



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 11/09/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates: Term Dates 2026-27

Homework week: -

Diary Dates:

23/09/26	Freman College Open Evening
24/09/26	Rescheduled Year 6 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
25/09/26	ESA School Disco – All Years
01/10/26	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
12/10/26	Flu Vaccinations – All Years
20/10/26	School Photographs / Year 5 “Getting to know you” Parents meeting 5pm
26/10-30/10/26	Half Term
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
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.

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Morning drop off

Please can we ask that students are not dropped off/picked up on the double yellow lines in the bus bay before school. If nothing else, it is to help support the safe entry and exit of our students and give the buses space to park and drop off.

You will see staff on duty standing in the bay just outside the school and we do ask the PCSO to come up to support when they can. We encourage you to drop off your child in the Sainsbury's car park, where they can then walk up and use the crossing just outside the school. We appreciate that there are certain circumstances (a Blue Badge, for example) that do have exemptions, but we kindly ask that that drop off happens before 8.30am, when most students are entering the school. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children safe.

Park after school

Thank you to the parents who have reported that a very small minority of students since the summer are using poor language in the park after school. We have contacted parents, but can we ask if your child uses the park that you remind them, like we will, how to behave in front of others and our younger students.

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

Smart Watches

If a pupil can play games, make/accept phone calls, make/receive texts or access the camera then they will need to hand in their watch as they would a phone during school hours. Thank you for your support in this. In past we have found students are still learning how to use these devices well and have mistakenly video recorded other students and or staff and posted on social media sites without any permission from the individual being filmed.

Statutory Allergy Changes

In line with Benedict's Law, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all children, staff, and visitors with allergies.

As part of the changes, we are currently unable to provide children who have forgotten their snack with biscuits or any other food at break times. Students have been informed this week, and we are working to see if we are able to find a solution. If your child gets hungry before lunch, please send them to school with a suitable snack for breaktime that does **not contain nuts**. Thank you for your understanding.

Headlice

Please can you help us to limit the number of cases.

We have been made aware of cases of head lice in school. As you may be aware, head lice commonly occur amongst children and their presence does not mean that those affected are in any way dirty. However, head lice can cause distress and discomfort. Head lice can only be caught from head-to-head contact. They live close to the scalp and are quick moving insects, slightly smaller than a matchhead. They lay eggs which are small, skin coloured and well camouflaged, glued to the hair close to the scalp. After the egg hatches, the empty eggshell or 'nit' stays glued to the hair and moves away from the scalp as the hair grows. The 'nits' are white and shiny and easier to see. They are harmless and can persist for weeks after the lice have been treated successfully. Lice are difficult to see on the hair as they are grey or brown. Only about one third of children with lice will complain of itching which develops some weeks after the hair becomes affected.

Fortunately, we can get rid of head lice quickly and conveniently using a medicated lotion or spray. Please see link to NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

To help us with the recent outbreak and to keep head lice under control you can take the following procedures: -

- Wet comb your child's hair twice a week, even if you do not suspect the presence of lice. Use a special detection comb available from your pharmacist.
- Check all members of the household and advise anyone who has been in contact with your child to check their hair.
- Regular brushing or combing is the best safeguard against lice.
- Keeping long hair tied back.

Thank you for any help you can give.

School Photographs

The school photographer is booked for Tuesday 20th October 2026.

Sibling photos will take place first, followed by individuals. Please may we ask that your child comes in with clean uniform wearing their Edwinstree School sweatshirt and hair has been styled if necessary.

Arbor

Over the summer the school migrated to Arbor MIS and registrations to the parent portal/app were issued. Answers to frequently asked questions are below:

- The Arbor app still shows my child's previous school.
 - If your child's previous school uses Arbor, you will see that both schools are linked to their account. This is to provide former schools a window to complete admin processes. You do not need to take any action, and the previous school will drop off the app after approximately six months.
- I have children at different schools that both use Arbor why can I only see one child's account?
 - As the parent portal is linked to the school, it is unable to link multiple children at different schools. You will need to select the appropriate school for the child that you want to view when you log into the app.
- I have multiple children at Edwinstree, why can I only see one child?
 - You can switch between your children by pressing the account icon on the bottom right of the app and selecting "switch student". If you still cannot see your child's account, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and we will make an adjustment which will resolve this issue.
- I have not received an email about the Arbor parent portal.
 - Please check your spam folder first. If it is not there, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Further information on all of these questions and more are available on the Arbor help centre on this link [Logging in to the Parent Portal & Parent App – Arbor Help Centre](#)

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs starting 14th September

Club sign-up sheets were sent out, and we thank you for your patience while we rectified the problem with the links. You should now have received notification that your child has a place or is on the waitlist, if you have any queries, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Why has my child experienced cover this week?

Our year 7 residential was very early this year and required 8 members of staff. Other staff covered in their absence, but we required 4 supply teachers for the week. Your child would have experienced some cover.

When does Homework start?

Homework begins from the 14th of September.

KS2 (year 5 & 6) receive English, Maths and Science homework.
KS3 (year 7 & 8) receive the same and in addition the foundation subjects i.e. Music, DT, Geography, History once every two weeks.

With the exception of Year 5, homework is still issued on Satchel One and parent/carers should have the Satchel One App to support this. If you are struggling, please contact admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

Year 5 parent/carers your children will receive homework via hard copy first and you will receive an email about what they are receiving. It will take the first month to support year 5 to remember their passwords and email addresses. We will be doing this work in computing and then we will send you a letter to confirm and explain how you can set the app up ready to receive the homework. For now, look at for hard copies and do not lose the reading from Primary school. To read is the key to learning please do not let it stop.

