Edwinstree Middle School

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School



NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS Week Ending: 07/02/2025.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

11/02/25 Year 5 Deaf Awareness Talk 17-21/02/25 GA & 6D - Online Academic Review 04/03/25 GB & 6C - Online Academic Review 05/03/25 Year 6A & 6B Cambridge Science Centre Visit £19.90 per student 06/03/25 Year 6C & 6D Cambridge Science Centre Visit £19.90 per student 07/03/25 World Book Day 10/03/25 GA Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6B Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2) 11/03/25 GC 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 21/03/25 ESA Quiz Night (more details to follow) 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 SATs 16/05/25 ESA School Disco (more details to follow) 26-30/05/25 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.		T
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Family Lives course for parents of children with SEND to support co-parenting skills and child development.

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Children's Mental Health Focus

Children's Mental Health Week 3rd-7th February 2025. Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. We all have mental health, just like we all have physical health. It's OK to not be OK. We all struggle sometimes and there is help available.

Please find attached contact information for support inside and outside of school.

Year 5 News

Year 5 Deaf Awareness Talk – 11th February

Next week a number of children from Knightsfield school, a specialist school for deaf children, will be coming in to speak to our year 5's. They will be talking about what deafness means to them and their families. Many of us will have family members and relatives that have hearing issues, and this will be an opportunity for our youngest students to learn more.

Year 6 News: Year 6 SATs

Thank you to all year groups who supported our year 6 this week by moving classes, taking cover in the hall and genuinely remaining as quiet as possible in corridors where tests were being taken.

A huge thank you to both the parent community and wider community for supporting our Year 6 pupils with their mock SATs tests. The adults that came in were an invaluable resource; they made a real difference to both pupils and staff. The pupils really appreciated the support of an adult for reading questions and moral support.

We are very lucky at Edwinstree that the SATs have little value for us as a school, as we have 2 and half years longer to support your children to get them ready for upper school, confident and secure in their learning.

If you are a parent that noted your child's anxiety was significant, but you don't think we are aware, please email the Head of Year or the admin team to alert us.

hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk, admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

SATs week starts on Monday 12th May and we will be again grateful to any volunteers that can join us on Monday through to Thursday of that week from 8:45am to 11.30 am. Please check your diaries and let us know if you can support us by completing this form https://forms.office.com/e/h6zemsxbeJ

Year 6 Educational Visits

We are delighted to be able to offer Year 6 the opportunity to visit Cambridge Science Centre. This educational visit will take place on the following dates:

6A & 6B on the 5th March 2025 6C & 6D on the 6th March 2025

The cost of this visit will be £19.90 per student, which includes coach hire, parking and entrance. This is a voluntary contribution, however if we do not have enough to cover the visit then it will not be able to go ahead.

Payment is non-refundable, unless due to exceptional circumstances your child is not able to attend. Payment can be made via the school Gateway. Payment and consent form should be completed by **Friday 21st February 2025**

Staff Information

A member of our support staff has in recent days developed a tic that is infrequently occurring during lessons. To support the understanding of students and staff, a COWO has been delivered to the whole school explaining on what tics are and information about the condition.

Food and Nutrition – All Years

Wow! It certainly has been a bumper filled two weeks in the Food Room! We've had a cheese taste testing, and made cheese straws in Yr5, and Grilled Marinated Chicken Wraps in Yr 6. Yr 7 has completed their first ever full Food Science experiment using alternate sugars to make cake and Yr 8 has travelled to the Far East creating healthy stir-fry's just in time for Chinese New Year!

Year 5: 5A, 5B and 5C will make your cheese straws next week. Don't forget your ingredients, including your favourite cheese!

Please continue adhering to your uniform and health and safety rules. More information on group swapping will be made available next week. Mrs van Wyk

Online Safety Concerns

Children and young people use many different social media apps and sites. The most popular are Facebook and Instagram, with many others such as Snapchat, TikTok and Twitter.

There are lots of benefits to social networking. Children can stay connected to friends and family.

Like most things, there can be negatives too. For children and young people there are risks that you should be aware of, to help keep your child safe on social media.

What is social media? | NSPCC Should I let my child use Discord? | NSPCC Is TikTok safe? | NSPCC



Edwinstree School Association World Book Day

We will be holding a book swap for World Book Day on Friday 7th March. Children are invited to

bring any books they wish to donate to the school hall at the start of the school day. At breaktime children can come to the hall to choose one book to take home.

If you could encourage your child to write a 3 word review it can help make choosing a book easier. This could be a post it note on the cover, or a bookmark style piece of paper sticking out of the top i.e. Tom Gates Random Acts of Fun = Funny, doodles, family. If you are able to spare a few hours on this morning between 8.30 and 11.30am to help organise the books please email edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com or the school office admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Save the date - the annual ESA Family Quiz

Our annual quiz will take place on Friday 21st March, more details to follow.

Pre-loved Uniform

Many thanks to all the parents who have been using our online sum up shop to buy branded preloved uniform.

We have been donated a large amount of brand new school shorts (uniform not PE) and have accumulated lots of unnamed lost property including coats. Some of these are available to buy via our online shop and we hope to have a stall at the summer fair. If you have any ideas on how we can manage these items better or could volunteer some time to help upload all items to the online shop, we would love to hear from you.

Edwinstree School Association Online Shop



What free support is available via County for parents who are managing a separation and trying to support their children with this?

Families First Partnership Link to website: Families First

Upcoming course date:

Face to Face course at The Otley Family Centre, Otley Way, WD19 7TB

Every Friday between 7 Mar - 11 Apr 2025, 10am - 1pm



Parenting When Separated Referral Form

Family Lives course for parents of children with SEND to support co-parenting skills and child development.

The course is free for all Hertfordshire parents and carers.

Who should attend?

Separated or separating parents of neurodiverse children seeking guidance, support, and strategies for co-parenting more consistently.

About the course

A free 6-session course developed by Family Lives and delivered online via Microsoft Teams.

- Every Monday between 24 Feb 31 Mar 2025, 7pm 9pm
- Every Tuesday between 25 Feb 1 Apr 2025, 9.30am 11.30am

How to register

<u>Complete a Family Lives referral form</u> if you're a parent of a SEN child or a professional referring someone you know. Alternatively, get in touch via:

Email: services@familylives.org.uk
Phone: **0204 522 8700** or 0204 522 8699

Introduction to Homelessness: There is still time to book your place on this week's free webinar

There is still time to book on to this week's **Introduction to Homelessness** webinar, more information below and attached.

Wed 05 Feb 25 14.00 – 16.00 <u>BOOK HERE</u> Tues 25 Feb 25 14.00 – 16.00 <u>BOOK HERE</u>

Upcoming Parenting When Separated course at the Otley Family Centre Watford is now taking referrals.

Parenting When Separated: A 6-week group-based course for separated parents that focuses on the emotional impact of separation and supporting communication between co-parents.

This course is available to all Hertfordshire parents and carers for free.



Swimming Pool Survey

Please would you complete this survey, which can really help the Ward Freman Community Pool Group make an impact on grant applications and obtain some

serious funding to reopen the swimming pool. We have tried to keep it as brief as possible and on average is taking only 8 minutes to complete (but most frequently under 5 mins). Even if you have not used the pool in the past, we would still like you to contribute.

https://forms.office.com/r/W2VsYdEfgc

If you would like to find out more about how this survey will help reopen the pool please read this blog.

Impact Questionnaire – Ward Freman Community Pool Group

Joanne Willett - Trustee Ward Freman Community Pool Group CIO, Registered charity 1207746

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk