



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 10//07/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates:

[Term Dates 2025-26 & 2026-27.pdf](#)

Homework week: A

Diary Dates:

17/07/26	11am Leavers Service @ Aspenden Green End of Term 1:20pm.
01/09/26	INSET DAY
02/09/26	Year 5 Induction Day
03/09/26	Term begins for Years 6-8
24/09/26	Year 5 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
01/10/26	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
26/10-30/10/26	Half Term
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.

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Afterschool Clubs

All after school clubs have now finished

Please note that all teacher led afterschool clubs have now finished. Sign-up sheets for afterschool clubs will be sent out in September at the end of the first week of term, and clubs will begin in the 3rd week of the new term.

Transition Day

A big thank you to our students for welcoming our new Year 5s into school yesterday. It was lovely to see the warm welcome they received from the older year groups reassured and settled them beautifully into the school.

What happens on the last day of term?

The last day of term will involve walking to Aspenden Green, where our local church and the school will host a leavers celebration.

The whole school will attend and year 8 will be given their awards at the event. All parents, but particularly year 8 are welcome, and the service should begin just after 11 am. We will leave school between 10 – 10.30 and return to school for 12. If you have good walking shoes and are willing to help us by volunteering to get the students there and back safely, please would you email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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2026-27 timetable

Now we have completed the transition of our new Y5 cohort, and the exit transition of our current Y8s, we can start the process of informing you about students' timetables for next year. Our aim is to publish tutor group timetables on the school website by the end of next week.

Students were given information this afternoon about their new tutor groups for September; new Y7 and Y8 class lists will be available for students to view from Monday morning. For your reference, the tutors for next year are below:

If you have a concerns about the new classes, we are gently requesting students to try out the classes for a couple of months in the new school year. We know that brand new and often wonderful friendships will often be generated due to the class changes as well as natural changes in existing friendship groups as the children become older.

2026-27 tutors

	A	B	C	D
Year 5 HOY: Mrs Van Wyk	Mr Murphy	Mrs Banner	Mrs Burches	Mrs Hill
Year 6 HOY: Mr Galanides	Mrs Dore	Mrs Thomas	Mr Funnell	Mrs Booth
Year 7 HOY: Mr Kelly	Mrs Taylor	Mrs Brock	Mr Brown	Mrs Knight
Year 8 HOY: Mr McCarthy	Ms Mursell	Mrs Lane	Mrs Theroulde	Mrs Bright

From September, we will be using Arbor as our parent and student portals (contact details, behaviour and attendance). We have almost finished the migration process from Satchel and will contact you in the new academic year with instructions on how to access Arbor. Students will be shown in their Computing lessons in September.

In Y6, Y7 and Y8, we will still be using Satchel for homework, but we are looking to move homework to Arbor once we've trialled it with our new Y5 cohort.

Additional School Visits

Miss Harris and Mrs Surrey would like to offer additional school visits for any pupils who may be feeling anxious about returning to school or who may find the transition back to school challenging. If you feel that your child would benefit from an extra visit before the start of term, please contact the Wellbeing Hub at wellbeinghub@edwinstree.sch.herts.uk. You can book now or make the decision on the holidays.

Visits are available from Monday 10th August to Friday 21st August. We look forward to supporting your child and helping them feel confident and ready for the new school year.

When do we return to school?

Staff return to school on the 1st of September for an INSET day. We will welcome Year 5 into school on Tuesday 2nd September at 8.40 am. School starts for year 6,7, and 8 on Wednesday 3rd September.

School Fair

What an awesome day it was. A fabulous turnout and some exciting stalls – all manned by the wonderful students themselves! Without teamwork, laughter and an amazing bunch of pupils and staff, the day would not have been so successful. *They smashed it!*



The final total is yet to be worked out as we have some expenses that need to be taken off, but we look forward to organising some more seating in the form of benches around the school for pupils to enjoy.



It was a delight to have the Year 8 band accompany the afternoon, despite being out in the sun the whole time, the band played on. I was truly impressed to see a Year 6 pupil at the drums keeping up with the timing and rhythm as the boys belted

out song after song. It was fantastic to hear the talent that has come through the school.

