



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 10/03/2023

Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
12/03/23	ESA Pond working party @ 10.30am Thank you to all those who have volunteered. Please come through the lower gate which will be open.
15 & 16/03/23	Strike Action
23/03/23	Provisional Year 8 STEM Ambassador visit
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 – and Easter service – parents needed to support.
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
28/04/23	Provisional Year 8 Thorpe Park Visit (more details to follow)
01/05/23	Bank Holiday
08/05/23	Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III
09-12/05/23	Year 6 SATs
18/05/23	Year 7 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
19/05/23	ESA School Disco
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

What are the plans for the next strike?

We wish to inform you that the school will be closed to all year groups on the following strike action days.

- 15th March
- 16th March

We are unable to safely staff the school during the strike action. Any teacher who has not chosen to strike will attend school and will be offering a live lesson that your child can access through the Show My Homework App. If your child has no lessons offered on that day, they are able to access distance learning from our

website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/learning/distance-learning.aspx, this provides lots of different activities in all subject areas. Please note this is not cover or a planned remote lesson.

If my child has free school meals what happens?

We will prepare packed lunches for those students who have free school meals and you will be able to collect these lunches from 12pm onwards.

To avoid waste we would really appreciate it if you emailed admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk by Tuesday morning 9,00am if you wish to take up this offer.

What about if I am really struggling to find childcare for any of these days?

We are looking to support no more than 25 students to attend school and carry out learning via Show My Homework in the ICT room. However, can I please stress, priority will be given to key workers, and this is only to be used as a last resort. If you would like to apply for one of the places for your child please contact Sharon Marler on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk In order to plan, we will need to know by the end of the school day Monday if you require support.

Emails to staff during strike action

Please note that emails and phone calls to staff during the strike period may result in a slower turnaround.

How are we supporting your child's mental health and how can you help?

Attached is a flyer for a recommended training session for parents on mental health led by County. The Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Education Team (EMWiE) are offering MHFA Champion 1-day training for parents/carers of CYP aged between 8-18.

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

Why isn't spirituality supporting mental health?

I am aware that we did not answer this question last half term, we believe spiritual experiences are really important and can build capacity for calmness, peace and contentment.

Our experience is beginning to teach us that to maintain good mental health, we need to support students and staff to develop good habits that are unique to them, and formed and practised weekly. Imagine, if you wanted to have good physical health you need to practise your chosen sport/activity regularly.

We believe this is the same for developing a healthy mental habit. If you would like to hear how to support you and your child to maintain good mental health, further information will be circulated next week with regard to dates for your diary.

PSHE Update

All year groups are now completing their extra "wellbeing" lessons that we have been teaching since Christmas. All year groups have focussed on Zones of Regulation whilst KS3 have also looked at extra aspects such as how poor online usage can impact our wellbeing and also the importance of sleeping well.

All year groups are now returning to the schools' main curriculum, please see

www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/learning/pshe.aspx

We are starting to move to the section called "Living in the Wider World 2" After this we will be looking to see how we can combine other aspects of the curriculum, in particular the sections on "Relationships"

Home Learning Club

Due to staff training on Tuesday 21st March, home learning club will run on Wednesday 22nd March.

ESA Pond Working Party – Sunday 12th March

Are you free this Sunday morning to help tidy the wildlife area? The Head of Science Ms Sanders has been receiving treatment for throat cancer but hopes to be back at school soon. The Wildlife area means a lot to her and she has been hoping to set up a Forest School also. The ESA would really like to give this area a new lease of life for her return. Please join us 10.30 -12.30 this

Sunday 12th March. Please note that all children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Year 5 News

We have provisionally booked a trip to Felixstowe to enjoy the seaside and to carry out Geography field work based around coastal erosion. The date for the trip will be Monday 22nd May. A formal letter for the trip will be out next week

Year 6 News

Residential dates are Monday 18th September to Wednesday 20th September, and the total cost will be £216.00. A formal letter for the trip will be out next week

Year 7 News

We are aware that as parents you have had the least opportunity to come into school and to get to know us. As well as the foundation evening on Thursday 18th May, we are looking to offer you a set of days where you can come into school and to spend time in lessons, getting to see how we work, and what learning has been taking place. The dates for this are just being finalised for post Easter. We hope you take the opportunity wherever you can to come and meet us and get a feel for how we work.

Year 8 News

Attached is a letter formally commending your child on their exemplary behaviour on the trip to London this week, they were a delight and are clearly showing their readiness and maturity for Freman.

Post Easter we will be asking you to alert us if your child would benefit from extra transition visits to Freman, in order to support their transition and ease their concerns.

KS3 Scientific calculators

Many students have now purchased a calculator and we are using them regularly in maths lessons.

We would like to begin using more of the functions, but we are unable to do this until all pupils have a scientific calculator in school with them. In line with other schools, your son/daughter will need a scientific calculator for their lessons, they will be able to use this same

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calculator at Freman College, where it is also a requirement for the curriculum.

The cost of buying a calculator from the school is £8.32, which is a reduced price. To purchase a calculator, payment can be made via the school Gateway. If your child is PP and this cost will cause you financial difficulty, please email s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

NSPCC – Speak Out Stay Safe

The NSPCC will be delivering hour sessions to year 5 and 6 about being safe, and will include aspects of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and bullying. These will be fully age-appropriate and will be led by NSPCC volunteers with a teacher in the classroom to support. The sessions will include:

- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise signs of abuse
- that abuse is never a child's fault and that they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including our [Childline service](#).

The dates are follows:

Year 5 – Tuesday 21st March

Year 6 – Thursday 23rd March

Timetable attached

We would suggest that all parents visit the following website to find out more about this session.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe> When looking at this link please be aware that the school has chosen the option for the NSPCC to do the talk at the school rather than online.

Stagestruck Ltd

We would like to say a huge thank you to Stagestruck Ltd for driving the sustainability agenda for our community and offering Edwinstree a series of furniture that they no longer need. Thank you for thinking of us. The stools look great in our library and wellbeing centre, the benches are supporting workspaces, and the white chairs now have a proud place in our mental health and therapy room.

Hertfordshire Music Services

If you are interested in learning a musical instrument, please see attached flyer.



Home-Start

Being a parent is one of the biggest rollercoaster rides you are ever likely to take. One day you can feel on top of the world, connected to your children, happy and 'winning' at this parenting lark. But in the blink of an eye, things can drastically change, becoming impossibly difficult, and you find yourself wondering where the health warnings were when you signed up.

Tough times can hit any parent or family at any time. And asking for help isn't always easy, especially when you need it the most. Home-Start can help families struggling with issues including post-natal depression, relationship breakdown, a child's disability, isolation or cost of living worries. And right now, we are training a new group of Home-Visiting volunteers, meaning in a couple of weeks' time, we will have 10 new volunteers ready to be matched with families.

If you are a parent or carer of children aged 9 or under living within the postcode areas of SG8 or SG9, or you know of someone who is, then get in touch for a confidential chat about how Home-Start might be able to offer some help.

Get in touch by:

- telephone (01763 2762262)
- email (admin@hsrsc.org.uk)
- the contact form on our website (www.hsrsc.org.uk/contact-us/), or
- message us on Messenger (www.facebook.com/hsrsc.org.uk/)

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

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