



## Edwinstree Term dates:

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

## Homework week: B

## Diary Dates:

11/11/25	School Photographs
14/11/25	 Children in Need non-uniform & voluntary £1 donation
17/11/25	Maya Workshop 5A & 5B
18/11/25	Maya Workshop 6C & 6D
20/11/25	Maya Workshop 6A & 6B
21/11/25	Maya Workshop 5C & 5D
05/12/25	Occasional Day
10/12/25	 Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch Day 
19/12/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
05/01/26	INSET Day
06/01/26	Start of Spring Term
16-20/02/26	Half Term
27/03/26	End of Term 1:20pm.
13/04/26	Start of Summer Term
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
25-29/05/26	Half Term
26/06/26	INSET Day
09/07/26	County Transition Day
17/07/26	End of Term 1:20pm.

## Table of Contents

School Heating & School Uniform .....	1
School Photographs .....	1
What costs will occur this half term that we can alert you to? ....	2
Why is my child talking about assessments this half term? .....	2
Lockdown procedure .....	2
PE Timetable – All Years.....	2
Financial Literacy and AI .....	2
Year 5 News:.....	2
Parent Survey.....	2
Year 6 News:.....	2
Year 6 Science .....	2
Food and Nutrition.....	3
Year 5: .....	3
Year 6: .....	3
Year 7: .....	3
Year 8: .....	3
Forthcoming Events: .....	3
Remembrance Sunday .....	3
Children in Need .....	3
Buntingford Christmas Market .....	3
Christmas Jumper Day.....	3
Christmas Dinner Day.....	3
Edwinstree Vacancy .....	3
Freman College Vacancy.....	3

### School Heating & School Uniform

We are pleased to say the work on the boiler this week has meant we are able to return to heating the school next week, we therefore are returning to our normal school uniform.

Do make sure that students come in with warm clothing as we agreed again with students that the heating would go off at midday, and this means by the end of the day the school can feel a little cooler. Turning the heating off early reduces greenhouse gas as it reduces our energy consumption.

A reminder also, that we are always happy for students to have bright winter coats, we wish them to be seen in the dark winter months.

### School Photographs

The school photographer is booked for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Sibling photos will take place first, followed by individuals. Please may we ask that your child comes in with clean uniform wearing their Edwinstree School sweatshirt and hair has been styled if necessary.

## 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 contribute to:

- On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November students can attend in non-school uniform if they wish to for Children in Need. They are able to donate a £1 towards this via School Gateway.
- On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December we will be hosting Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day and our Fullness Day to support a Brain injury charity with a Christmas themed bake sale. Again, we ask for a voluntary donation of £1 towards this and bring in cash to spend on the bake sale.
- The ESA will be asking for donations to support our school at the lights of love Christmas Market.
- Each year we ask tutor groups to create a Christmas hamper for Families who will struggle over the Festive period.

## Why is my child talking about assessments this half term?

At the end of term, we will be delivering your child's first data report ready for Parents evenings that will take place in term 2, these help us assess where your child is.

If your child gets worried by this process, please reassure them, the purpose is to find out what learning they have retained and what we need to re-address and to plan for this.

## Lockdown procedure

We wanted to let you know that, as part of our role in keeping the school safe, we will be informing students of our lockdown procedure in an assembly on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, led by Mr Rowlands. This will be to inform students what the bell sounds if we need to make the decision to lockdown the school, and what is expected of them. Staff are already aware of the procedure and what is expected.

This isn't a drill or a practice, just an information giving exercise. The last time this was delivered was in March 2025, so we are completing it again, so Year 5 are aware.

Please don't read anything into this taking place now; there isn't an increased risk or an extra concern; this is a similar process to informing students about what to do in the event of a fire, which we did at the beginning of the year.

## PE Timetable – All Years

Please find attached our current PE timetable for all years.

Equipment required:

- Football: football boots and shin pads.
- Rugby: football boots and gum shield.
- Hockey: shin pads and gum shield.

## Financial Literacy and AI

You may have seen in the news this week about the government's plan to ensure a greater emphasis in teaching financial literacy and AI in the curriculum [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cddr3v6j9mmo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cddr3v6j9mmo). Our current understanding is that schools will need to introduce these by 2028.

At Edwinstree we already have a significant emphasis on the topic of financial education and wanted to make you aware of topics that we currently cover in Lifeskills.

- **Year 5** – Looking after money; being critical consumers; ethical spending
- **Year 6** – Budgeting introduction; money and emotional wellbeing; money and the environment
- **Year 7** – The basics of Banks; Different bank accounts; Banking and Buntingford
- **Year 8** – How much do people earn; Money priorities; Producing a budget; Money and taxation.

