



Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework week: A

Diary Dates:

17/06/26	Year 7 Educational visit – Globe Theatre
18/06/26	DDG Day of Culture & Colour Run
25/06/26	Year 5 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
26/06/26	INSET Day
01/07/26	Sports Day
04/07/26	Summer Fair
07/07/26	Year 6 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
09/07/26	County Transition Day
10/07/26	Year 8 Trip to Felixstowe / Camp out
17/07/26	End of Term 1:20pm.

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We are about to start the last 5 weeks of term, this involves a series of trips and activities involving both the commitment of parents in volunteering to support our Edwinstree Association and the staff. A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping to create positive memories for our students and your children this term.


What did our students reflect on in COWO this week?

In year 5 and 6 tutor COWOs, students had the pleasure of exploring all the animals that they can see, and the informative talks that they can listen to at Whipsnade Zoo, in preparation for the forthcoming trips.

As part of this, students put a plan together of how they will spend their day. Each tutor group will follow their own plan for the day, we meet at lunch time, together as a group.

In hall COWOs, students were reminded as we do at the start of each half term about what it means to be a church of England school – that while with us they “abide with God”.

Key stage 2 parents have asked us to share our thoughts in COWO weekly, this week, I have shared the key slides in which we talked about the Schools work with the Church.

How does wisdom help us to understand the values?

- Wisdom is insight into the way life works: a proper understanding of the consequences of our thoughts, words and actions and an awareness of the true value of things
- It is not cleverness or knowledge.
- Wisdom may be best described as an understanding gained through a life lived, walking with god.
- When you hear wisdom for the first time on a topic it can bring you a light bulb moment and Oh yeh, it can challenge you and make you mad, or it can help you to understand something that is going on in your life.

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.

What does it mean to be a Church of England School? Have a read while you wait....

This is the quote from the bible that steers our school:

Live in me. Make your home in me, just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me." — John 15:4–6 (The Message)

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What does it mean to be a Church of England School? Vision

- Our community lives and learns with God. 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**.
- Edwinstree Church of England Middle School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

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What does it mean to be a Church of England School?

Vine trunk - Vision

Vine branches - Values

Vine fruit - Virtues



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How did we manage the news about the fire in Aspenden?

Staff who live in the area alerted us to the fire at The Jungle Box soft play. Rib Valley Heads communicated together to ensure that we had not missed a communication from the services who would alert us to any risk. As there was none identified to Edwinstree, we continued with the normal day. Please note if there is ever a risk to closure we will endeavour to be in touch by 7.30am in the morning.

DDG Day of Culture & Voluntary Colour Run

Next Thursday, we are celebrating our individuality and uniqueness with a Day of Culture and a Colour Run! Pupils are warmly encouraged to come to school dressed in clothing that reflects and celebrates a culture they identify with. This might include traditional dress, colours, or clothing that represents their heritage or interests. Pupils will be completing celebration of culture tasks such as an Edwinstree flag designing competition, world foods tasting and a quiz of flags from around the world. After lunch, there will be a fun run/jog/walk for pupils to participate in – it is a short course around the school. It is voluntary and alternate work will be provided for those not taking part. The end of the route will be split in two – one ending having colour dust gently thrown onto the pupils and the other no colour dust. Please note that the coloured powder used is cornstarch-based, non-toxic, and washable. It is designed to be easily removable in a standard machine wash, although we still suggest avoiding favourite or delicate clothing for the run itself. Pupils may bring a change of clothes for the Colour Run if they wish and wear comfortable footwear. Sunglasses are also a good idea for the colour run.

The DDG looks forward to celebrating diversity and difference with all pupils in the school next week.

Ms Jackson and Mrs van Wyk

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Free School Meals Criteria Change

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) will be changing. From the start of the new school year, all parents/carers who are in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of the amount received. Please note, you will need to make an application for your child to receive Free School Meals. Applying takes around 5 minutes, and you will need your National Insurance number. Please see letter attached with information on how to apply.

When is Sports Day?

We have been informed that KS2 District Sports will take place on Wednesday 24th June. As this date coincides with our planned Sports Day, we have decided to move Sports Day to Wednesday 1st July. This was previously identified as our reserve date, the change will allow a number of our strongest athletic students to participate in both events.