Our first Bake-Off went down well and 3 very impressive Victoria Sponge Cakes were presented. Well done to our winners – your vouchers should get to you next week. We are already looking forward to next year and will get a save the date out, early next year,
Mrs van Wyk



Food and Nutrition – All Years

Wow! What a fun, fab, food filled year it has been! We have created over 1900 dishes over the past year, with Year 5 gaining valuable skills in the kitchen, all the way to Year 8 cooking international cuisine. An awesome amount of hard work by the pupils and I am impressed with how much we have managed to produce.

Please keep up with your washing up at home over the holidays and your prep skills. I know it's too hot to peel and cut potatoes for a Sunday roast, but you can still do all the veg prep for a healthy salad or two. Remember, the more colour in your salad, the greater the variety of vitamins and minerals that work to support your body.

Remember to start the new year with the correct uniform in the Food Room – safe shoes to keep your feet protected and of course removal of any nail products put on over the holidays.

On Tuesday, 14th of July the final practicals of the year will take place, 6A, 5D and 8A please remember to bring in your ingredients.
Mrs van Wyk

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Gardening Club



Whilst the club is over for the year, the garden is still in full swing of growing. We have been super vigilant with the heat, and this time have not had plants succumb. I will still be coming in over the holidays to water and harvest tomatoes as our crop is growing, but still very green and nowhere near ready for picking. Tomatoes are prepped and frozen for use by Year 7 when they make spaghetti Bolognese, helping reduce our carbon footprint and realising there are no food miles associated with this, as the crop is grown 10 metres from the classroom door.



There will be a harvest for the Gardening Club – please make sure your child looks out for the information in the morning PowerPoint so that we can share what we have grown. We will harvest carrots, peas, potatoes, courgettes and beans (if they are ready). The cauliflower and cabbages are only due for harvest in November/December.

I look forward to starting the club up again in September, it will run until October half term, or until we lose the afternoon light.
Mrs van Wyk

Mobile phones - DfE guidance

As you are aware, the DfE have instructed schools to become mobile free during the school day. Whilst schools have implemented this in different ways, we have had the policy of handing phones in for a while. We would, however, like to tighten up their use before school. Below is what will be in place from September.

A bell will ring at 8.30am each day.

At this point, students should put their phones away (coat, bag, pocket) and not be visible on the school site - both in and out of the buildings.

We understand that some students like to ring/text home to let you know they've arrived. If this is after 8.30am, we will allow them to do this at the gate and then ask them to put their phone away. At 8.40am, phones to be handed to the tutor as normal. This should give students 10 minutes of screen-free time before the school day starts and a time to socialise with friends rather than looking at a screen. Initially, we will have more staff out on morning duty supporting and reminding students of this change.

We will be sharing this with students next week, but we wanted to inform you of this change before we did this.

First News

We are excited to offer all our students unlimited free access to First News over the summer holidays. This access includes:

- The weekly newspaper and an archive of past issues
- Weekly news quiz to test knowledge in a fun way
- Daily news stories to read, listen or watch
- Polls and interactive content
- Puzzles and games
- Discussion points for families

To sign up, use this link: <https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/summer-reading-2026/?fn=PUIR6435>

What does my child need to be ready for the start of a new year?

PE Reminder

For PE next year, all classes will need a mouth guard, black football socks, shin pads and football boots in order to safely participate in hockey, football, and rugby lessons. Charity shops and second hand online are great places to seek these items.

What is our Uniform reminder for next year?

Our uniform list can be found here [Edwinstree School](https://edwinstree-school-association.sumupstore.com/). Please do not forget the ESA offer a nearly new service for parents, please find link here to their website: <https://edwinstree-school-association.sumupstore.com/>

What equipment are we asking students to bring into school with them next term?