In terms of AI, we are looking at how we might deliver this as a more cohesive unit. We recognise the need to look at this topic both from a technical computing angle as well as the implications this may have on everyday life and the social consequences of AI into the future. Last year we delivered a single lesson on the topic to every pupil in Lifeskills, but we recognise the need for a much greater exploration in the future.

## Year 5 News:

### Parent Survey

We would like to carry out a short online survey to find out your views on our school. This will give us an idea of what we are getting right and what we can do to improve further. If you have a concern, don't leave it to the survey, please talk to us, we are here to help - Thank you for your support.

[ms.office.com/e/gTRFxsszS2](https://ms.office.com/e/gTRFxsszS2)

## Year 6 News:

### Year 6 Science

Our current topic in science is all about the circulatory system.

As part of this, the children have been learning about the function of the heart. We are looking at lots of diagrams, some film clips and have practised explaining the purpose and processes that happen within our circulatory system. To enrich the learning further we are able to complete a practical where the children dissect a pig's heart. This is often a highlight of the Year 6 Science curriculum. Looking at diagrams and pictures is great but the opportunity to hold a heart and see the way the 4 chambers are linked so they can receive and send blood, deepens the children's understanding. The teachers will demonstrate the dissection first, to ensure that the pupils know what they are looking at. Prior to the practical we also discuss the respect needed around dissection and how the opportunity to complete this is a privilege.

Should you have any questions please do contact the Science team.

## Food and Nutrition

Another busy week in the kitchen for all!

**Year 5:** Well done to all on your first Taste Testing experience at Edwinstree. We learnt that it is important to make up our own minds with regards to taste and flavour, what we like and what we don't like as well as descriptive words that can be used when trying something new for the first time. We will finish this lesson next week and will then start the design of our own pizza.

**Year 6:** Please remember your ingredients for your Fruity Cup Cakes. Remember a suitably sized container to take your end products home in.

**Year 7:** We will be continuing with our theory.

**Year 8:** Remember do NOT bring ingredients in – these are only needed for the week beginning 17/11. We are currently exploring Chinese Cuisine and will be creating a mouth-watering Stir Fry – where all ingredients are your choice. Keep an eye on SatchelOne for examples of suitable ingredients next week.

Another plea for the return of borrowed containers, 19 containers still need to be returned from curry, spaghetti bolognese and layered pasta salad lessons. Please make sure they are returned so that they are available for others to use.

A reminder about health and safety in the kitchen: Shoes need to be of a safe design and preferably leather or a hard plastic – foot safety is very important. No jewellery is allowed – please remove all jewellery including tied bracelets as your child will not be allowed to cook. False nails, decorated nails, polished nails, etc are a hazard and your child will be given alternate written work to complete. Acrylic nails are flammable and a big hazard in the kitchen. All pupils are required to tie long hair up and clip fringes back.

If a pupil has been absent from a demo lesson, they will not be able to cook as each demonstration has important health and safety information as well as specific rules which need to be followed during the practical.

Should you have any questions regarding alternatives for practical sessions, please do get in touch with Mrs van Wyk.

## Forthcoming Events:

### Remembrance Sunday



Thank you to Fin, Jessica and Erika, who have volunteered to represent our school on Remembrance Sunday at the war memorial in Buntingford.

Buntingford's War Memorial is located on Market Hill outside the Alms-houses. It is constructed of Portland Stone and is looked after by the Town Council. It lists not only those who died in the two World Wars but also those that gave their lives in later action. A Town Parade is held at 10.45am on Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November with a full service. Students will observe a 1-minute silence just before break on Tuesday.



### Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we will hold a non-uniform day and ask for a voluntary contribution of £1.

### Buntingford Christmas Market



The Buntingford Christmas market takes place on 28<sup>th</sup> of November. To support our ESA (Edwinstree School Association) who are running a tombola stall to raise funds for the school, we are asking for donations of teddies (soft toys) or chocolate. Students can drop off the donations at the school office from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Thank you.



### Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Day



Takes place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The Christmas lunch is available to book on SchoolGrid at a cost of £3.50.

The ESA will be hosting a Christmas jumper swap shop on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 3-3.30pm in the outdoor classroom. So please start checking the wardrobes for any Christmas jumpers or tops that you no longer wear.

Children can donate items at the school office week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November in return for a token. Your child will receive a token for each item they donate which can then be exchanged for a 'new to you' item from our pop-up Christmas jumper shop.

### Edwinstree Vacancy

Please find attached details regarding a vacancy for a part time LSA.

### Freman College Vacancy

Please find attached details regarding a vacancy for a cleaner at Freman College.

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher  
[admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

*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.*