookie and/ or cake treat during the Christmas service and a hot chocolate.
 - Can you help?
Bakers to the ready, we will need some treats to hand out and you are always brilliant at this. Please drop off either on the day before or the morning of the service.
- Thursday 18th December** - Joint concert with Freman College. 6pm start, held at Edwinstree. All welcome!



Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

Christmas jumper day, and school Christmas lunch are taking place on Wednesday 11th December.

The Christmas lunch is available to book on SchoolGrid at a cost of £3.35. Please ensure you book your child's Christmas dinner by Friday 6th December to enable the kitchen to prepare accordingly.

Menu attached.



What else are students up to over the season?

This week we launched our annual Christmas hampers appeal. We are asking you and your child to gift something to create 16 tutor group Christmas hampers, the suggested items are listed below. Local families have really appreciated the fine gifts you give them, and we thank you in advance for this work.

- 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.

Christmas Tree Festival at Aspenden church.



Our art club are busy preparing decorations for our entry to the Christmas tree festival for the Church, which takes place on the 13th of December.

What are our snow procedures?

Please see attached to this newsletter our snow procedures, along with a consent form link to complete.

If your child lives in Buntingford and is KS2, [Year 5 or Year 6] please be aware that we cannot release your child from school without a designated person to collect them. Please confirm the name of the designated person[s] permitted to collect your child from school. If your KS2 child has an older sibling in KS3, please indicate that you are happy for both of them to go home together.

If your child lives in Buntingford and is KS3 [Year 7 or Year 8] and you are happy for your child to be released from school without adult supervision, please give permission for your child to walk home and confirm they have a key to get in. Please indicate if you wish your child to wait for your designated person[s] to collect them from school. Please be aware we cannot release your child from school without written parental consent. Buses maybe early if snow is forecast.

Curriculum Focus week.

Please find attached our Curriculum Autumn Term newsletter.

Keeping Children Safe at Edwinstree

Please find attached a list of our current Designated Safeguarding Team

Drama Production 2025



We are excited to announce that the school production this year is "Wizard of Oz" by Tom Kirkham. There has been a lot of interest from the students from the sign-up sheets on Mrs Gant's door – if your child is interested in auditioning, please complete the permission form linked below.

Students must be committed to attend full rehearsals on Mondays and Wednesdays until 4.15pm and be available for show week: w/c 30th June for technical and dress rehearsals during the school day and the shows on 3rd and 4th July.

<https://forms.office.com/e/FdpkqzGC0s>

Thank you, Mrs Brock and Mrs Booth.

Social Media Concern

Over the weekend on TikTok, a variety of altered imaged pictures of members of staff, and then derogatory commentary asking for likes were posted. The sites have our name *Edwinstree* as the title.

May we please ask that you check your child's phone and remove any sites with these images and the name *Edwinstree* from their phone. We would also ask that you remind your child that the teachers at school have children, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and that this material causes stress to not only themselves but their family members.

We thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

[Is TikTok safe? | NSPCC](#)

On Monday, Years 7 & 8 will take part in an information session on staying safe on mobile phones and the unexpected consequences, thoughtless and spiteful messages can have on all of us.

We will also be talking to them about the Attention Economy, how we are all the product not the consumer for Apps and online devices, which earn their money from collecting data from us and selling this to companies. To earn money, they design devices and social media apps that "enrage to engage" all of us. The devices recognise that we are more likely to stay online if the information we are fed makes us angry or upset. For example, if a group meet for a sleep over and/or party, and then post comments about their evening on a group chat, the positive comments are superseded by anything negative, this goes straight to the top of the chat room.

We are using *Stolen Focus 2022* written by research and Booker prize author Johann Hari, who has investigated the above and more, to inform our practice and understanding of the strengths, but also the damage our online world can create.

*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 students from Layston First School

Year 5 students who went to Layston First School have been invited to attend the dress rehearsal of their Christmas play. This will be happening on Monday 9th December. Students will be accompanied by staff.

Year 6 Science

Year 6 have had a very exciting week in the science labs, this week they reinforced their learning about the circulatory system by dissecting a lamb's heart. The children were engaged and enthused, and we heard the following comments:

"I know we've learnt a lot about the heart, but now I feel like I really understand it."

"I was so worried about this lesson, but this has been my favourite lesson ever."

"I think I would be a good surgeon when I grow up."

"It's so different to the paper hearts that we've labelled before. I'm so glad I got to see it in real life."

Well done Year 6 for taking part with such focus and enthusiasm, we are very proud of you.

Mrs Taylor

Year 8 Life Skills

In Year 8 we are studying Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing. We are looking at different ways of promoting emotional wellbeing as well as some of the challenges. At Edwinstree we believe in "Living Life to The Full" which will sometimes include difficult topics, this will include some challenging topics such as change, loss and grief as well as healthy and unhealthy coping strategies; the latter includes mention of eating disorders and self-harm. If you have any concerns, then please do contact the school office.

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

Please note that internally run afterschool enrichment clubs **will not run** on the last week of term except for:

Monday 16th – Concert Band

Wednesday 18th – Maths Home Learning

Externally run clubs will notify any changes directly to you.

New sign-up lists will be available after the Christmas holidays.

FILMMAKERS is coming to back to school for the Spring Term. They start on Wednesday 8th January 2025. This term is for 12 weeks with 2 extended sessions to equate to 13 hours. focus is on building confidence through teamwork. Learn all about voice projection, pronunciation, timing, focus and projecting various emotions as you work through each scene and embrace the exciting challenge of acting. You will also learn about camera angles, composition of frame. Looking at music, sound effects, special effects and how to make the story unfold and come to life with the best sounds & effects & backgrounds. Pupils plan & storyboard their ideas in advance of filming their very own blockbuster movie whilst also learning the important roles of Camera operator, Director & Clapperboard operator. Pupils plan/design costumes/props required to add that extra special touch to each scene.

For any queries contact Gill on hertsbedsfilmclub@gmail.com or 07341305131. Or check out the webpage and see parent feedback and pictures from on set in our other schools.

Payment is split over 3 monthly payments of £32.16 per month which includes 13 session hours and the fully edited film. No Fees due now a Link will be sent in January 2025! Spaces limited to 15. **Limited spaces available.**



We hope you enjoy the Occasional day as a family this week.

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

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