



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 09/10/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates:
Term Dates 2026-27 & 2027-28

Homework week: - B
Diary Dates:

12/10/26	Flu Vaccinations – All Years
20/10/26	Year 5 “Getting to know you” Parents meeting 5pm
23/10/26	Harvest Services at Aspenden Church (AM)
26/10-30/10/26	Half Term
03/11/26	School Photographs
06/11/26	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
11-12/11/26	Year 6 Lancaster Model
17/11/26	Flu vaccination Mop Up
19/11/26	Year 7 Hertfordshire Lieutenancy presentation
01/12/26	Year 5 Christingle (PM)
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
10/12 – 11/12/26	Christmas Services at St Peter’s
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.
04/01/27	INSET DAY
05/01/27	Start of Term

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Collective Worship this week

In the hall this week, we have explored how we could offer support to someone without being asked (unloading the dishwasher was a popular example!) or buy something for the Foodbank rather than buying something for themselves (a bag of pasta rather than a chocolate bar, for example).

Year 6 and Year 8 sang on Friday, practicing ‘Autumn Days’ and ‘Harvest Samba’ ready for our Harvest services on the last day of term. More information about this below.

In tutor time, students explored the quiet and humble act of the eight Buntingford individuals who have collaborated together to re-open the Freman swimming pool.

Flu Vaccinations – All Years

The school nursing team are in school on Monday 12th October to complete the annual Flu immunisations.

You will have been contacted by the Immunisation team directly via email to consent to your child having/ not having the immunisation.

If you have any queries, please click this link [Vaccination 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.*

Lockdown assembly

On Monday, Mr Rowlands will be speaking to pupils about what we would do in the unlikely event that we ever needed to place the school into lockdown.

We deliver this information session twice a year, but we do not practise lockdown procedures with pupils. We wanted to give you some advance notice, in case your child comes home and talks about what was discussed.

Harvest Service

The school will be walking to Aspenden Church in year groups for our Harvest Festival.

As part of the experience, we get to enjoy the beautiful countryside around us. Students are offered two of the 50 things to do in nature before you are 11½ from the National Trust. They will have the opportunity to complete the run/roll down the hill challenge. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>

Students will be required to wear non-uniform on this day and bring a spare pair of boots or shoes that you do not mind getting muddy. We walk whether it is rain or shine, so please keep an eye out for the weather.

To complete this walk, we are asking for parent volunteers to help us. Below is the timetable for the day which shows the timings of your child's year group walk and service. We would really appreciate your support. Please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you can offer your help on this day.

- **Year 5** – depart school 10.15am, 11am harvest service, then walk back to school.
- **Year 6** - depart school 10.55am, 11.40am harvest service, then walk back to school.
- **Year 7** - depart school 8.55am, 9.40am harvest service, then walk back to school.
- **Year 8** - depart school 9.35am, 10.20am harvest service, then walk back to school.

Water bottles

You will be amazed at how many students get to their Period 5 lesson and five minutes later, decide they want a drink and haven't got a full water bottle. It really disrupts the flow of the lesson having students leave to do this.

From Monday, we will be blowing a whistle five minutes before the end of lunch to give those who wish to fill their water bottles up before P5 an aural nudge to do so. The normal whistle to call students in will blow at the normal time. We are **not** shortening lunchtime.

It was introduced to students this morning and it will start on Monday. We will regularly remind students and I'm sure they will get into this routine quickly, just like they did with the change in mobile phone use at the beginning of school.

Conkers Bonkers

Each year we offer students a little fun in competing in a conkers tournament. Representatives from each tutor group will be taking part next Wednesday afternoon, sign-up sheets are in school.

Students do not have to string and hole the conkers; we can do this for them.

Food and Nutrition – All Years



Whilst we are waiting for all class splits to be uploaded onto Satchel, please check with your child/children what their recipe requirements are. I will pop them into the newsletter for the next few weeks until all classes are uploaded.

Year 5 - A hearty congratulations to the pupils in Year 5 for their first practical in the kitchen. I was super impressed with their work, and I do hope that parents got a taste of what they made. It was great to see some adaptations where pupils brought in their preferred dip base and veggies! Please always make sure a suitable container is brought in to take products home in.

Year 6 – We have completed our first theory block and will have a demonstration next week.

If you were given a being active diary, please remember to bring it in to your next lesson

Year 7 – May I just say that bread week is one of my favourites in school. The scent of a boulangerie has wafted down the corridor most days this week. We have had delightful rolls with olive and rosemary, cinnamon and currants, grains, seeds and much more made in the Food Room.

Year 8 – Alternate Protein Curry is on the cards for next week. Remember you can make a curry of your choosing, but no meat is to be used.

You can use veggies/Quorn/tofu/eggs/This isn't chicken/Linda McCartney products/etc, to form the protein part of your dish. As you haven't been able to reply to me on Satchel, I have made enough spice pots for everyone. If you would like one, please take one from the tray when you get into class.

The ingredients needed for the recipe cooked in class are as follows: clove of garlic, one onion, half a cauliflower with the leaves, small packet of Quorn (about 300g) and a small pot of plain yoghurt. The rest of the ingredients will be provided by school. Remember to bring in a 2/3 litre sized container to take it home in.

If you want to cook a curry of your own choosing, you are welcome to cook your own recipe – be reminded though, that no animal meat product is to be used, only alternate proteins.

Thank you for the continued adherence to school uniform.
Mrs van Wyk

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Parent Governor Vacancies

Please find attached details regarding an opening for a Parent Governor for Edwinstree Middle School.

The Department for Education produces some useful guidance about being a school governor including a list of some of the 'soft' skills school governors need.

Committed – For instance, devoting the required time/energy to the role and ambitious to achieve best possible outcomes for pupils. Prepared to give time, skills and knowledge to developing themselves and others to create highly effective governance.

Confident – Of an independent mind, able to lead and contribute to courageous conversations, to express their opinion and to play an active role on the board.

Curious – Possessing an enquiring mind and an analytical approach and understanding the value of meaningful questioning.

Challenging – Providing appropriate challenge to the status quo, not taking information or data at face value and always driving for improvement.

Collaborative – Prepared to listen to and work in partnership with others and understanding the importance of building strong working relationships within the board and with executive leaders, staff, parents and carers, pupils/students, the local community and employers.

Critical – Understanding the value of critical friendship which enables both challenge and support, and self-reflection, pursuing learning and development opportunities to improve their own and whole board effectiveness.

Creative – Able to challenge conventional wisdom and be open-minded about new approaches to problem-solving; recognising the value of innovation and creative thinking to organisational development and success.

If any parents are interested in becoming a governor and have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email chairgb@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with your contact details and I will do my best to get back to you promptly.

John Boulter – Chair of Governors

Mrs J Gant – Executive Head
admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk