

**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of  
England School



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &  
CARERS**

**Week Ending: 08/03/2024**

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Week: A

Diary Dates:

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
13/03/24	Fullness Day & 'Onesie Wednesday' - £1 donation to support our School production.
15/03/24	Alcohol Awareness Sessions with Smashed Live Period 1 - Year 7, Period 2 - Year 8.
18/03/24	Year 5 Foundation Evening in person.
26/03/24	MIND Wellbeing sessions Period 2 - Year 8, Period 3 - Year 5.
28/03/24	<a href="#">End of Spring Term 1:20pm.</a>
15/04/24	<a href="#">Start of Summer term 08:40am.</a>
22/04/24	Year 6 Foundation Evening in person.
23/04/24	Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo trip.
26/04/24	Year 8 Thorpe Park trip.
06/05/24	<a href="#">Bank Holiday.</a>
13-16/05/24	Year 6 SATs Week.
20/05/24	Year 7 Foundation Evening in person.
21/05/24	Year 8 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow).
23/05/24	Cambridge University Careers talk – Day in the life of a university Student Year 7 & 8 (details to follow).
27-31/05/24	<a href="#">Half Term.</a>
17/06/24	Year 8 Foundation Evening in person.
12/06/24	Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow).
28/06/24	<a href="#">INSET Day.</a>
11/07/24	<a href="#">County Transition Day.</a>
16/07/24	Visit from Bishop of St Albans.
17/07/24	Year 5 Queens Park trip (details to follow).
19/07/24	<a href="#">End of Summer Term 1:20pm.</a>
02/09/24	<a href="#">INSET DAY.</a>
03/09/24	<a href="#">Year 5 Induction Day.</a>
04/09/24	<a href="#">Autumn Term Begins Years 6-8.</a>
16-18/09/24	Year 7 Residential – Essex Outdoors Bradwell.
28/10/24 – 01/11/24	<a href="#">Half Term.</a>
06/12/24	<a href="#">Occasional Day.</a>
20/12/24	<a href="#">End of Autumn Term 1:20pm.</a>

**Where is Mrs Gant currently?**

I have been off ill since the start of term with Long Covid, I am hoping to rest at home next week and then to begin a staged return. In the meantime, my Leadership team Mr Rowlands, Mrs Mayne, Mrs Heywood and Mrs Cox are supporting the school. If you have any queries related to the head, please liaise with Sam Petty my PA and she will direct you to the relevant person to support.

**Staff Absence**

We continue to see staff suffering from illness. We are working hard to source supply, while we navigate this period of ill health in the school.

If you have recently contacted the school via email and have yet to receive a reply, please bear with us, due to staff absence our turnaround may be longer than usual. Please be assured we will respond.

**PE Kits next week**

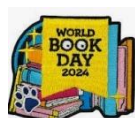
On days that students have PE next week, we are asking them to come into school wearing their PE kit. This will help teachers covering PE lessons.

**Enrichment Afterschool Clubs**

**Please be aware that due to staff absence we are unable to deliver the following clubs next week:**

Wednesday – KS3 Football

Thursday – KS2 Football



**Book swap for World Book Day**

Thank you to everyone who participated. I spoke to some very excited students who were showing everyone their fantastic book swaps.

151 books were donated, and we hope everyone who participated enjoys their new book. All children should have received a book token and your child can exchange this for a 2024 World Book Day Book or to get £1 off the cost of a new book. They are accepted in most bookshops and many supermarkets but only valid until 31st March. We agreed that this successful (and free) event will happen again next year.

**“Onesie Wednesday” – 13<sup>th</sup> March**

To raise funds for this year's school production *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* (and to help combat the chilly days) students can wear their favourite onesie to school. **Please do not go out to buy anything specially – non-uniform is also welcome!** We are asking for £1 donation.

Are you able to help with any props on the list attached to this newsletter? we would be most grateful if you could help us. Thank you, Mrs Brock and Mrs Booth.

**What are we learning about on the Fullness Day and who is our guest speaker?**

The DDG are hosting their Fullness Day on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 period 3, 4 and 5. It is a day to celebrate the positivity of neurodiversity.

Our guest speaker for the day is Andy Stone, who after 2 decades of crippling anxiety and clinical depression brought on by an inability to deal with his neurodiversity in the form of ADHD. Andy has successfully, worked through his challenges and has come out the other side, going on to achieve a Guinness

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World Record for most 70.3 mile, or half iron distance triathlons, in a year.

Andy will speak with KS2 and KS3 throughout the day about his lived experiences. During COWO, there will be a summary of the day and an opportunity for each class complete a feedback form.

For students who may feel overwhelmed with the subject matter, or who may not want to remain in the hall. The Wellbeing hub and Pupil Power will be on hand to support.

We look forward to a day of greater understanding of our diverse school community.

### **Year 5 Foundation Evening**

Our Year 5 Foundation Evening takes place on Monday 18th March from 5pm to 7pm. It is an opportunity for you to walk around the school, look at your child's work and have an informal conversation with their teachers.

Please note that this will not include English or Maths as consultations in these subjects already took place earlier this year.

### **Year 5 & 8**

#### **MIND Wellbeing sessions – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

The hour-long event for year 5 and 8 students will be an introduction to mental health, emotional wellbeing and coping strategies.

