



Edwinstree Term dates:

<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/school/term-dates.aspx>

Homework Timetable: Week commencing 14/10/204 - A

Diary Dates:

14/10/24	Year 5 Parent drop-in session from 9am
16/10/24	Lord Lieutenant visit to Year 7
18/10/24	School Disco Years 5&6 (5pm-6.30pm) Years 7&8 (6.45pm -8.15pm)
22/10/24	School Photographs Wellbeing drop-in sessions (2-6pm) Year 6 parents Meet and Greet (5-6.30pm)
25/10/24	Non-uniform day Last day of term
28/10/24 – 01/11/24	Half Term.
06/11/24	Year 5 Duxford trip (£16.65 per student)
18/11/24	6A/6C Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
19/11/24	6B/6D Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
21/11/24	5C/5D Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
22/11/24	5A/5B Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
05/12/24	Fullness Day – Mental Health/Wellbeing more details to follow
06/12/24	Occasional Day.
20/12/24	End of Term 1:20pm.
06/01/25	INSET Day
13/01/25	Year 8 HPV Vaccination
14/01/25	7A & 7C - Online Academic Review
16/01/25	5A & 5D - Online Academic Review
21/01/25	7B, 7D, 5B - Online Academic Review
23/01/25	5C - Online Academic Review / Year 8 In Person Foundation Evening
03-06/02/25	Year 6 Mock SATs
25/02/25	6A & 6D - Online Academic Review
04/03/25	6B & 6C - Online Academic Review
10/03/25	6A Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6B Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
11/03/25	6C Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6D Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
20/03/25	Year 7 In Person Foundation Evening
04/03/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
22/04/25	Start of Term
05/05/25	Bank Holiday
08/05/25	Year 6 In Person Foundation Evening
12-15/05/25	Year 6 SATs
26-30/05/25	Half Term
05/06/25	Year 5 In Person Foundation Evening
27/06/25	INSET Day
10/07/25	Transition Day Parent Transition Evening 5-6pm
18/07/25	End of Term 1:20pm.

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How can I see what my child is learning in class?

Next week teachers will be asking students to take their books home, to share with you the work that has taken place this half term. Please may we ask that once you have viewed their books they are returned for the following week. We hope your child enjoys sharing with you, their work.

School Photographs

The school photographer is booked for Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

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.

When is the first non-school uniform day?

On Friday 25th October, we will invite children into school in non-school uniform, and gently encouraging them to have a little fun by wearing princess pink! This is not compulsory, and students can choose just non-school uniform and/or their uniform. This has been requested by a member of the community who has a family member suffering from breast cancer, and we are looking to raise funds for this charity.

Is there a harvest service this year?

Yes, we are planning to combine this with the annual Autumn walk to Aspenden and the run/roll down the hill challenge. Students will be required to wear non-uniform on this day and bring a spare pair of boots or shoes that you do not mind getting muddy. We are just finalising details with Reverend Kirsty Wainwright and will let you know next week. Parent volunteers to complete the walk and attend the service would be much appreciated.

What did your answers to our questionnaire tell us about trips and enrichment activities that are affordable to parents this year?

Thank you to the 42 parents who completed the costing survey which we use at the start of each year to guide us about trips we can book that will not break the bank. Attached are the results of the questionnaire. We also take the most common answer as our guide. You told us the following:

- Most people were willing to pay £16–£30 for a trip.
- Most were able to fund £200 to £250 for the year 7 residential, last year this was costed at £296.
- Most responses felt that 2–3 trips a year was appropriate for the year group with these costings.
- You wanted us to continue with school photography so please see the note below.
- You were content with a non-uniform and or bake sale once a half term to raise funds for agreed charities.
- You felt the cost of the disco at £5 with food and drink was fair.
- Over half felt that Edwinstree could ask for open donation of £5 like Freman College do to help support the school.

