



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School

**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**

Week Ending: 09/02/2024

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Week: B

Diary Dates:

| School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 13/02/24 | DDG Bake Sale & Non-Uniform Day cake donations welcome |
| 16/02/24 | Year 6 Safe and Well Education Sessions |
| 19-23/02/24 | Half Term |
| 26/02/24 | 6A & 6C Academic review via SchoolCloud |
| 29/02/24 | 6B & 6D Academic review via SchoolCloud |
| 07/03/24 | World Book Day Book Swap |
| 13/03/24 | Fullness Day (details to follow) |
| 18/03/24 | Year 5 Foundation Evening in person |
| 28/03/24 | End of Spring Term 1:20pm |
| 15/04/24 | Start of Summer term 08:40am |
| 22/04/24 | Year 6 Foundation Evening in person |
| 23/04/24 | Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo trip (details to follow) |
| 26/04/24 | Year 8 Thorpe Park trip (details to follow) |
| 06/05/24 | Bank Holiday |
| 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) |
| 27-31/05/24 | Half Term |
| 17/06/24 | Year 8 Foundation Evening in person |
| 12/06/24 | Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow) |
| 28/06/24 | INSET Day |
| 11/07/24 | County Transition Day |
| 17/07/24 | Year 5 Queens Park trip (details to follow) |
| 19/07/24 | End of Summer Term 1:20pm |

Staff Absence

Unfortunately, we are now suffering from significant staff shortages due to ill health. In order to staff the school next week, we may be using a film session in the hall with several classes supported by a senior member of staff. It is exceptionally rare for us to do this, but many schools are now suffering shortages and we are unable to secure supply. Please may we ask, if your child has signs of ill health, that you keep them at home, as we do not want any more staff catching the numerous flu/COVID coughing bugs that are doing the rounds.

What clubs are not available next week due to ill health?

KS3 Football Afterschool club on Wednesday 14th February will be cancelled. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

SATs Volunteers

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.

SATs week starts on Monday 13th 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 am. Please check your diaries and let us know if you can support us via email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 6 Mock SATs

We observed this week that for some students, the stress of mock SATs were significant, and we were saddened to see this. The SATs team and myself will meet to review each student and consider how we reduce their stress. We will be talking to parents about our options to support them and one consideration is that they do not sit the papers. We are very lucky at Edwinstree that the SATs are a test that has little meaning 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 you 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

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As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

Dynamic Diversity Group Bake Sale & Non-Uniform Day

The DDG are hosting a Bake sale and non-uniform day on Tuesday 13th of February, to raise funds for our Fullness Day. For wearing non-uniform, we are asking for a contribution of 50p.

How about demonstrating your culinary skills by baking goodies to sell at the Bake Sale?

Cupcakes, brownies, cookies, whole cakes ready to slice, pies, rice crispy bars, fudge bars, or surprise us with something special.

How about some vegan/gluten free options?

All culinary contributions welcomed.

Please kindly note: Edwinstree is a nut free school.

Year 6 Safe and Well Education Sessions

On 16 February, Year 6 will be off timetable.

On this day students will have 5 presentations by different organisations that relate to safety in the community.

This will include hate crime, gang culture, smoking and sexual harassment amongst other topics. This day is being run by East Herts Council and we recognise that it will be a very demanding and intense day, for students that find any of the topics uncomfortable, we will have staff members in the Wellbeing Hub to offer support.

| Presenter | Topic(s) |
|--|---|
| Hertfordshire Police (30 mins) PC Kirsty Smith | Hate Crime |
| Hertfordshire Police (1hr) PC Gurney & PC Goodwin | Crime Prevention, Gang culture, Positive Choices, Knife crime, Exploitation. |
| MIND (30 mins) Presenter TBC | Emotional Wellbeing |
| BREAK | |
| CGL (45 mins) Presenter TBC | Education and risk awareness on vaping, smoking, cannabis, alcohol and energy drinks. |
| SCHOOL HALL NOT AVAILABLE | |
| BOLD Voices (1 hr) Anna Lincoln & Issy Warren | What We Consume and Share Online. Sexual harassment. Gendered language; compliments and insults. Gender roles & stereotypes; includes meeting expectations, shaming of those outside of these expectations. |

When does Miss Bull go on maternity leave and who is replacing her?

Miss Bull will be starting her maternity leave shortly after half term. Mrs Mayne will be stepping in to teach her year 6 class in the build up to SATs. Year 7 will be taught initially by Mr Byrne and then by Ms Russell. Both are experienced supply teachers who are secondary trained. This will require some timetable changes and we will be preparing students next week for these. Thank you for patience.

Why might it be difficult to contact us over half term?

We are planning to update our server systems in school and this requires a complete shutdown of our system which may impact our communication system. We should be fully up and running for the Monday we return to school and we apologise for the inconvenience.

What subjects change over after half term?

Straight after half term Year 8 students will make a swap. Students who were attending Freman for French will now have their lessons at Edwinstree with Ms Theroulde and the students who were with Ms Theroulde will now go to Freman. Students are registered and walked up to the site.

The 2nd week after half term our Technology students swap, those completing Food Tech will move to Design and vice versa.

Would you be willing to support the school by agreeing to be a Parent Governor?

A vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor – would you be willing to devote your time and expertise to support the Governing body? If you are interested in the position please email s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. If we have more than one applicant we are obliged to ask parents to nominate their candidate, and candidates will be asked to complete a small pen portrait. Please find attached a detailed letter.

Have you signed our School Crossing Petition?

We are asking for an upgrade to a zebra crossing with road markings and flashing beacons 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 Sainsburys 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/x0mzwwjWurH>

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

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World Book Day Book Swap

Thursday 7 March is World Book Day and this year we will be holding a book swap! On the day, students can bring in a book that they have already read, and in return they can collect another book to take home and enjoy.



Freman Headteacher Appointment

Please find attached a letter from the Chair of Governors regarding the appointment of a Headteacher.



Pre-Loved Uniform

The ESA has an online shop selling pre-loved uniform. You can order anytime and the item will be delivered to the school office

for you or your child to collect. School branded PE T-shirts, hoodies and rugby tops (for year 7 and 8 only) are £3.

Being pre-loved quality does vary. Good quality trousers and skirts are individually photographed and listed at £1 each. They also have plain black hoodies and jogging bottoms suitable for PE, along with rain and winter coats which are not listed online but make appearances at our pop-up events at school parent evenings and some High Street community events. Donations are always welcome.

[Edwinstree School Association Online Shop \(sumupstore.com\)](http://sumupstore.com)

Please ensure (if you haven't already done so) naming everything – we have a vast amount of unnamed uniform in the lost property cupboard, which after Half term will be donated to the ESA to sell as pre-loved.

Stikins name labels are great for sticking onto everything. If an item is named, staff will do their best to get it back to your child. If you order from Stikins please use our fundraising number 6671 and the ESA will get 30% commission.

[Clothes Name Labels. Stick on School Name Labels, Name Tags: Stikins®](#)

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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