

Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 07/06/2024.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

| School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/06/24 | Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip. £38.43 per student. |
| 17/06/24 | Year 8 Foundation Evening in person. |
| 22/06/24 | Edwinstree Summer Fayre |
| 26 & 27/06/24 | Show dates for School Production. 6.30pm both nights |
| 28/06/24 | INSET Day. |
| 08/07/24 | Year 6 Whipsnade Zoo trip. £30.61 per student. |
| 09/07/24 | Sports Day |
| 11/07/24 | County Transition Day. |
| 16/07/24 | Visit from Bishop of St Albans. |
| 17/07/24 | Year 5 Queens Park trip £14.50 per student. |
| 19/07/24 | End of Summer Term 1:20pm. |
| 02/09/24 | INSET DAY. |
| 03/09/24 | Year 5 Induction Day. |
| 04/09/24 | Autumn Term Begins Years 6-8. |
| 16-18/09/24 | Year 7 Residential – Essex Outdoors Bradwell. £295.60 per student. |
| 28/10/24 – 01/11/24 | Half Term. |
| 06/12/24 | Occasional Day. |
| 20/12/24 | End of Autumn Term 1:20pm. |

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Ofsted report – what happens next?

We were pleased to be able to share with you our recent report, we believe it to be a fair and a good reflection of the school. It was lovely to hear that the inspector recognised how respectful and tolerant our children are of each other, and to all differences. She also highlighted the significant and extensive breadth and depth of learning which your child experiences, and which results in Edwinstree students being well prepared for Freman.

I would like to thank Freman and Mrs Loughran personally for the significant partnership work they have supported us with, to allow all our teaching and learning to link to their curriculum.

The inspector recognised the positive impact of the strong Church of England values, and personal and wellbeing programmes within our school that allow our community to feel safe and appreciated. Both staff and students are proud to be part of Edwinstree and so am I.

*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.*

Our two areas of development will now form part of our school improvement plan which I will publish at the start of the new academic year in September. The first is something recommended, that further work needs to be completed on how we ensure that all students are clear what they need to do to improve in each subject. We also know that you are keen to see their books so that you can see our steers to them, as to what they need to improve on next and what plans are in place to support this.

The saddest part of the inspection for me was to see a minority but a significant one, from some SEND families who felt our communication could be improved greatly. As you will be aware the SEND need has exploded nationally post COVID, and we now have above the national numbers of SEND pupils with Education Health Care Plans, at a time when deep relative cuts have been made to all public services, and funding is stretched beyond anything I have seen as a Head for the last 17 years.

I was relieved that the Ofsted inspector could see that we had prioritised supporting all students and that the impact of this was that SEND learning gaps are closing, and they are catching up with reading, writing and maths, but we now have considerable work to do, to help provide a better communication process to all SEND parents to inform you of our actions and their success.

I will therefore be writing to all SEND parents next week and then writing to all parents in the newsletter to invite you into school for an evening with SLT, to hear your viewpoints on how we can improve communication, what that might look and feel like for you? But within the constraints and limitations of a public service that is currently inadequately funded, and/or led by County. It should be an interesting evening for us!

If you would be willing to spend 1 hour and 15 minutes with us on 3rd July 2024 and share with us your viewpoint, you are very welcome. We will publish in advance the questions we are looking to explore and our current constraints within the service we offer, so that we can have an honest but realistic discussion.

What about communication as a whole?

One of the things the Ofsted improvements plan has helped me to realise is, that the method of communication that I learnt and feel comfortable with, appeared before mobile phones. But for many parents now, you had mobile phones as teens and this is your means of communication, so I am aware I will be taking a new journey to find new ways of helping you to see, hear and feel part of our school and the good work that is taking place.

Can you help us by making sure that your child returns their Library Books.

As we near the end of term, we will be asking students to hunt out library books that they borrowed a long time ago and have not sent through the system to return. Please could you support us by looking under beds and in the long-forgotten corners of a bedroom. Thank you for your support.