Sports Day is split into two parts. In the morning, students will take part in a variety of round-robin activities, which are designed to engage all students and abilities in activities, competing in tutor groups and houses.

House relay races in the afternoon. This is the event where our finest runners get a chance to compete for their houses, while the remainder of the school cheers them on.

This year, we will be inviting parents of pupils who have signed up for the relay races to attend and watch their child compete, should they wish. Details of those selected will be shared during the week beginning 15th June.

Year 6 News:

Year 6 into Year 7 Form Changes

In the last newsletter we mentioned that as year 6 move into year 7 and a new Key Stage, we are planning to mix all form groups. We hope that you had the opportunity to sit with your child to discuss who would be good choices to choose to put on the form. Please see link for the form below:

Year 6 into 7 Form Changes – Fill in form

On the form there are four choices of students your child wishes to be with, please do fill in all four choices. As with previous years we will do our very best to guarantee they are with at least *one* of these. There is also an optional box to identify any students that would not be a good choice to be with.

Please ensure that you do your very best to include the first and last name of each person entered on the form to avoid confusion. If your child is uncertain of the full name, we recommend that they find out at school the following day before filling in the form with you.

The deadline for completion is Monday 15 June. We would appreciate it if you would fill this form in together with your child by the deadline to ensure that your requests are met.

Year 7 News

Our year 7 students begin to reflect on leadership and what role they might play in year 8 to help the younger students in the school. Applications and more information will be out in July.

Year 8 News

Year 8 have spent time thinking about how to leave well and the gift of legacy.

Year 8 Felixstowe Visit – Friday 10th July 2026

We are looking to offer your child a visit to the beach and seaside town of Felixstowe as part of our leaver's celebrations.

Students will be travelling on Friday 10th July 2026. They will leave school at 9am and should arrive in Felixstowe at 10.45am at the latest. They will return from Felixstowe at 3pm and will arrive back at school by 5.30pm.

Alternative travel arrangements home will need to be made for those who use school transport. Please see letter attached.

Year 8 Transition

Is your child in need of additional support to make the transition to Freman?

As well as the transition day, Freman offer additional and bespoke transition visits for those children who are worried and anxious, or who have a particular need that means they would benefit from extra visits.

If you believe your child would benefit, can we please ask you to register by sending an email to s.petty@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to identify your child and what particular need or worry they have, and how they would benefit from the additional visits. Once we have gathered the list of names, we will liaise with Freman and they will offer us timetable slots for your child to attend during school time (with their peers), to view the school and meet some of the staff there, who will support them. Freman like us to drop the students off with them during these visits, and not to accompany them, so that they can begin to get used to the new team of people who will be working with them.

We have noticed in the last few years that since our students spend half a year of French in Freman, this has made a significant difference in reducing their worries.

We will be talking to your child about their transition and the next steps and will send you further information on the process and how we hand over to Freman.

Food and Nutrition – All Years

Another week filled with food, glorious food! We've had demos and completed Food Science experiments as well as four research sessions.

Year 5: Dippy Divers are on the menu. Remember you only need to bring in half a pot of hummus, along with your selected veg/fruit. Mint or chives will be provided by school for your dip, but if you would prefer another herb please bring it in. A takeaway sized container is perfect for your veggie sticks.

Year 6: Our famous broccoli salad has made an appearance, just in time for summer. We have combined a grilled protein product with fruit, vegetables and cheese to create an interesting rainbow sensation. I look forward to seeing your combinations in class next week. Remember to bring in a container suitable for a family sized salad.

Year 7: We have completed our Food Science Experiment. Some of the results were delicious whilst some turned out to be not to our liking! We have discovered that a sugar alternative is not always a good replacement for caster sugar as the taste, texture, appearance and aroma can be adversely affected.

Year 8: Have started their research projects. They have 2 weeks in class and 2 sessions of home learning to complete their Healthy Eating projects. This is their final written mark going up to Fremantle or secondary school. I look forward to the accumulation of knowledge gained over their 4 years at Edwinstree. Please note that PE shorts are not acceptable in the Food Room – they provide no protection at all to the legs if a product is spilled onto bare or unprotected skin. Mrs van Wyk

Gardening Club

The rain has been a God send! Our beds are flourishing, and our vegetables are growing beautifully. We will certainly have an abundant crop of tomatoes next year for Year 7 to use in their Bolognese sauce. Our herbs are sprouting and we have enough for Year 5 for their Dippy Diver dips. The birds have feasted on our unripe blueberries, so I don't think that we will have many this year (if any).



