



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 09/12/2022

Diary Dates – Week B

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
12/12/22	Year 7 & 8 Nasal Flu vaccinations
13/12/22	Year 5 Christingle afternoon – Parents welcome (more details to follow)
14/12/22	Year 8 –Geography Trip to London to visit Grenfell Tower
15/12/22	ESA Christmas Disco
16/12/22	End of Term Service at Aspenden Church (Parent volunteers needed). Non-Uniform Day End of term 13.20PM
05/01/23	Spring Term begins
30/01-02/02/23	Mock SATs Week



What is happening on the last day of term?

School finishes at 1.20pm. In the morning, students will walk in year groups to Aspenden church for a Christmas ceremony. This is a memory making moment and captures the true meaning of Christmas.

If you are unable to help with the walk you are always welcome at the service which takes place for each year group as follows:

- Year 5 – 9.30am
- Year 6 – 11.20am
- Year 7 – 10.50am
- Year 8 – 10.10am

The day will be Non-school uniform as the walk will be muddy, students will need to bring suitable footwear such as wellington boots to school and a bag to carry their shoes, so that they can change into them at the church. The ESA will be providing hot chocolate for students at St Peters church on their return walk to school. If you are available to support the walk or the refreshments stand, we would very much appreciate your help. Please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to let us know.

Choir and band - last day of term

The choir and band will be taking part in the end of term services. We would like as many of the choir and band in the church as possible. Therefore, if your child is in the band or choir, please could you click on the link below and complete the form, so we know who to expect and where. The deadline is Thursday morning, but earlier if possible please. The expectation is that students will walk back to school with the last year group (minus instruments!). They will need to wrap up warm - hats, scarfs, gloves and a snack are recommended.

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

Calling all bakers to support the end of term.

On the return walk from Aspenden Church we are hoping to provide our students with a biscuit or cake to go with their hot chocolate. Would you be willing to bake and/or buy? If you are able to support please bring your baked goods in school by Thursday 15th December pm. Thank you for any help you can offer.

When is the Christmas Disco

The ESA have organised a Christmas disco, which will be held in school on Thursday 15th December.

- Years 5 & 6 from 4.30-6.00pm
- Years 7 & 8 from 6.15-7.45pm

Tickets are £3 inclusive of drink and snack. Please book your tickets via SchoolGateway, and complete the following consent form

<https://forms.office.com/e/5qcwGRwpHu>

Can you help the foodbank?

We would like to offer our families the opportunity to support the food bank this Christmas. Our community Leaders in year 8 are asking tutor groups to support by bringing in one of the following items that the food bank is currently short of:

- Biscuits
- Long Life Milk
- Tinned meals (Mince & Onions, Stewed Steak, Pies)
- Hot Dog Sausages
- Long Grain Rice
- Pasta Sauces
- Tinned Vegetables (Potatoes, Carrots)
- Rice Pudding and Custard Desserts

Students can drop any item off in a box at reception and with our help the Leaders will deliver all items to the Food bank in time to support families over the holidays.

Food and Nutrition

Another week of wonderful smells and amazing baked gingerbread biscuits - well done **Year 8** the staff were salivating! Apologies for the two cancelled practical's. **5A** - I very much look forward to seeing all the wonderful photos of your home-made pizzas. The pictures that have already been sent via Satchel 1 are just fabulous - lots of vibrant colours and some fantastic designs.

8B and **8D** you will make your biscuits next week. Please note I have slightly adjusted the butter/margarine quantity for those making the simple biscuits. Please remember your health and safety rules as well as a container to take your product home in. Please do not bring your own cutters in - the school has a selection of these for you to use.

I have had several requests for some baking ideas for the holidays and will get a few step-by-step recipes out on Satchel 1 to all year groups by the end of next week.

*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 are our snow procedures?

With the forecast as it is, we felt it was time to dust off the snow procedures that we have not used in the last 3 years as many parents will be unfamiliar with what we do if there is significant snow.

We will post on our website and Facebook, send a Parentmail and notify the Hertfordshire information services if we are closing the school. This decision will be made in conjunction with the local Headteachers in Buntingford.

If snow is heavy overnight and leads to a closure the next morning, we will ensure that the Parentmail, website and Facebook are updated by 7:45am at the latest, however, we will aim for a 7:30am notice. Bus companies will be informed along with parents.

If a closure decision is made during the day, we will Parentmail and post on our website and Facebook. We will also publish a time for student collection. Please note the Buntingford staff and the Head will not leave the site until all students are accounted for.