We will now book our trips for the year and as suggested by a parent last year, we will then create a calendar of trips and scheduled payment plans, so that you can prepare for an additional cost coming your way.

Please always remember that Mrs Marler or Ms Holden are able to talk to you if you are a family struggling to make payments. Our aim is to ensure as many students as possible attend each trip.

Satchel One

We are still working with SatchelOne in terms of restoring historic merits. We can see them on our systems but are still sorting how this then transfers onto the dashboard. Please bear with us. We haven't forgotten this.

It is also great to see that we have moved from 65% parental engagement with the app to 83% engagement. Thank you!

If you are unsure of your login details, or wish to have a bit of support, please contact r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk, s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or m.rowlands@edwinstree.herts.ch.uk and one of us will be happy to help.

When is the disco rescheduled for?

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for the disco originally planned for the 27th of September. We are delighted to let you know that we will now be running this as an indoor event, due to the weather and fading light, on **Friday 18th October** in two sessions as the hall is unable to house the number of students booked for the outdoor event:

- Years 5&6 5pm-6.30pm
- Years 7&8 6.45pm -8.15pm

If your child can make the new date, your ticket will be valid and no further action is needed. If however, your child cannot make the new date you have the option to either receive a refund (minus 13p sum up fees) or you can donate the money to the ESA. If you require a refund please email edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com before 16th October, with your name, sum up order number and your bank details. Your refund will be paid as a bank transfer directly to your bank account from the ESA bank account. Unfortunately, no new tickets will be available for this disco.

Year 5 Parent Sessions

We are running a Year 5 parent drop-in session on Monday 14th October from 9.00am. Year 5 Parents can meet the mental health support team and ask any questions about the support that is available to help their families if like many of us they find someone struggling.

Year 5 feedback from the Meet and Greet meeting:

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Year 5 Meet and Greet event. It was wonderful to see pupils so proud of their work and excited to share with you all. Our Governors were also in attendance to hear your voices, views and feedback so far- please see below our "You said, we did":

1) You said- Overall pupils are enjoying school and settling well.
We did - *A little happy dance! Thank you for taking the time to let us know when we are getting something right, it helps assure us we are on the right track.*

2) You said - SatchelOne is new and another school app to get used to- can new parents have guides/instructions on how to use it?

We did - *A Parentmail went out on the 3rd of September, instructions were also in the Parental newsletter. For Parents/Carers now- this section of the satchel website is very useful with FAQ's, video guides and step by step instructions- [Parents | Satchel Help Center \(satchelone.com\)](https://www.satchelone.com). Additionally, if you ever have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact us- Mrs Heywood is our SatchelOne expert and will be able to talk you through any issues.*

3) You said - Bus arrangements, happy with the current practice BUT could this be shared before they start with Edwinstree, so parents are aware in advance.

We did- *YES! Again, thank you for this nudge. We have added it to our transition pack for new Parent/Carers for next year. For now- Year 5 & 6 pupils wait in hall at the end of the day. We have a daily register of which pupils we are expecting and the buses they take. They are walked to Freman, and the staff member stays until they are all boarded.*

4) You said- We like all information being in the newsletter, when we get it in different forms throughout the week this can be both overwhelming and get lost e.g. from the ESA.

We did- *As much as possible we aim to include all information in the newsletter, occasionally this is not possible. The ESA are volunteers who kindly give up time, so do not necessarily do this within school hours, Mrs Gant will liaise with the ESA to see how we can streamline this moving forward.*

Positives in Year 5

There are several ways we celebrate pupils' successes in Year 5:

- **Merits-** pupils receive merits from any staff members for positive behaviour and embodying our virtues. Pupils receive certificates when they hit certain numbers of merits (bronze, silver and gold).
- **Positive Contact Home-** these are when pupils are nominated by the Y5 team for positive behaviour that week, they happen weekly, pupils receive both a merit and call home.
- **Star of The Month-** these are when pupils are nominated by their form tutor for sustained positive behaviour, they happen monthly, pupils receive both a merit and a certificate.

