



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 09/01/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates:

[Term Dates 2025-26 & 2026-27.pdf](#)

Homework week: A

Diary Dates:

13/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5B English and Maths 5D English and Maths 8C English, Maths, Science
14/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 8A English, Maths, Science
15/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7D English, Maths, Science 7B English, Maths, Science
20/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5A English and Maths 8B English, Maths, Science
21/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5C English and Maths 7A English, Maths, Science
22/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7C English, Maths, Science 8D English, Maths, Science
02-05/02/26	Year 6 Mock SATs
03/02/26	Year 8 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
16-20/02/26	Half Term
24/02/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6A Maths and English 6D Maths and English
03/03/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6B Maths and English 6C Maths and English
04/03/26	Y7 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
27/03/26	End of Term 1:20pm.
13/04/26	Start of Summer Term
21/04/26	Y6 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
11-14/05/26	Year 6 SATs
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
19/05/26	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation for Year 8.
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

SENCO Team email update	1
What happened in Collective Worship (COWO) this week?	2
Young Carers	2
Can you help us with the mud?	2
How do our academic reviews operate?	2
Wellbeing Survey	2
Do students need mobile phones for learning?	3
PE Timetable	3
Year 5 News	3
Parental Survey on Transition – November 2025	3
Year 6 News:	3
Year 6 SATs.....	3
Are you able to support us with the mock and/or official SATs?...3	
Year 8 News	3
RE - Holocaust and Islamophobia	3
Half term merit winners.....	3
Icknield Walk First School vacancy:	4
Millfield School Tour	4
Home Start Volunteers	4
Attend2Health Mental Health First Aid Course	4
The Sandbox- Survey request	4

Thank you for returning your children ready and prepared for school, we have enjoyed hearing about their holidays and seeing them settle quickly back into the flow of school and learning. On a personal note, I would like to thank you as a parent body for allowing the staff to have a break, we noticed this year a huge decline in the number of anxious emails we received over the holidays. We appreciated the time you gave us to spend time with our own families and friends. Having said that at the start of term, please remember no problem is too small, share a worry or concern with us. You can do this through the following email accounts:

- Head of Year 5: hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 6: hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 7: hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 8: hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- School Office: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- To report a student absent from school: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- If you are worried about your child's mental health: wellbeinghub@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

SENCO Team email update

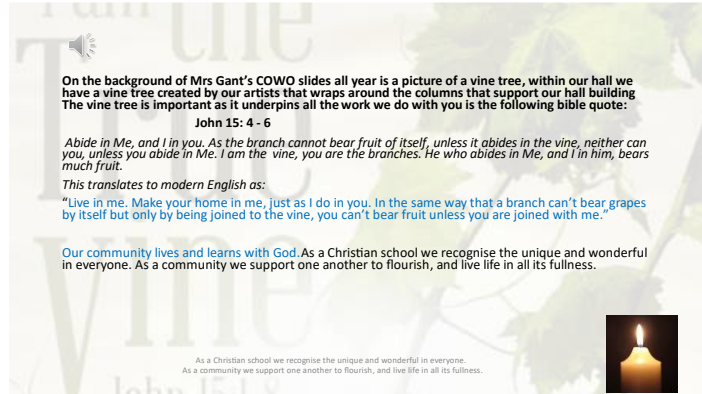
Just a reminder, this email box is checked once a day in the morning by the team. Due to the constant flow of significant requests and referrals, we aim to respond within a week, and we are sharing this information to be clear and help manage expectations. If the matter is urgent, please email us at admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office so we can assist you promptly. Thank you for your understanding and support, as we work to develop an effective but realistic communication process.

*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.*

What happened in Collective Worship (COWO) this week?

Our COWO's are designed to be reflective and thought provoking, - and a few parents have mentioned being surprised, by conversations that have been prompted off the back of the topics covered in our COWO sessions. In discussions with parents, I have agreed to try to include information on what we are covering regularly.

This week in tutor time students considered what it means to be a Church of England school which included looking at our vision:



Our values which are the branches of our tree:



And the virtues we are hoping to create from our work:



In hall time we looked at Church time of Epiphany and the story of the wise men.

Young Carers

We want to ensure that every student receives the support that they need, and we know that some children take on caring responsibilities at home. There are opportunities for services and support to young carers. If your child is a young carer, please complete the quick forms questionnaire so that we can identify the most appropriate way for us to support your family. [Young Carers Identification. - Fill in form](#)

Can you help us with the mud?