The team has worked really hard on weeding over the past two weeks. Our potato plants – we have 7 plants - are about to flower, which means we will be able to harvest soon. Imagine eating roast potatoes you have grown yourself!

Our crop of strawberries – though promising in flower, haven't formed much fruit – possibly due to the first rains we had that removed the petals which invited the bees for pollination.

We have a wonderful selection of plants ready for our plant stall at the fair on the 4th of July. If you have any extra's you've over planted, please send them along to school to help us raise some funds.

Mrs van Wyk



Edwinstree Summer Fair - Saturday 4th July

We are only 4 weeks from our annual Summer Fair. Classes have been working hard on their stall ideas and will spend some time next week working out the finer details as to what they need to do to make their stall successful.

If you have any soft toys you are thinking of getting rid of, please could we have them for our Teddy Tombola.

If you are able to donate a bottle for our bottle tombola stall - that would be phenomenal. Bottles can be anything from bubble bath to beetroot to cleaning items or wine. Please could these be sent into school by 25th of June. If alcohol, please can this be brought into the school office.

We look forward to hosting a fantastic day filled with stalls, plants, books, baked goods, an art exhibition and more!

Mrs van Wyk



Is there anyone that would like to rehome one of our giant African land snails?

They're easy to care for and super friendly, but its time for them to find new families to enjoy them as much as we have.

Now they have reached maturity and need to be live a single life.

If you feel you could give them a loving caring home.

We're looking for three new homes.

Could this be you or someone you know?

Please get in touch with the science team via

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk



Edwinstree School Association

Table Top Sale

Are you looking to sell preloved items? Do you have hobby craft items you would like to sell?

Edwinstree Summer fair takes place on 4th July, and it is the perfect place to sell. Tables are just £10 and can be purchased via the ESA Sum up shop [Table top stall at the Summer Fair 4th July](#)

Preloved Uniform Sale

Preloved uniform will be available to buy at the summer fair on 4th July. We will have the usual branded jumpers and PE t-shirts as well as good quality school trousers, shorts (as new with tags) and football boots.

Request for help

We need some volunteers to help with the summer fair 4th July. Please get in touch if you could help for a couple of hours either setting up from 12 noon, during the fair (selling refreshments) or helping to tidy up at 4.30pm. Either contact the school office or edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com

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Public Health School Nursing Primary Newsletter

Please find attached a copy of the School Nursing Spring/Summer Newsletter.

Mental Health Support

Helplines & Immediate Support for urgent help

SPA mental health line: 0800 6444 101 (24/7)

[hertfordshire.gov.uk]

NHS 111 → press option 2 [hertfordshire.gov.uk]

999 in emergencies

NHS & Specialist Services

Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS / CAMHS)

- The main NHS service for children with **moderate to severe mental health difficulties** [hpft.nhs.uk]
- Includes support for anxiety, depression, eating disorders, etc. [hpft.nhs.uk]
- Offers specialist teams (crisis support, therapy, inpatient care if needed) [hpft.nhs.uk]

Single Point of Access (SPA): 0800 6444 101 (24/7)

- You can call directly for advice or referral. This is the fastest route if a child needs **urgent or specialist help**.

School & Community-Based Support

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs)

- Work in schools to provide **early intervention and coping strategies** [hpft.nhs.uk]

ChatHealth (school nurse text service)

- Confidential text support for secondary school pupils
☎ Text: **07480 635050**

YC Hertfordshire (Youth services)

- Support, mentoring, and advice for young people
0300 123 7538

Local Charities & Support Organisations

Hertfordshire Mind Network

Provides services for children aged **5–18** [hertsmindnetwork.org]

Offers:

- Counselling
- Peer support
- Safe spaces

Young people's helpline: 01923 256391

The Sandbox (ages 10–25)

Free, NHS-funded **online mental health support**

Includes:

- Live chat
- Therapy sessions (if needed)
- Self-help tools

Good if your child prefers **online or flexible support**.

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

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