Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 06/11/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates:

Term Dates 2026-27 & 2027-28

Homework week: - A

Diary Dates:

11-12/11/26	Year 6 Lancaster Model
13/11/26	Children in Need Day Non-uniform £1 donation 
17/11/26	Flu vaccination Mop Up
19/11/26	Year 7 Hertfordshire Lieutenancy presentation in school 5C/5D Greek Workshops in school
20/11/26	5A/5B Greek Workshops in school
23/11/26	6A/6D Greek Workshops in school
24/11/26	6B/6C Greek Workshops in school
01/12/26	Year 5 Christingle (PM)
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
08/12/26	KS2 Christmas Services at St Peter's
10/12/26	KS3 Christmas Services at St Peter's
16/12/26	Joint Freman / Edwinstree Christmas Concert – 6pm
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.
04/01/27	INSET DAY
05/01/27	Start of Term

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How to we all help get our chidlren to school safely?

Hertfordshire County Council Crossing Patrol



The School Crossing Patrol Team are running their annual ***Stop Means Stop*** Campaign. This year, the whole of the East of England are running this campaign at the same time. ***Stop Means Stop*** is designed to remind drivers how important it is for them to stop when they see the School Crossing Patrol and how important this is for the safety of the children that they cross.
Please take a moment to look at the flyer attached and discuss with your children.

We have noticed an increase in parents parking outside the gate to drop off, there are clear yellow lines asking you not to. Can you please find alternative parking spaces, as we have bikes, staff cars, vulnerable students and parents all trying to enter using the front entrance.

Thank you for your support. Please remember we welcome late students we don't shout and yell so if you park at the park or Sainsbury's carpark and it takes a little longer, we want them to get here safely.

Collective Worship this week

In Collective Worship this week, we started to introduce this term's value, '**Peace**', as well as exploring spirituality. Students were reminded that the church teaches us to be fully human, to understand ourselves who are our most important people, where we find beauty, and what do we think about beyond. There are no right answers, but when we are feeling a little lost spirituality can help. Who is your closest person? Where do you find beauty and peace to calm you?

Singing was with Year 5 and 8, continuing to learn our Edwinstree favourites.

Uniform Check

We will be carrying out a uniform check next week, this will take place in tutor time and is very low key. Students will be informed on Monday. If we notice they are missing something, we will give you a telephone call to offer support to get them into the right uniform. We are already aware of SEND students who have an adaptation that alters their uniform requirement.

Would your child like to take part in the decoration of the Edwinstree Christmas Tree Competition?

We would love your child to create a Christmas decoration for the **Edwinstree Christmas Tree**, which will be entered into the **Aspenden Christmas Tree Competition**.
Using **paper or card**, create a decoration that represents **Joy** and what makes Christmas special to you.

Please hand your decoration to **Mrs Burches by Friday 27th November** so it can be laminated and displayed on our tree. If you need paper, just pop into the Art Room.
We can't wait to see your wonderful creations!

What costs will occur this half term that we can alert you to?

As we come up to the most expensive time of year, we wanted to notify you well in advance of the small costs we will be asking all students to voluntarily contribute to:

Children in Need Day – 13th November

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 13th November. We will hold a non-uniform day and ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 payable via Arbor.

Buntingford Christmas Market

The ESA will be asking for donations to support our school at the lights of love Christmas Market. They are looking for chocolate or a good quality teddy, to raffle off on our stall.

Fullness Day

Is taking place in the first week in December. This is a day that a student has suggested and planned to raise funds for a charity close to their heart. The first Fullness Day is for the animal shelter in Hare St. Students will be able to video and enter their pet for a talent competition, we are seeking the most unique and wonderful examples of our loved pets! We are looking at the possibility of a bake sale and also a non uniform day with a £1 donation more details to follow.

Christmas hampers

For the Food bank – We have a tradition of asking each tutor group in December to collect a food hamper for Christmas for local families struggling at this time of year. Students are asked for yummy donations to bring someone joy.

Please remember everything is voluntary and no one is ever questioned if they cannot contribute.

Year 5 & 6 Greek Educational Workshop – In School

The cost of this workshop will be **£7.28** per student, details below in Student News.

Christmas Reading Challenge – All Years

On Monday 9th November, all years will begin our Christmas Reading Streak Challenge. The aim is simple: read every day from Monday 9th November to Monday 14th December and keep the streak alive!

