



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 10/02/2023**

**Diary Dates**

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
13-17/02/23	Half Term
08/03/23	Rescheduled Year 8 Geography visit to London
24/03/23	ESA Family Quiz
30/03/23	Year 8 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
31/03/23	ESA Easter Egg Hunt
03-14/04/23	Easter Break
17/04/23	Summer Term Begins
27/04/23	Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
01/05/23	Bank Holiday
08/05/23	Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III)
09-12/05/23	Year 6 SATs
12/05/23	ESA School Disco
18/05/23	Year 7 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
29/05-02/06/23	Half Term
29/06/23	Year 6 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
13/07/23	County Transition Day
21/07/23	End of Summer Term

**Will my child have supply teachers post Half term and why?**

We continue to suffer significant long-term ill health with two members of our Science department Ms Sanders and Mrs Gravelle. We are hoping to see Mrs Gravelle return post Easter and Ms Sanders in the late Summer. Mrs Barrett our 2<sup>nd</sup> in Science has stepped in as lead for year 7 teaching, and we have bought in Ms Di Pasquale an experienced teacher, who has worked with us before to lead the year 5 and 6 teaching. Our year 8's have been affected this term without Mrs Gravelle. To support them we have now secured an experienced supply teacher for next half term. Mrs Gravelle and Mrs Barrett have liaised with Freman to ensure that they are aware of the situation and we have agreed the scheme of work most appropriate for this period of time.

Our new supply teacher Ms Barros will begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> week after half term. Please see the attached letter from Ms Saunders that has been read to students today. With Ms Shelley also having to take a leave of absence next half term, we will be moving Ms Mursell to the PE department for the term, she is a trained and experienced PE teacher. Her History and Geography teaching will be covered by an experienced teacher Ms Russell for next half term.

We hope to see an improvement in the health of staff in the next half term, but we would still steer that if your child is unwell please do not send them into school, until they are recovered. Thank you for your patience with us.

**Timetable changes after half term**

In Y5 and Y6, as well as Technology across the school, there are subjects that operate on a carousel. The following changes will be made after half term.

**Y5**

- 5A - French lesson P4 Wednesdays rather than Computing
- 5B - Computing lesson P4 Wednesdays rather than French
- 5C - French lesson P5 Wednesdays rather than Computing
- 5D - Computing lesson P5 Wednesdays rather than French

**Y6**

- 6A - PE lesson P3 Wednesdays rather than French
- 6B - PE lesson P1 Fridays rather than French
- 6C - French lesson P1 Fridays rather than PE
- 6D - French lesson P3 Wednesdays rather than PE

**What are the plans for the next strike?**

Once again, we will be asking staff to indicate who is not striking. We will then look at the plans for the 3 days in March. We will prioritise the exam groups and key stage 2. However please make sure that you have a plan for these days, whatever year group your child is in. We will confirm our plans in the first newsletter after half term.

*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 was the response to the uniform proposals?

Thank you for the significant amount of feedback we received from you with regard to the uniform which was mostly in favour but with concerns raised about cost. We are listening to you. I will relay this feedback at the Full Governing body meeting after half term and we will look to see what we can put in place to ease the costs you have raised. We will come back to you with a plan post half term. Thank you for taking the time to do this.

### Can you help in the library?

We are looking for volunteers to join Mrs Willett on Thursday mornings (9.15 - 12pm) and some Friday afternoons to get our books ready for moving over to our new online borrowing and returning system. This involves scanning barcodes and sticking in stickers. If you would be able to help, please contact Mrs Hayes. A huge thank you to Mrs Willett and Mrs Nash for all their help with this already.

### World Book Day

World Book Day is coming up after half term on Thursday 2nd March. This year, the theme is, 'You are a reader', so we are inviting pupils to come into school on this day in their cosiest pyjamas along with their favourite book to share. There is no need to go out and buy something new.

### How can you support the ESA and Edwinstree to continue to raise funds for the outdoor classroom?

The ESA are working hard planning some fun events for the children this year along with fundraising events to raise money for the Outdoor Classroom campaign, please find attached the ESA Annual Report.

We are setting KS2 students the 'Smarties Challenge' over this half term (check Parentmail or ESA Facebook for details). We will have a separate challenge for KS3 students later in the year. Which Key stage will raise the most money??

If you are a competitive person then please join in our Family Quiz on Friday 23rd March. £20 for a team entry. Teams must have at least one child and one adult, between 6 and 8 people on a team. The entry fee will be split 50/50 between our fundraising campaign and the

quiz prize fund. The more teams that enter, the bigger the prize fund and the more money raised for the outdoor classroom. Other events we are working on are an Easter egg hunt and a school disco. Watch this space for further details!

### When are the next round of face to face foundation Parent evenings (all the subjects except Science, Maths and English)?