I look forward to celebrating your child's successes with you!
Mrs Kelly

Year 6 Parent Meet and Greet

Parents are invited into school on the 22nd of October at 5pm. We will have a talk from the Head of Year and then the Head of Maths and English will talk through the beginning of the journey towards Sats. Our SENCO and tutors will be available if you would like to talk to them after the meeting. The evening opens at 5pm and closes at 6.30pm.

Year 7 & 8 (KS3) Maths

Please ensure that your child has a scientific calculator for all of their KS3 maths lessons. This is an essential piece of equipment, and they will use it through to taking their GCSEs. You can buy a calculator directly from the school office or by ordering one from Amazon using this link:

[Casio FX-83GTCW Black Scientific Calculator: Amazon.co.uk: Electronics & Photo](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Electronics-Photo/dp/B0783GTCW)

If possible, try to purchase one of these calculators as these are the ones we use at school and we know are calculators that are allowed for GCSE. They are also the calculators that are used at Freman.

Hertfordshire Lieutenancy visit to Year 7

On the 16th of October, Year 7 will have a visit from the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy, to explore the role of the Monarchy in Britain and British and Commonwealth values. This is a very special event as the Lieutenancy are representatives of the King.

[Home - The Lieutenancy of Hertfordshire \(lord-lieutenant-herts.org.uk\)](https://www.herts.org.uk)

Food and Nutrition – All Years

It was so lovely to see so many pupils following the health and safety rules with the correct uniform in the kitchen this week. There were still a few sets of false/gel nails and incorrect shoes which I am hoping will be rectified before their next lesson as all classes are cooking next week. Incorrect uniform will result in a no cook lesson.

***Please note that unless otherwise informed, if your child was absent from the demo lesson, they will not be cooking - alternate work is always provided.**

All ingredient requirements are on SatchelOne. Please remember that if your child has an allergy/intolerance or food preference to change an item, you can send that in as we want pupils to enjoy their own cooking creations.

ALL INGREDIENTS to be named and dropped off first thing on the day of your practical outside the Food Room. No shopping bags are allowed in the fridge, so please label all ingredients.

Please send in only the required amount of ingredients. There is only 1 fridge in the Food Room and if 4 classes are cooking on the same day, space is very limited.

YEAR 5 - The delights of vegetable sticks and a hummus dip will be made next week - Dippy Divers introduce knife skills as well as the creation of a nutritious dip.

YEAR 6 - Please remember your ingredients for your layered pasta salad. If your child is eating their salad for lunch, please ensure you send 2 containers in.

YEAR 7 - Delicious and healthy bread rolls were baked this week - it smelled divine and was like having a bakery on the premises.

7A, 7B, 7C and 7D - next week you are required to bring in 2 medium carrots and a medium onion for your lessons. w/c 14 October 2024. This lesson on knife skills will go towards your vegetable prep for Spaghetti Bolognese after the holiday.

YEAR 8 - A highly nutritious protein alternate curry is on the cards. This week all classes tasted a cauliflower and Quorn curry with a lot of pupils never having tasted this mycoprotein before. Remember, you can make a curry of your own choosing, but your protein needs to be an alternate protein or of a minimum of 5 veggies to make up the essential amino acids our bodies need. *NO animal proteins (meat) allowed.* School provides all the spices, unless you have a curry paste you would prefer to use. If your child is eating their curry for lunch, please ensure you send 2 containers in.

Please do get in touch as soon as possible should you have any difficulty in sourcing the ingredients needed, by emailing into the school office. Mrs van Wyk

Wellbeing Hub Drop-in Session

If you are a parent who would like to take the opportunity to talk to the team of NHS counsellors that support wellbeing and mental health in the school – our Wellbeing Hub is hosting a drop-in session from 2pm to 6pm on the 22nd of October. You will be able to meet the team and seek advice.

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.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.*