At this time of year, even with the muddiest sections of our school cordoned off, we find staff and children are bringing in mud on their shoes. We ask parents if they are able to, could you help us by providing your child with alternate outdoor shoes that they can change in and out of, or alternate indoor shoes that meet the requirements of Science and Art i.e. a hard top.

We don't wish this to be an extra cost to you so are happy to except multi colours and shades, funky slippers, bright wellies etc. If you can help it makes a massive difference to our cleaning team. Next week we will gently check uniform and equipment in tutor time and if we find they are missing something give you bell and or an email to see if we can help.

How do our academic reviews operate?

This term is the time when we schedule core meetings with parents to feedback on your child's progress, these are completed online. Please be aware the reviews are run by an outside system, which has a rather harsh cut off point that shuts down even if you are in mid flow of a conversation. Teachers have become better skilled at managing this scenario, but please be aware if this does happen it's the system at work not us cutting you off.

Wellbeing Survey

Since Covid many of us are talking about wellbeing a great deal more. Some of us have noticed that we are ourselves struggling with our wellbeing and perhaps our children are struggling too. At Edwinstree we do our very best to support through our tutors, pastoral teams and the wellbeing hub.

We are keen to track wellbeing within the school and are looking to perform a very short wellbeing survey over the next few weeks, called the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale. It is a very simple age-appropriate survey with 12 questions and has been used by many schools and outside organisations such as CAHMS.

By using such a simple survey, we can also compare ourselves to the average score. The idea is that we repeat the survey 3 times within the year to track the overall direction of wellbeing within the school and we can also see whether there are particular groups (i.e. a year group, boys/girls) that are impacted more.

The Anna Freud Centre have produced an overview of the survey here: [Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale](#) and the questions themselves are shown here: [Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale with Example Report.pdf](#)

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Do students need mobile phones for learning?

At the end of last term, a concern was raised by a few parents that we were sending contradictory messages and not helping them with the battle to resist the pressure for a mobile phone with their Year 5 child.

While the school had sent out letters, explaining that we are keen to encourage you as parents that students do not need a mobile phone yet, and if they do, they do not need a smart one – we then at the end of term used them in lessons to help us with Kahoot quizzes.

We hear you. This is currently a resource issue as our old class laptops are struggling to function well, I am currently looking at seeing if our budget will support a new set for the Summer, however, we take your point on board. At the moment I don't have a satisfactory answer if I cannot find the funds to support new laptops.

For now, all teachers are clear that all learning must be achievable without the use of a mobile phone.

PE Timetable

Please see attached the amended PE timetable that rectifies an error made with **Year 7** PE lesson content. Thanks, PE department.

Year 5 News

Parental Survey on Transition – November 2025

Thank you to those who partook in the survey, we had over a third of our Y5 families participate, allowing us to reflect, review and further improve. Attached is a summary of the results.

Year 6 News:

Year 6 SATs

We will publish more detail next week on the mock SATs, below are the dates. The mock SATs will run just like the real exams to give students a trial run of what it is like and to ease and allay any fears.

- Mock SATs 02/02/2026 – 05/02/2026
- Official SATs 11/05/2025 -14/05/2025

Are you able to support us with the mock and/or official SATs?

Duties include supporting teachers in the classroom and working with students as a reader, scribe, or prompt. We will provide a short amount of training for this on the day. Many students require this support, and we are always incredibly grateful to anyone who volunteers, as this ensures that all students receive the support that they need.

If you can help on any of the days, please complete the following form.

[SATs helpers for 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Year 8 News

RE - Holocaust and Islamophobia

Within RE, pupils will be looking at the Holocaust and Islamophobia as part of the Spring term scheme on prejudice and discrimination.

At Edwinstree we believe in embracing life in all its fullness, this includes sensitively and appropriately looking at emotionally challenging subjects.

The Holocaust is not the story of millions of lives lost; it is the millions of stories of individual human beings who were persecuted simply for who they were.

We have a duty, as educators, to those who lost their lives, continue to suffer and to our future generations to ensure we reflect, remember, and respect.

Pupils will be informed that there are several parts of these lessons where they will be confronted with upsetting information. They will be assured that it is ok to be upset, angry or worried, that the classroom is a safe space where we will support each other.

If pupils need time, they will be allowed to step outside the classroom. Post the lesson, pupils will be assured that we will continue to support each other and that if they need to talk, they can see myself or one of their trusted five adults.