School Fayre 2024

Our Summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 22 June 2024 from 2pm to 4:30pm. We look forward to another successful event and would like to invite you all to join us on the day. The stalls are being run by school pupils who are all trying to raise funds for various projects around the school.

We will have a non-uniform day on the 14th of June and in return ask for donations towards various stalls we will be having. Please could:

Year 5 donate bags of wrapped sweets,

Year 6 donate bags lollipops or chocolates,

Year 7 donate bottles – anything from beetroot to body wash to bubbles! If alcoholic, please ensure it is delivered to the office for safe keeping,

Year 8 to donate prizes for the raffles and tombola stalls.

A very big thank you for the donations that have already started coming in. In addition to the class collections, please can we ask for donations of cakes for the cake stall, books for the book stall, plants for the plant stall and teddies for the teddy tombola.

Several students are keen to market their skills and one group of boys has teamed up with our PCSO to offer basic bike bump jumping skills training, alongside an opportunity to have your bike security marked by the Buntingford Neighbourhood Policing Team. If you are interested, please bring your child's bike to the event.

I know that there are quite a few excited pupils who are looking forward to what is going to be on offer. We hope to have a fun filled day led by our wonderful students who would appreciate your support. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk

NHS Drop-In Coffee Morning.

On Friday 21st June between 8.45 and 10.30 there will be a drop in coffee morning at Edwinstree with the NHS Mental Health Support Team. If you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to come along and talk to the team.

Ward Freman Community Pool Group

The community pool group in association with the RLSS Drowning Prevention week 15-22nd June are hosting some practical lifesaving sessions at a private heated outdoor pool in Great Hormead on 18th June. Tickets are available:

4pm practical session

<https://buytickets.at/wardfremancommunitypoolgroupecio/1284977>

5.30pm practical session

<https://buytickets.at/wardfremancommunitypoolgroupecio/1285012>

8pm dry social session

<https://buytickets.at/wardfremancommunitypoolgroupecio/1285017>

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Junior Parkrun

This weekend will be event number 13. We regularly have around 30-40 participants aged 4 to 14 – parents can run with their children if they wish but aren't allowed to cross the finishing line or receive an official time.

We are approaching a time now where regular participants will start to receive awards for their achievements, which will hopefully encourage them and their friends to participate more! (Note – the awards are for participation not speed or position, so it doesn't matter if they run the course in 8 minutes or walk it in 35 minutes!)

- 11 junior Parkruns= half marathon wristband (blue)
- 21 junior Parkruns= marathon wristband (green)
- 50 junior Parkruns= ultra-marathon wristband (orange)
- 100 junior Parkruns (silver)
- 250 junior Parkruns (yellow)

Each wristband comes with a certificate which can be print at home from each junior's parkrun profile.

Gardening Club

Our beds are looking very healthy with lots of growth and a rainbow of every shade of green. We have a wonderful variety of veggies growing, so much so that we have had to order a ton of topsoil and a ton of compost to top up the new beds! A special thank you to Cumberlow Green Farm who will be supplying, at a discounted price, 2 tonnes of topsoil/compost mix.

Unfortunately, between the slugs and poor seed quality, we have only got about 7 sunflowers this year. We will have to get some new seeds into our collection for next year. Our tomato planting has been very successful with about 20 seedlings being repotted this week - hopefully these will grow and be big enough to sell at the Fayre.

If you have any flowering seedlings or plants that you are able to donate, we would very much enjoy planting some more around the school and even potting them up further to sell at the Fayre. We need some more gardening equipment and would be grateful for any plant or equipment donations towards this.

Thank you Mrs van Wyk

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Community Activities Directory.

SEND Commissioning within Hertfordshire County Council are excited to announce the launch of our [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Community Activities Directory](#). This directory promotes a wide range of community activities for families and young people with SEND, a comprehensive resource for families and professionals.

Tailored for children and young people aged 0-25, and their families, this is a valuable tool for finding local activities and support groups in the community. The directory will create opportunities for families to discover, engage, and participate in a wide range of activities, some activities will also include discounts for families registered on our [Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database \(HAND\)](#).

