



**Edwinstree Term dates:**

[Term Dates 2025-26 & 2026-27.pdf](#)

**Homework week: B**

**Diary Dates:**

19 & 20/03/26	Star Warts: The Umpire Strikes Back School Production <a href="#">Doors open at 6, Curtain up at 6.30pm</a>
23/03/26	P1 - 6C parents (SATS) - SBL, STS P2 - 6A parents (SATS) - SBL, DFL
24/03/26	P1 - 6B parents (SATS) - CME, DFL P2 - 6D parents (SATS) - CME, STS
26/03/26	Easter Services in school
27/03/26	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>
13/04/26	<a href="#">Start of Summer Term</a>
22/04/26	Y5 RE trip (all day) - Faith in Queen's Park
21/04/26	Y6 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
04/05/26	<a href="#">Bank Holiday</a>
11-14/05/26	Year 6 SATs
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
19/05/26	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation for Year 8.
25-29/05/26	<a href="#">Half Term</a>
26/06/26	<a href="#">INSET Day</a>
09/07/26	<a href="#">County Transition Day</a>
17/07/26	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>

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### How are we managing the situation in the Middle East with your child?

A number of teachers have reported that an anxious child or two in their classes, have been asking about the conflict and whether they will be bombed? We have taken to answering as honestly as we can. In reminding them that we are a long way from the region, and this is not likely. We have advised that spending a long time scrolling about the situation will not help them or those who are suffering, and to focus on the good things we can do for each other here in school and at home. This is where we can make a difference.

### World Book Day

Thank you for the £1 donations that have gone to supporting our drama production this year, to support the purchase of costumes and improve the sound and lighting equipment. We enjoyed the character and prop dressing that came into the school, and the good conversations about favourite authors and books that took place in English.

### Could we make one small request around non-uniform?

Please could you try to health check your child's outfit before leaving for school. We had too many *oh so short* skirts and/or skorts this time, that we could not pick the students off to have a gentle word about mindful dressing. I will talk to the girls next week, but if you can support us, I would appreciate it.

How do we know when they are too short? When a child is constantly re-adjusting their length every couple of minutes and struggles to bend down to pick up their bag. Thank you for any help you can give.

## What building work will be taking place at Edwinstree?

We are pleased to confirm that if all goes to plan, we will see in September 2027 a new Gym at the bottom of the school, fully refurbished Science rooms and 4 new classrooms, including an ICT suite, to support the expanding role that Herts believe will occur with property development in Buntingford. Thank you to Herts County Council, and S106 developers funds that were released to us to support this. The build should start in January 2027 if planning permission follows the normal process.

## What happened in COWO this week?

In COWO with Mrs Gant, students thought about who Jesus surrounded himself with in Lent, in particular we focused on Peter, and how he might be a model to show us how working with God can often conflict with messages we are given in modern day society. For example, generosity is about spirit not necessarily about money.

In tutor group COWO students considered how Lent can be about offering generosity to others and examples of the *40 days of generosity* challenge were shared with students. If you want to try making someone's day here is the link to the daily act of generosity <https://youtu.be/ZbvGQMI4oDw>

It certainly helped me focus on something positive and took my mind off the news this week.

## Timetable changes.

Year 8 Technology groups swap next week. There are also some minor changes to timetables of 5C, 5D, 6D and 7D. Students have been talked through the changes today and will be reminded throughout next week. The changes *should* take place on Satchel over the weekend. Mrs Brock will be taking over from Mr Wisson in teaching Humanities to year 5.

## LifeSkills – All Year

Please be aware that a number of year groups will be looking at the topic of substances to a greater or lesser extent. We mainly focus on aspects such as caffeine/energy drinks, tobacco, vaping and alcohol though for KS3 we will also mention other substances, how they fit in with the law and people's attitudes to substances.

Year 7 students have been learning vital first aid skills. A key focus has been understanding how to safely place someone in the recovery position, an important skill that can help keep an unconscious person breathing while waiting for emergency help.