To support your child to learn, please may we ask that you provide them with the following:

- Pencil case
- Blue or black pens
- Green pen
- HB pencils
- Ruler (30cm measured in cm and mm)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Whiteboard pen/rubber
- Glue stick.
- A small pack of colouring pencils (basic colours)
- Year 7&8: scientific calculator -
- [Casio FX-83GTX Scientific Calculator, Black: Amazon.co.uk: Stationery & Office Supplies](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Casio-FX-83GTX-Scientific-Calculator-Black/dp/B000061888)
- You may wish to provide highlighter pens.

Any parent that is struggling to manage this please contact s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Mrs Marler is here to help.

Why are we asking students to bring stationery equipment?

We have found that students who are prepared for lessons are also prepared for learning. As we begin to introduce our new ethos of 'commitment' we will be asking students to be committed to their learning by being fully prepared. We appreciate your support with this.

School Shoes

Please ensure you consider the safety requirements of footwear in the practical subjects. In order for pupils to be safe in Science, Food and Nutrition, and DT lessons they are required to wear hard topped, polishable shoes. This is to prevent them from being scalded by hot water, burnt by acid if dropped or injured from falling sharp objects. We have to plan for such events and ensure the safety of every child. Please support your child to take part in these practical subjects by ensuring their feet are safe. Here are some example shoes that will meet the needs of these subjects.



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Fidget Aids

We have recently seen a significant increase in pupils using fidget aids during lessons and would like to address this before the holidays.



Fidget aids can have both positive and negative effects. They may help to improve focus and act as a tool for managing stress. However, not all fidget aids are beneficial for learning. Items that require visual attention, include a game element, or make noise can actually reduce concentration, both for the pupil using them and for others in the class. Some items may also be unsuitable for certain subjects, such as science, due to health and safety considerations. As with any personal item brought into school, fidget aids may be lost or shared inappropriately. Unfortunately, we cannot take responsibility for this.

At Edwinstree, pupils already benefit from movement breaks throughout the day, as well as access to our Wellbeing Hub, where they can regulate their emotions when needed. Before allowing your child to bring a fidget aid into school, please ensure they understand the following expectations:

- I use fidgets to help me focus so that I can learn.
- I keep my fidget on my desk or in my hands.
- I do not show or pass my fidget to others.
- I put my fidget away when I am finished with it.
- I understand that if I do not follow these rules, my fidget may be removed.
- I understand that staff are not responsible if my fidget is lost or damaged.

Suitable fidget aids include simple items such as squiggle aids, foam shapes, or chewable sensory tools.

The following items **are not permitted**:

- Items that make noise
- Items with a gaming component
- Items with small parts that could pose a choking hazard (e.g. Tech Decks)
- Items containing gel or liquid that could leak or burst

Thank you for your support.

St Peter's Church Christian Youth Club

As part of St Peter's Church work to support young people, you will be familiar with the offer of hot chocolate and alternative refreshments in the winter months. It is a drop in space on Thursday after school to meet and chat. All staff involved are DBS checked.

St Peter's are creating a young people's space in their mezzanine area as part of their refurbishment and are keen to offer children the chance to shape and decide what it should look like, how it should be resources and what activities might take place there. The Church are asking students who are interested in sharing their ideas to attend a session from 10am to 12 noon on the 1st of August. Students will be introduced to this in COWO. Please use this link if your child is interested in attending.

St Peter's Church Christian Youth Club – Fill in form



Rib Valley Partnership

Summer Newsletter

Please find attached the Summer Newsletter, In this issue:

Top Tips for Transition to a new school p1

Support for Families p2

Holiday Activities & Support/Advice for Teens p3 &4

Signposting, Information and Advice Service

We're delighted to let you know that our website is now live and ready for families to access.

The website has been designed to provide parents and carers with easy access to information, resources and support. We would be grateful if you would share the link with your families through your usual communication channels.

Although our team will not be available on site during the summer holidays, families can still browse the website and access all available information. If they have any questions or would like further support, they can contact us through the website contact form, **and we will respond as soon as possible when we return (Mon 7th September).**

Website: www.ribvalleypartnership.org.uk

If you are worried about your child's mental health over the holidays, who can support you?

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Mental health services - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#)

[Just Talk \(justtalkherts.org\)](#)

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher
admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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