Science Department

It has been a great start to the new academic year in Science, the children have been very enthusiastic about their learning, and all year groups have been recapping on safety in the labs to start the term.

Please be reminded that Science practicals require children to be wearing covered waterproof footwear. Nail varnish is not permitted in the labs.

Science home learning for Year 5 and 7:

While the system for setting homework for all year groups is being set up, we would like to give a prewarning to parents of children in Year 5 and Year 7 that a project home learning will be set on 18th September. The reason for giving early notice for this is that we usually like to display the work created by the children during our open evening on 1st October.

Year 5 children will be asked to create a project based on a planet or our solar system. This can be in the form of a poster, booklet, 3D creation or in any creative way they choose. Similarly, in Year 7, the children will be asked to create a model or diagram of a plant or animal cell, again, this can be done as creatively as they choose.

We would like this home learning to be completed and submitted in school by Monday 28th September, so that it can be displayed and admired at Open evening. Further information will be sent out on the 18th September, however children are more than welcome to get started and hand in earlier if they choose to do so!

Year 5 News

Reading

A big thank you to all parents and carers for ensuring that your child came to school with a reading book during their first week in Year 5. This has really helped us establish our reading routines successfully.

Reading records have now been issued. Children should be reading at least five times each week and recording their reading in their reading record. We kindly ask that parents and carers sign the reading record regularly to support and celebrate their child's reading progress.

Please also ensure that your child brings both their reading book and reading record to school every day, as these form an important part of our daily reading activities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 5 English Team

Mrs Banner, Mrs Knight and Mrs Hill

Year 6 News

As you are aware, the Year 5 visit to Whipsnade Zoo was postponed due to the hot weather and rescheduled for 24th September 2026.

We will require a new consent form to be completed for **all** students. **Please can you complete the form by Friday 18th September 2026** by clicking the link below.

[Y6 \(Previous Y5 rescheduled\) Whipsnade Zoo Visit - 24th September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

If your child could not previously attend but would now like to, please email complete the form and email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Should you have any further questions, please contact the office.

Year 8 News

Upper School Applications

Applications for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2027 opened Tuesday 1st September 2026, for children in year 8 (in middle schools).

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of 31st October 2026. We would recommend that parents complete their applications by Friday 23rd October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline.

Parents should apply online: **[Click here](#)**

Freman College's Open Evening

Wednesday 23rd September, 5:30pm – 7:30 pm

Please find attached letter



Edwinstree School Association

It's a big welcome from the ESA for the new school year and we kick things off with a firm favourite the School Disco.

Friday 25th September 5.30pm-7.30pm £5.

For new students this a great event to make new friends. The disco is outside on the playground and field, so there is plenty of space to dance or find a quieter spot to chill with friends. Snacks are provided along with unlimited drinks. In the event of bad weather, the disco will be split into two 1-hour sessions and held indoors (we will notify you if this looks likely).

Tickets are purchased on our ESA Sum Up shop until Tuesday 22nd Sept but are limited and once sold out there will be no more available. <https://edwinstree-school-association.sumupstore.com/product/school-disco-please-read-instructions-carefully>

Please follow the instructions carefully remembering to enter your child's name, food allergies and how they are leaving the disco in the 'Message for Merchant' box.

Can you help?

This is the final year for over half of the ESA committee and when our children leave, there will only be 2 parents left. If no new parents step up to join the committee this will be the penultimate disco. The good news is that we do still have a year of events and fundraising to come and provides the perfect opportunity for people to get involved and shadow the experienced committee members.

We need people to organise events like the disco, summer fair, late night shopping and pre-loved uniform, but also people we can just call on to help out at these events; setting things up, washing up and tidying away. Please either get in contact via the school office or edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com

The Big Future



As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, the Children's Commissioner has written to ask for your support in making sure pupils at the school have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

The survey can be completed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

Please find attached a 2026 flyer for the Motor Skills Development sessions for September, October, and November which are running for parents and carers in Hertfordshire. Sessions run every month and they will take place on Microsoft Teams.

Beezee in Hertfordshire

Beezee Families is a free programme designed to help families make small lifestyle changes that make a big difference.

Beezee Families Hertfordshire - Family Health Programme



Coram Family Lives Parenting Groups & Workshops Autumn 2026

Spaces are still available for Coram Family Lives online parenting groups and workshops.

Funded by Herts County Council, the groups and workshops are open to all parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire or who have a child attending a Hertfordshire school.

All the programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members so they can help their child reach their full potential.

Groups and workshops **Autumn 2026**

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group
Monday 5th October to 16th November, 7pm to 9pm OR
Friday 6th November to 11th December, 9.30am to 11.30am

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online 6-week group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group
Tuesday 6th October to 17th November, 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group
Wednesday 4th November to 9th December, 7pm to 9pm

Are you a dad who feels you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop
Wednesday 21 October 9.30am to 11.30am

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop
Monday 9 November 9.30am to 11.30am

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop
Wednesday 25 November 7pm to 9pm

It's a Dad's Life Online Workshop
Thursday 26 November 1pm to 3pm

Navigating the Storm (Teens) Online Workshop
Wednesday 2 December 9.30am to 11.30am

For more info, please contact Louise on 0204 522 8700/8701 or email services@coramfamilylives.org.uk or scan the QR code for our online form.

We build better family lives together
www.coramfamilylives.org.uk @coramfamilyliveshertsandbeds

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council

Coram Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 2877762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: Coram Family Lives, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 3AF.

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents, carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential.

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

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