### **Current Year 6 Residential**

#### **16-18<sup>th</sup> September 24 Essex Outdoors Bradwell**

We are organising an educational residential visit for the current Year 6 at the start of the academic year 2024-2025. We have contacted the centre and made a provisional booking for Monday 16th September – Wednesday 18th September 2024.

The aim of the course is to provide an opportunity for the children to experience exciting new activities and develop their own personal and social skills, as a whole year group with their team of teachers. Please see details attached.

### **Year 6 Art**

As we continue our topic 'Natural Forms' we will be exploring printmaking and acrylic paint. We will always have aprons to wear, however if your child would like to bring in an old t-shirt or apron, please feel free to do so!

### **Year 7 & 8**

#### **Alcohol Awareness Sessions Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Next Friday there will be an alcohol awareness session for all Year 7 and 8's. This will be run by Collingwood Learning and is called Smashed Live. It will be an inspiring live theatre experience that will approach the topic of underage drinking with positive thinking. If you would like to find out more about this inspiring project, then please do have a look at the website

[www.smashedproject.org](http://www.smashedproject.org)

### **Art all years**

Please would students make sure they bring a hair band to Art lessons to tie back long hair.

### **Social Media**

We are aware that lots of children in the school use social media as a way of staying in touch and communicating with their friends outside of school. There is lots of advice and guidance for parents out there to help support your child in using social media, but can we please urge you to regularly check your child's social media footprint and check their privacy and security settings, as well as what they are posting in apps such as WhatsApp.

If you are unsure where to start, or how to start a conversation with your child about their use of social media, here is a [link](#) to the social media section of the NSPCC website.

If we are made aware of an issue on social media, we deal with it, as it quite often has an impact on relationships within school. We do constantly look at the benefits and issues with online usage in PSHE, in our daily wellbeing messages from the Head/Deputy, and also in computing, but we still really need your help with this in keeping your child safe. Thank you for support.

#### **Have you signed our petition?**



#### **Have you signed our School Crossing Petition?**

We are asking for an upgrade to a zebra crossing with road markings and flashing beacons in Bowling Green Lane which both pedestrians and car drivers can not

miss. Could you help? We would like to go back to the Council with a set of signatures advocating for this upgrade. If you are willing to support us by signing our community and stakeholder petition, please visit the school office between 9am and 4pm and a member of the office staff will be happy to assist you, alternatively you can sign the petition at the Co-op or Sainsbury's local in Buntingford. We would ask you to complete the form yourself and ask other interested parties if they would also support us (over 18's only please). If you would like to help our campaign further, additional signature sheets will be available to collect from the school office.

We also have an online form; however, we ask that you only complete if you have not completed a paper version.

<https://forms.office.com/e/x0mzwiWurH>

We would appreciate any assistance or ideas to help support our campaign.



#### **Edwinstree School Association**

The ESA will be at the year 5 Foundation evening 5-7pm on Monday 18th March with a pre-loved uniform and coat sale. We will also have information on how you can help us raise funds for the school, without costing you a penny!

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## Theatretrain Royston – Holiday Programme



The flyer for Theatretrain Royston's Holiday Programme features a yellow background. At the top left is a circular logo for 'Childcare Choices' with the text 'IT'S NOW OFFER TAX-FREE CHILDCARE'. To its right is a dark blue box with the email 'royston@theatretrain.co.uk' and phone number '07747 608 180'. Further right is a green 'Excellent' logo. Below these is the 'Hertfordshire's Holiday Activity Programme' logo with the word 'HAPPY' in large, colorful letters. The text below the logo lists 'Funded workshops for children in receipt of benefits related free school meals' and includes activities: 'Dancing - Singing - Acting - Crafting - Snacks - Hot Meal'. Dates are listed as 'Monday 8th April, Tuesday 9th April' and 'Wednesday 10th April & Friday 12th April', with a time of '9-1pm each day'. The location is 'Stage Right Studios, Lumen Road, Royston'. At the bottom, it says 'Contact your school for booking info / code' and includes logos for the Department for Education, Hertfordshire Council, and Hertfordshire Schools.

**Junior Parkrun**  
Norfolk Road Junior Parkrun event team are pleased to share the news that they are bringing a new junior parkrun to Buntingford this month.

Junior Parkruns are much like Saturday morning Parkruns, except they are run over a shorter 2km distance, and are for junior participants aged from 4 up to 14. They are all volunteer led, and participation is free. The parkrun movement is very much about encouraging participation in a non-competitive environment; we encourage gentle jogging and walking as well as running, and we also encourage younger participants to consider being part of the volunteering side of parkrun too.

The first event will be held on Sunday March 17th at Norfolk Road Playing Fields, next door to Edwinstee. The course encompasses both the Norfolk Road field and the Edwinstee school field.

Prior to the official launch on 17th March, they are running a test event next Sunday 10th March. Participants are encouraged to register their details on the parkrun site to obtain their personal barcode, which can be used at all parkrun events to track their own progress and earn awards each time they reach a milestone: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>

The event page is live here: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/norfolkroadplayingfields-juniors/> and has all the event information. The event team's email address is: [norfolkroadplayingfieldsjuniors@parkrun.com](mailto:norfolkroadplayingfieldsjuniors@parkrun.com). The event will run every Sunday at 9am.

*Mrs J Gant – Headteacher*  
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