On the day, once the decision is made, the following will happen in school:

- 1) Students will return to their tutor group, if they have a mobile phone, arrangements will be made for phones to be collected.
- 2) Paper copy registers will be provided by the Admin Team and Tutors will register students.
- 3) Bus students will be dismissed to the gym first, where the SLT will be waiting to escort them onto the buses.
- 4) KS3 siblings will be dismissed to collect their sibling and exit the school from the bottom gate if you have given permission.
- 5) KS3 students who have permission to walk home will be dismissed from the bottom gate if you have given permission.
- 6) KS3 students who are required to wait for a parent or designated adult, will wait in their tutor room with their tutor.
- 7) KS2 tutors will dismiss students who have permission to walk home from the bottom exit gate and students once registered, will wait in their tutor room to be collected
- 8) Parents and designated adults, will register at reception and then collect their child from their tutor room

Please can you click on the following link and complete the Emergency School Closure consent form so we know how your child will get home safely:

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

What reports are coming home and when are the parental consultations?

Reports will be with you by the end of term. These are your termly data reports that give you a summary of the progress your child is making in English, Maths and Science and their current attainment. Foundation subject information comes in term 2 and 3. Next term focuses on parent consultations, please check when your sessions are.

Mechanical Calculator and Slide Rule Request

Please would you check your attic to see if you have a "mechanical calculator" that looks a bit like the pictures below? These calculators were used in many offices and some homes in the past and Mr Galanides would like to use one (or more!) of these in maths lessons. Also, maybe you have a slide rule that you used to use? We would like to use these in lessons too.

Please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you can help. Thank you.



Year 5 News:

Our Y5 Christingle service will take place at 1.30pm on Tuesday 13th December, led by Reverend Kirsty Wainwright and Mr Rowlands. We sent a Parentmail during the week with details about how to sign up if you would like to come. Here is the link again. The cut off is Sunday evening so we have the correct numbers and can plan accordingly.

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

Please note that 5B and 5D will not have PE on this day.

Year 6 News:

A huge thank you to the parents that turned up to find out about the SATs and support their child in beginning their preparation.

Year 7 & 8 News

Nasal Flu Vaccinations for Years 7 & 8 are confirmed for Monday 12th December 2022.

Please see attached a letter containing the consent link. The Nursing Team ask for you to complete the form, even if you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine. If you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Team direct on the number detailed in the letter.

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Year 8 News:

The educational visit to London takes place on Wednesday 14th December. As part of their visit the students will be asked to take photos of the different zones within a city and the buildings that are found there. These photos will also be used for an art project on buildings. For this visit we will be asking students to bring their mobile phones. Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered to come with us so that we can reduce the cost of supply teachers in the school. We are looking for a few more volunteers if you can help us. Students will need a packed lunch and/or money to purchase food at the Christmas market.

Enrichment Clubs

It has been great to see so many students take part in extra-curricular activities this term. All clubs have now finished and new sign-up lists will be available after the Christmas holidays. All clubs will resume the week beginning Monday 16th January.

Would your child like to join Film Makers Club?

This club is returning to school in the Spring Term (11 WEEKS EVERY WEDNESDAY 3.05pm - 4.10pm).

To Book a place on this club for next term, please click here <https://form.iotforme.u.com/70862684255363> OR use the QR code on the attached Flyer.

SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 15 CHILDREN PER TERM.

For more information contact Gill on hertsbedsfilmclub@gmail.com or 07341305131. Payment is split into 3 equal Monthly Direct Debits spaced 1 month apart. (£25.58 per month), for other payment options available please email hertsbedsfilmclub@gmail.com. You do not need to set up the payment section now, if you wish, a payment link can be sent at the end of December, so that payments leave your account 1st Jan, 1st Feb, 1st Mar or 1st Feb, 1st Mar, 1st Apr. Please check out the website to see to see what we do in school and also recent Parent feedback <https://hertsbedsfilmclub.webstarts.com>

What information is there from County regarding scarlet fever and iGAS?

Please find letter attached regarding the Increase in scarlet fever and iGAS (invasive group A streptococcal) cases

What is BeeZee Families?

BeeZee Families Courses - A free healthy lifestyle programme for families with children aged 5-15 years who are above the ideal weight for their age. Families will learn about healthy eating, fun physical activity, cooking sessions, top tips for healthy lifestyle, and how to make healthy habits for life!

www.beezeebodies.com

<https://beezeebodies.com/contact/>

Mental Health Support for Hertfordshire's Children and Young People



If your child or teenager is feeling low, anxious, or generally struggling, there are lots of services available to help them all year round. Please always encourage them to talk and ask for help if they need it. The services listed on Just Talk's webpage are all free and don't need a professional referral, so they can be contacted directly by young people and/or their parents/carers. Services listed include Hertfordshire's new With YOUth Digital Wellbeing Service for ages 5-18, parents and carers and many more, so please take a look:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupportforhertseyoungpeople

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

Attachments:

Year 7 & 8 Flu Vaccinations

Film Club

Increase in scarlet fever and iGAS

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