



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School

**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**
Week Ending: 12/01/2024

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Week: B

Diary Dates:

| School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 15/01/24 | 5A & 5C Academic review via SchoolCloud |
| 19/01/24 | 5D Non-Uniform award |
| 22/01/24 | 5B & 5D Academic review via SchoolCloud |
| 5-8/02/24 | Year 6 Mock SATs |
| 09/02/24 | ESA Family Quiz 6.30pm |
| 19-23/02/24 | Half Term |
| 26/02/24 | 6A & 6C Academic review via SchoolCloud |
| 29/02/24 | 6B & 6D Academic review via SchoolCloud |
| 18/03/24 | Year 5 Foundation Evening in person |
| 28/03/24 | End of Spring Term 1:20pm |
| 15/04/24 | Start of Summer term 08:40am |
| 22/04/24 | Year 6 Foundation Evening in person |
| 06/05/24 | Bank Holiday |
| 13-16/05/24 | Year 6 SATs Week |
| 20/05/24 | Year 7 Foundation Evening in person |
| 27-31/05/24 | Half Term |
| 17/06/24 | Year 8 Foundation Evening in person |
| 28/06/24 | INSET Day |
| 11/07/24 | County Transition Day |
| 19/07/24 | End of Summer Term 1:20pm |

We continue to go outside in the cold and when there are showers!

We are off the field now but will continue to encourage our students to take fresh air and play outside. If there is a light shower we continue to allow them this choice. But as it is now fully winter, indoor spaces are also available for students who are finding the cold too much.

5D Half term merit winners

As the winners of the merit competition last half term, 5D have decided to have their non-uniform day on **Friday 19th January**.

Parent Questionnaire

In response to the parent questionnaire, Governors would like to offer the opportunity at each of the year group Foundation parent evenings taking place in school to be able to meet with a Governor. On the 18th March, Linda Berry one of our Governors will be available for you to book a 10-minute appointment. If you would like to speak to her about the school. A link will be sent early next week. If we don't have uptake we will offer the opportunity out to other groups.

May we please encourage you to talk to us if you have any concerns, we will always address them.

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

Afterschool enrichments clubs start Monday 15th January 3.10-4.00pm. If you have registered your interest in **Boxing** or **Basketball** clubs, please ensure payment has been made directly as these are externally run clubs.

Please make sure you have signed up to the event and we know how you wish your child to get home.

PE

Due to the cold weather the field has been particularly hard, we have therefore held back some of the football lessons, however we will ensure that all students receive 6 weeks of football.

Y8 RE

I have been incredibly proud of how Y8 have begun their unit on discrimination, they have shown great emotional maturity, respect and empathy.

We gathered responses on why we should learn about this:

"To learn how to stand up against things like this, to see how we can protect each other"

"To show respect to those that lost their lives"

"People's lives were stolen and we can't afford to let that happen again" Mrs Kelly

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Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Plan 2024

All year groups will soon be starting some RSE lessons in PSHE. We purposely adapt these lessons as best as we can to meet the needs of our students as well as meeting government requirements. We take a great deal of advice from the PSHE Association, who are the national body for PSHE education.

This year we have again decided to primarily base our RSE lessons on those supplied by the PSHE Association with a few additions and changes. This helps to ensure that lessons are appropriate and cover the necessary content.

Should we be teaching FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) at such a young age?

This is a question that some parents have asked us and we continue to think long and hard about. This is an important and very sensitive topic and we have looked at the PSHE Association guidance they provide for the subject and they are clear that this fits into the Health and Wellbeing section of the curriculum in KS2 and early KS3, as the younger of these ages can be when this practise occurs and when children have made disclosures to either the school or other pupils. These lessons will be taught with particular sensitivity and in an age appropriate manner.

The following topics show our planned lessons. If you have any questions or concerns about the curriculum in the first instance please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 5

- Time to Change
- Menstruation and Wet Dreams
- Personal hygiene
- Emotions and feelings
- FGM KS2
- Boys/Girls Talk on puberty

Year 6

- Puberty recap
- Puberty: Change and becoming independent
- Positive, healthy relationships
- How a baby is made
- Consent

Year 7

- Puberty and emotional changes
- Menstrual wellbeing
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Managing conflict
- Introduction to consent
- Body image
- FGM KS3

Year 8

- Relationship values
- Influences on Relationship Expectations
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Consent – avoiding assumptions
- Sexting
- Pornography, Sexting and the Law
- Contraception/STI's

Food and Nutrition:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have unfortunately had to shut the kitchen down. No practicals will take place until further notice.

What if I want to find out about subjects and what my child is learning?

Our website has a curriculum page and attachments for all subjects that outline our intent purpose with curriculum and a map showing what students will be covering.

Gardening Club:

Whilst the club is hibernating for the winter, work behind the scenes continues. After a marvellous donation of a ton of topsoil from Cumberlow Compost Services (organised by the ESA), our new and current raised beds have had a blanketing of richness. Whilst this settles into the beds, along with the mulch and food waste we've generated from the past few months, the soil is preparing itself for the planting which will happen next half term. Mrs van Wyk is looking forward to working with our avid gardeners again and would like to encourage more pupils to join the lunchtime potting sessions.

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Who is the SENCO while Ms Campany is on maternity leave?

Rachel Thornewill will be supporting the SENCO team. She is based at Richard Whittington Primary School, and is an experienced SENCO who will be supporting EHCP reviews and writing and referrals for County services, she will be working on Friday's. If you have a query please use the SENCO email address (senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). During Monday to Thursday emails will be answered by the SENCO team of Mrs Arnold, Mrs Harris, Mrs Surrey, Mrs Bailey and Mrs Gant.

You may be aware that the Head of Freman will be leaving at the end of the Academic year.

Attached is a note confirming this from Freman's chair of Governors and outlining their steps to recruit a new head. I would personally like to thank Helen for the support she has shown both me and the school in helping to build a very strong partnership between us. This partnership is part of the legacy that she leaves and involves shared staff and a strong curriculum plan that links all the learning from us up to and into Freman and GCSE learning.



Edwinstree School Association

The ESA are hosting a Family Quiz on Friday 9th February 6.30pm at school.

Everyone is welcome, you just need at least one child (suggested age 8+) and one adult per team with a maximum of 8 team members, £20 entry per team. Individual tickets are also available to make up a team on the night. There will be a licensed bar and cash prizes to win. Tickets available from [Family Quiz Tickets \(sumupstore.com\)](https://www.sumupstore.com).

The ESA would like to give a big thank you to Cumberlows Compost Services for donating top soil to the growing garden. This provides more growing beds for the children to grow fruit, herbs and vegetables to use in Food Technology. Cumberlow Farm is a local business that turns garden, kitchen and catering waste into compost.

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

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