To support their learning, students have also been watching age-appropriate St John Ambulance training videos. These short clips introduce real-life scenarios in a calm and accessible way. While they include discussions of injuries, they do not show visible blood, ensuring the content remains suitable for younger learners.

If you have any concerns, then please do contact the school on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

## School Dinners

The cost of a dinner will increase from £3.50 to £3.60 from 1st April 2026. Please log on to [www.schoolgrid.co.uk](http://www.schoolgrid.co.uk) to book your child's dinners.

## Alarm in school today

We would like to let you know that we experienced a very brief power cut early in the school day today, which caused our burglar alarm to activate. A few students were concerned that it might have been the lockdown alarm and staff quickly reassured them and confirmed that it was simply a power-related alarm issue.

## Year 5 News:

### Year 5 RE Educational Visit Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

We are delighted to, once again, be able to offer Year 5 the opportunity to visit "Faith in Queen's Park" in Bedford.

The visit will entail a tour of a Church, Gurdwara and Mosque. Being able to see places of worship alongside different faiths working together is a wonderful learning experience for all our pupils. Many of our pupil visitors last year still reflect upon their visit (they particularly liked the bandanas in the Gurdwara and ceiling in the Mosque!)

Please see attached letter and PowerPoint presentation regarding the trip.

## Year 6 News

### 6B Merit Winners

6B will have a non-uniform day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March for winning the merit competition last half term.

### SATs Workshops

We would like to invite parents into school to look at SATs papers with children on the following dates. Teachers will be there to answer any questions you may have.

If you are unable to make the session we will be sending papers home.

- 6C 9-9:45am 16<sup>th</sup> March
- 6A 10-10:45am 16<sup>th</sup> March
- 6B 9-9:45am 17<sup>th</sup> March
- 6D 10-10:45am 17<sup>th</sup> March

### Are you able to support us with the SATs?

**Official SATs Dates: 11/05/2026 -14/05/2026 - 8.45– 11.00am**

Duties include supporting teachers in the classroom and working with students as a reader, scribe, or prompt. We will provide a short amount of training for this on the day. Many students require this support, and we are always incredibly grateful to anyone who volunteers, as this ensures that all students receive the support that they need.

If you can help on any of the days, please complete the following form. [SATs helpers for 2026 – Fill in form](#)

## School Production

Edwinstree Middle School proudly presents  
Star Warts: The Umpire Strikes Back  
Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March  
Doors open 6pm  
Curtain up 6.30pm



Tickets £4 each or group ticket for four £10 (max 3 adults)

To purchase tickets please use this link:

[Star Warts Musical Tickets 19th & 20th March](#)

If you have any access requirements, please let us know by writing in the 'Message for Merchant' box in the shopping cart or checkout order summary.

All proceeds from ticket sales go towards the cost of putting on the next show.

## Music Hubs Evaluation – Parent Music Survey



**Department  
for Education**

This survey is part of the Music Hubs Evaluation, which is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research on behalf of the Department for Education. An important objective of the evaluation is to explore experiences of children and young people who are involved in music making, to help the government identify ways to improve access and provision of music education in England.

We want to hear from a wide range of parents and schools to learn about their current engagement with music activities. This is a great opportunity to be involved in this vital work, which will inform future policy and practice for music education.

We conducted a similar survey in 2024. If you took part last time, we would like to thank you for helping our research. Having parents fill out this survey again will help us understand how their experiences and views of music education have changed since last time. We were delighted with the excellent response from parents previously, and we are hoping for the same again this year!

An interim report from the evaluation has now been published and it provides an overview of emerging findings and the impact of your contribution so far. The report can be accessed at:

[Music hubs evaluation: interim report - GOV.UK](#)

### Who can complete the survey?

Parents of students in years 7-13 who take part in co-curricular music activities or undertake music GCSEs, BTEC or A-levels are eligible to take part.

### How should parents complete the survey?

<https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/MusicHubsParentSurvey2026>

### Information:

<https://natcen.ac.uk/musicprogrammes-parentmusicsurvey2026informationsheet>

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*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.*