Year 6 news:

Educational Visits

Year 6 need some fun post SATS, but to keep the cost down and support their move to new tutor groups we place the residential at the start of year 7, this is a much cheaper time to go. However, year 6 students have been enjoying their learning about biomes around the world and were keen to follow in year 5's footsteps and take a trip to Whipsnade Zoo.

Payment can be made via the school Gateway. **Payment and consent form should be completed by Friday 21st June 2024.** If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

You Said. We Did

You Said: A parent wrote in to ask if we could extend the length of the Whipsnade trip times to provide longer than 3 and half hours at the zoo.

We did: Having enquired about this, unfortunately we are unable to, as this would increase the price as the bus provider would need to put on other services in the area for their regular pickups. So, we have kept the original timings.

Year 7 news:

Globe Theatre Trip – 12th June 2024

We are delighted to be able to offer Year 7 the opportunity to visit The Globe Theatre. Our English unit in the summer term is based on Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', and The Globe offers a fantastic interactive workshop that will enable students to explore the play's characters and themes.

Students will need to bring with them:

- Full school uniform with comfortable shoes or trainers.
- A waterproof coat
- A packed lunch [no glass bottles please]
- A small backpack [to be carried throughout the day]
- Pocket money to visit the Gift Shop – no more than £10.
- Any medication [including travel sickness tablets] clearly labelled with their name to be handed to the office.

On the day of the visit, students need to **arrive at school by 8:40am** for a prompt departure at 9:15am. We will leave The Globe at 2pm and arrive back at Edwinstree at approximately 3.30pm. Alternative travel arrangements need to be made for those who use school transport.

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Year 8 news:

HPV Vaccinations

Please find attached a letter from the NHS regarding our HPV immunisation taking place for year 8 on Tuesday 18th June.

A response is required. You must accept or decline this vaccination by completing the online form in using the link in the letter. The electronic link will close at 2PM on Monday, June 17, 2024

Please note the form will not work on some mobile phones and tablets. Please call 0300 555 5055 if you are unable to complete it online.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation

The HPV vaccination helps protect boys and girls from HPV-related cancers. This virus increases the risk of developing some cancers later in life, such as cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital areas. In line with the National Immunisation Programme, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust's School Aged Immunisation Service offers the HPV vaccination to all eligible boys and girls in year 8. From September 2023 the guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) and The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is that most children will only require a single dose of the HPV vaccination. Children and young people who are immunosuppressed may require three doses. The change reflects evidence building up over recent years from a range of studies from around the world that shows that a single dose of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine offers robust protection that is comparable to 2 doses. Based on the evidence, other countries, such as Australia and Scotland, have already made the move to one dose.

On the date of vaccination, we will see the whole year group. It is important for you to discuss and complete the consent form with your child, so they are aware of your wishes.

Freman Transition extra visits

Our SEND team will be contacting parents and students of those children signed up for extra visits to Freman this week to alert them to when these will take place.

Food and Nutrition – All Years

It has been a great week for exploring culinary vocabulary across the year groups.

Year 5

Will be partaking in a cheese taste testing next week - all cheeses provided. This will lay the foundation for our next practical in a couple of weeks when they make cheese straws.

Year 6

Made the last of the fruit alternate cupcakes today - and once again the corridor was filled with delicious smells. We will be turning our attention to marinading and grilling next week.

Year 7

Is making carrot cake next week. Please remember your named ingredients and variations as chosen by you. Ingredient requirements are on SatchelOne.

Year 8

Is 'travelling' to China. **8A & 8B** will be cooking a stir-fry with ingredients of their own choice on Friday 14/6. **8C and 8D** will be finding out about this dish on Monday.

Please remember your health and safety requirements - there are still a few pupils who are not in the correct shoes. Boys, please remember that football astro shoes are NOT permitted in the food room.

I am still missing 16 tubs in which Spaghetti Bolognese and Alternative Protein Curries were taken home in – please can these be returned. Thank you Mrs van Wyk

Mrs J. Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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