Foundation parent evenings start this term and are in person:

Dates are below:

Foundation Evenings		
In-person evenings – 5pm to 7pm		
Date	Year	Subjects
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Y8	French, History, Geography, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Y5	Science, French, Humanities, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Y7	French, History, Geography, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6	Science, French, Humanities, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE

### Raising Money for Cancer Research

Thank you to all the children who raised funds, and all Parent/Carers who kindly donated cakes for Cancer research today we have raised in excess of £728.50

### Year 6 Parents

We recently gave Year 6 two revision books (one reading and one GPS) in which to complete their home learning (and mark it themselves from the answers in the back) leading up to their SATS examinations. Could we ask you to remind your children that they need to bring both their books in on a Monday as many have been forgetting. They need to have the books with them as we will use the lesson to go over any misconceptions or topics they are struggling with. Thank you for your support on this. Miss Bull and Mrs Mayne

*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.*

### **Maths Home Learning Club - Tuesdays**

There will be no maths home learning club on Tuesday 21st February as no home learning is being given out before half term. Mrs Earnshaw

### **Pokémon Club**

There will be no Pokémon club on Monday 20th February.

From Monday 27th February we will begin a tournament for the rest of the half term. The students will need a 60-card deck to play. We still have some spare cards available as a club if they haven't got enough cards to make a full deck. As a result of some unfair trades taking place and cards going missing there will no longer be opportunities for trades in school including at the club. Thanks Mrs Barrett

### **Science Department Plea**

Mrs Barrett is on the hunt for a small bookcase to go in one of the labs. If you have one you are looking to rehome one please consider donating it to the Science department.

### **Year 7 Textiles**

Year 7 students that are currently studying Textiles will bring home a decorative cushion covers over the next few weeks. They have worked incredibly hard over the last term, which has been rewarded with success. Well done Year 7!

The cushion cover requires a 30cm by 30cm insert. These can be purchased via the school gateway at £2.60 each. Payment closing date is Friday 24th February 2023. Unfortunately, this cannot be extended as the cushions are ordered directly from the supplier. Alternatively, you can purchase them from Amazon for a reasonable price.



### **Technology Department**

Do you have any old fabric that you no longer need? The Technology department will be working alongside the PTA to create recycled products to sell at various school events throughout the year. Anything that has a high % of cotton would be preferred. The school office will be open to receive donations on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th February. Many thanks! Mrs Booth

### **PE Spring Term Timetable**

Please find attached our Spring timetable for PE colour coded for Year Groups.

### **Year 6 Football**

Congratulations to our Year 6 boys on finishing fourth in the county. An incredible achievement.

### **Old boots/trainers' plea**

If you have any trainers or football boots your child has either out grown or no longer wants please may we we ask for donations to the PE department to use as spares when needed.

### **Extra-Curricular Sports Kit**

We are still missing several pieces of extra-curricular kit including rugby and football kit, and a general wear Nike shirt. Would you please have a look at home and return anything you may find. This message may also apply to those pupils with siblings who have left our school.

### **Junior Bake Off**

We have been contacted by Love Productions, the company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down. They have recently opened applications for the 9th series of Junior Bake Off; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.

They are looking for young budding bakers between 9-12 years old. Filming would take place from July 2023, but applications close on Sunday 12th March 2023.

Interested bakers can apply online at -

[www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.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.*

## NSPCC Online safety webinars

Sign in details for NSPCC Online safety webinars – there will be more from March onwards.

13 Feb	7- 8pm	Core + Social Media + Parental Controls	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82334232123?pwd=OGdGWkR0WXR4Y3ZNTFprc1Bs dE5hQT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82334232123?pwd=OGdGWkR0WXR4Y3ZNTFprc1Bs dE5hQT09</a> Meeting ID: 823 3423 2123 Passcode: 094055
22 Feb	5- 6pm	Online bullying, social media, modelling good behaviour	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81269657431?pwd=aUZ1 dXN0S0hIUUx6SWFsSIRsK 3Vvdz09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81269657431?pwd=aUZ1 dXN0S0hIUUx6SWFsSIRsK 3Vvdz09</a> Meeting ID: 812 6965 7431 Passcode: 250798
28 Feb	7- 8pm	Core + Social Media + Online Gaming + Cyber Bullying	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82274589287?pwd=SFVE L1Eva0ZSaHhPcDcwSmov SCtiUT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82274589287?pwd=SFVE L1Eva0ZSaHhPcDcwSmov SCtiUT09</a> Meeting ID: 822 7458 9287 Passcode: 635195

## Thrive 365 Children's Mental Health Week

Please find attached Thrive 365 Flyer from Impact Education.

Best Wishes

**Mrs J Gant - Headteacher**

*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.*