Students will receive a bookmark to record their reading. We ask that parents/carers sign the bookmark each week to confirm that their child has maintained their reading streak.

Children who successfully complete the challenge will receive a certificate and an invitation to a special Christmas Celebration Party.

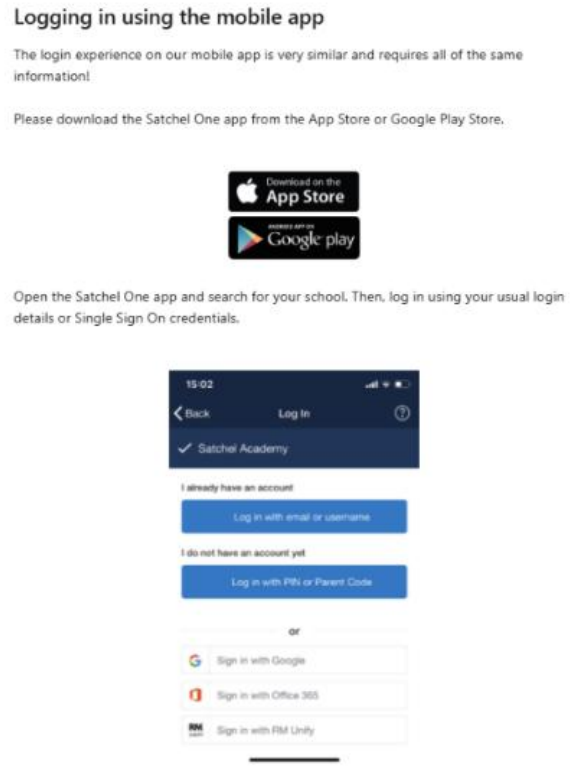
Thank you for supporting your child with their reading and helping them to develop a lifelong love of books.

Year 5 News:

Satchel One App

If students were in their computing lesson this week, all of Year 5 have now logged into Satchel One, which is where we set homework. There is an app that they are able to log into at home, which can be downloaded from any app store.

Once downloaded, to log in they search for 'Edwinstree' and use the 'Sign in with Office 365' option. They need their school email address - which is their username@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk - and the password they use to log into the network at school.



Year 5 & 6 News:

Greek Educational Workshop – In School

As part of our new topic on the ancient Greeks, we are delighted to be able to offer Y5 & Y6 the opportunity to take part in an ancient Greek workshop run by a professional Historian from 'Portals to the Past'. The students will spend the whole day taking part in hands-on activities and this will provide the students with a real insight into the ancient Greeks, bringing their learning to life!

The cost of this workshop will be **£7.28** per student. Payment is non-refundable unless due to exceptional circumstances your child is not able to attend the workshop.

Payment can be made via the Arbor App and should be completed by **Monday 9th November 2026.**

If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We will always support you.

National spelling competition

Year 5 and 6 are entering a national spelling competition next week and will have access to a game-based learning platform called Emile from now until the end of November. They will have been given their login details in class so please help them log on or download the app at home to help us make it through to the next round!
Please see the details in the attached letter.

Year 6 News:

National Child Measurement Programme 11th & 12th November

Please see the attached letter regarding the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) which is undertaken with the year 6 pupils.
Within the letter there is also an **opt out** link, which is also below.
School Screening Form

Year 7 News:

Hertfordshire Lieutenancy visit to Year 7

On the 19th of November, Year 7 will have a visit from the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy, to explore the role of the Monarchy in Britain and British and Commonwealth values. This is a very special event as the Lieutenancy are representatives of the King.
Home - The Lieutenancy of Hertfordshire

Food and Nutrition – All Years

We have had a wonderful start to the half term. A warming smell of cheese straws and hearty hidden veg spaghetti Bolognese has filled the Food corridor this week.

Year 5 will be baking cheese straws next week. Please note that all they need to bring in is **75g flour, 50g butter or margarine and 75g of their favourite hard cheese.** All details are on Satchel One. A litre sized container is needed for any straws that make it home.

Year 6 spent time this week, looking at what healthy benefits there were to their pasta salad. Many were quite amazed that you find calcium in lettuce!

Year 7 have watched their demonstration for Spaghetti Bolognese. Please remember we need celery and 2 more veg for our hidden veg. If you don't normally eat celery, please use a different veggie. Hidden veg are of your choosing, but can include: courgette, peppers, mushrooms, sweet potato, leeks, peppers etc. The Gardening Club has grown enough tomatoes for Year 7 pupils to use in their dishes. If you would like your child to use these, they will be available in the class on the day of the practical.