They will be guided through the BBC Newsround guide – [Advice if you're upset by the news - BBC Newsround](#).

- Share your worries.
- It is normal to feel upset.
- Do something that makes you happy.
- Remember it is rare.

Due to the emotional impact that comes with studying the Holocaust and Islamophobia, we encourage you to help your child process the material they will be learning. Please be open to their questions—it is all right to not have all the answers. It is just as important to talk with your child about their thoughts and ideas as it is to talk about content.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for further resources, please do not hesitate to contact me on a.kelly@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We thank you for your support, Mrs Kelly

Half term merit winners

Congratulations to 7C who won the tutor group merit award last half term. They will decide on a day to wear non-uniform in this half term.

Heads of Year are in the process of reviewing how our 'Student of the Month' award is given. They are taking student voice as to how we can enhance the award, as well as how nominations are received. Once finalised, we will update you.

Icknield Walk First School vacancy:



Icknield Walk First School – Cleaner Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a cleaner to join our dedicated and friendly team as soon as possible.

We need a cleaner (early morning or afternoon or early evening) during term time for two hours and fifteen minutes each day, some additional holiday cleaning will also be required.
The rate of pay is £12.65 per hour.

Previous cleaning experience would be an advantage but not essential.

At Icknield Walk First School we take the safety of our children very seriously and all applicants will be thoroughly vetted and will be subject to DBS checks, internet searches, health checks and references. You will be asked questions about safeguarding children in your interview, and you will receive regular safeguarding training while you are working with us.


Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 23rd January 2026


We reserve the right to interview and appoint before the closing date should the right candidate apply. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

For more details, please contact the school office on 01763 243392 or email admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk.

Millfield School Tour

Due to popular demand, we are pleased to offer a **further and final tour of the school** on:

 **Monday 12th January**


 **9:15am**

This is a great opportunity to **see the school in action**, meet our staff and learn more about life at Millfield.

Who is the tour for?

Parents and carers of children who will be starting:

- **Reception in September 2026**
- **Nursery as a 2 or 3-year-old in September 2026.**

 **To book a place, please phone the school office on 01763 271717**

 **or email admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk**

Home Start Volunteers

Make a Difference in 2026 Volunteer with Home-Start!

Want to change lives in your community?

We're looking for passionate people to join us in three vital roles:

- **Family Support Volunteers**
Offer a helping hand and a listening ear to local families.
- **Fundraising Volunteers**
Help us raise the funds that keep families thriving.
- **Trustee Volunteers**
Shape the future of Home-Start with your skills and experience.

Our next Family Support Volunteer training begins this February – your chance to make a real difference!

Be the support a family needs to thrive, and discover how helping others can transform your own life too.

To find out more or to sign up to our course you can visit our website:

<https://www.hsrc.org.uk/home-start-volunteer/>

Alternatively feel free to email: admin@hsrc.org.uk or call: 01763 262262

We would love to hear from you!



Attend2Health Mental Health First Aid Course



Mental Health First Aid Course

Why Choose Us?

- Experienced Trainer with Lived Experience
- Certified Course (covers you for three years)
- Anyone over eighteen can attend
- Ideal for business owners, HR professionals, and those who work 1 to 1 (PTs or beauticians etc)
- Suitable for anyone wishing to support themselves, their friends or their family with their mental health

Course is taking place 9.30am-4.30pm
Fri 16th and 23rd January

www.attend2health.co.uk
27 High St Buntingford

£200 for the Two Day Course

01763 87 80 87

attend2health

The Sandbox- Survey request

At **The Sandbox**, we believe every young person deserves access to the right mental health support - no matter their background or circumstances. **The Sandbox** is a *free, digital mental health service* for young people aged 10–25, delivered by **Mindler UK**. We are particularly keen to hear from **young people and families from Asian backgrounds in Hertfordshire**, to help us understand and address the challenges these communities may face in accessing mental health support, as well as your experiences with emotional and mental health support.



HAVE A MINUTE?

Are You a Parent or Carer of a Child from an Asian Background?

We want to hear about your experiences accessing mental health support for your child

- 1 Scan the QR Code on this Poster
- 2 Fill Out a Quick 5 Minute Survey
- 3 Have Your Voice Heard

Any Questions? Please call us on: [01763262262](tel:01763262262)

Delivered by **The Sandbox**
free online mental health support for young people

ONE VISION
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

If you, your family, or your community groups identify with these backgrounds, we would really value your input. Together, we can ensure mental health support is **inclusive and welcoming for everyone**.

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

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