Year 8 completed an interesting comprehension on Curries from Pakistan to the Caribbean. They 'journeyed' around the world learning how curry differs in various parts of the world.
Please remember to remove any false/acrylic/etc nails before pupils return from holidays. It is a health and safety concern in the kitchen to have these as they are flammable.

Buntingford Journal Christmas Cover Competition

We have been invited to participate in a Christmas cover competition for the front of the December/ January double edition of the Buntingford Journal.

Designs must be portrait in dimension, preferably with a blankish space near the top for the title of the magazine, or an area that it doesn't matter if it's slightly obscured.
Theme: Christmas or Winter Wonderland
Medium: Photo, Drawing, Painting, Computer Generated Art, something crafted and photographed, anything goes really!

Deadline for submission is 15th November; we therefore request all entries are given to Mrs Burches by Wednesday 11th November to ensure we get them over to the editor in time.

Gardening Club



It is with great sadness that our fabulous greenhouse that has helped grow many a vegetable and plant, over the past two years met its demise during the fierce winds we experienced over the half term. We are on the lookout for a wooden structure this time as the metal frame was just not solid enough to hold up against the wind. If you know where we could purchase one at a reduced cost, please get in touch with Mrs van Wyk or the office as we would love to replace it in time for our early spring sowing season. Many thanks.

Edwinstree School Association

Save the date - The ESA AGM will be held on Tuesday 24th November, time and venue to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome to attend. At the end of this year we will be saying goodbye to over half the current committee and if no one else comes forward it may mean the end of the ESA. So if you are undecided about taking an active part in the ESA do come along and find out more.

If being part of the committee is not for you, perhaps you could help take over the running of the Facebook page, our online shop or pre loved uniform.

Parent Governor Elections

We have two parents who have volunteered for the vacancy of Parent Governor available at the school, both are strong candidates.

We are therefore asking you to read their profiles below and vote for the candidate you would wish to see represent Parents on the Edwinstree Middle School Governing Body.
Please Vote using this link:
Parent Governor Election at Edwinstree Middle School. November 2026 – Fill out form
Deadline is 4pm on Thursday 19th November.

Sophia Saunders

I am the proud parent of a wonderful little boy in year 5, with SEN needs and am passionate about supporting his education, alongside all of his peers.

Day-to-day, I am an experienced Employment Lawyer and business owner. I now work in-house for a large, UK based logistics company and also coach football and multi-sports for under 5's in the local community.

My areas of special interest include:
- Sports and fitness
- Child nutrition
- Foreign languages (Spanish speaker at an intermediate level)
- SEND provision and support with diagnosis/treatment pathways
- Online safety for minors, with a particular focus on AI usage and regulation
- Supporting the 'whole child'

Samantha Doke

I believe I bring a combination of skills and experiences and a genuine passion for ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive within education.

As a parent of a child with additional needs, including ADHD and autism, I have significant lived experience and education system and understanding the challenges that children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families, can face. This has given me an appreciation of the importance of education, effective communication between schools and parents.

I have experience in recruitment, HR, candidate experience and client relationship management. I have implemented recruitment processes, managed a small team and developed communications, organisation, and people-management skills. I believe these skills would be transferable.

My personal experience has also strengthened my empathy and ability to advocate for others. I am passionate about ensuring that parents feel listened to.

I would like to contribute to Edwinstree School in working alongside the governing body staff, parents and pupils to help maintain and promote standards, both academically and personally.

Benefice Administrator Vacancy for the United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill

We are looking to appoint a part-time Benefice Administrator.

The Benefice Administrator supports the Rector, Ministry Team and the wider Benefice by handling key administrative tasks, communications and invoicing.

The Benefice Administrator will be a point of contact for church and community-based enquiries working collaboratively with the Rector on communications and advertising.

Rate of Pay £14.50/hour

8 hours/week with some flexibility over days and location.

The Benefice Office is located at St Peter's Church, Buntingford, SG9 9AL.

How to apply

Please see the Job Description for details of this role on our website,

https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/page/101376/

For an informal chat, more details or an application pack, contact Rev'd Kirsty Wainwright, vicarabw@gmail.com, 07704 695 787.

Closing Date for applications 14th November 2026

Royston Youth Club



Coram Family Lives

Understanding Children's Behaviour free 2-hour workshop

