



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 12/12/2025.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework week: A

Diary Dates:

15/12/25	Freman College, Edwinstree Middle School, Anstey First School Christmas Concert 5.30pm
16/12/25	Fullness Day for The Child Brain Trust
17/12/25	Lister Hospital carol singing
19/12/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
05/01/26	INSET Day
06/01/26	Start of Spring Term
13/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5B English and Maths 5D English and Maths 8C English, Maths, Science
14/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 8A English, Maths, Science
15/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7D English, Maths, Science 7B English, Maths, Science
20/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5A English and Maths 8B English, Maths, Science
21/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5C English and Maths 7A English, Maths, Science
22/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7C English, Maths, Science 8D English, Maths, Science
03/02/26	Year 8 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
16-20/02/26	Half Term
24/02/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6A Maths and English 6D Maths and English
03/03/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6B Maths and English 6C Maths and English
04/03/26	Y7 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
27/03/26	End of Term 1:20pm.
13/04/26	Start of Summer Term
21/04/26	Y6 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
25-29/05/26	Half Term
26/06/26	INSET Day
09/07/26	County Transition Day
17/07/26	End of Term 1:20pm.

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Thank you to all parents who have supported the Christmas season services with baking goodies for the students, or volunteering for walks. We could not run these events without your support.

Updated Term Dates

Our Term dates for 2026/27 have now been released and are in line with Freman College.

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

Events coming up next week before the holidays are:

Monday 15th December - Joint concert with Freman College, Edwinstree and Anstey First School.

The Christmas concert is a wonderful opportunity for our students to display their musical talents and spread the holiday cheer. Please note that, unfortunately, spaces for this event are limited due to venue constraints, and as a result we are only able to offer spaces to families of the students participating in the event.

The ESA will be serving mulled wine and washing up. We would like a few parents to help us if possible. Please let the ESA or school office know if you could spare a couple of hours.

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Tuesday 16th December - Fullness Day

ELEVATING FAMILIES. ENRICHING FUTURES.



On Tuesday one of our Year 6 students and her friends are raising funds for the Child Brain Injury Trust Charity. You can help by providing £1 for non-school uniform and a suggested donation of

50p-£1 for a baked good.

If you are one of our bakers and are able to help raise funds by providing a baked good, please would you drop off any cakes and biscuits either Monday or Tuesday morning. Thank you so much for your help.

Please remember we have nut allergies, dairy and gluten intolerance, so please do not bring food with any nut products and do mark up if dairy and/or gluten free bakes, so we can get these to the right children.

Unfortunately, we will not have capacity to call home on Wednesday if your child forgets to bring money for the bake sale.

Friday 19th December - Last day of Term

Please remember, next Friday is a shorter day and school finishes at 1.20pm.

Dangerous drop offs on Zig Zags at entrance to school

With the help of Mr Rowlands standing in the bus lane to stop parents dropping off and blocking access for coaches, the entrance to the school is calmer and safer in the mornings.

However, a few parents have moved to the zig zag lines at the front of the school main entrance/Reception as an illegal drop off point, and parents are rightly expressing concerns about the safety in this area.

My son and I had an extremely close near miss today whilst walking across the entrance there were 4 cars dropping off on the zig zags one of which pulled straight onto the road and I feel the outcome would have been different if my son had been walking alone as many children are, as the children are forced to walk right next to the main road as the zig zag area is so obstructed.

With staff on duty in other areas of the school from 8.30am, we do not have capacity for staff to man any of these areas also. We have had confirmation that our PCSO will continue to drop in and fine parents who are parked up in this area.

Please may we ask again, that you think twice before dropping off in these spaces. The Sainsbury car park is available, and the lollipop person is at the ready to help your child cross, we never moan if your child is late, we just give them a welcoming smile and usher them in. There is no need for a drop off at the school gates that puts others at risk.

Reading Suggestions – All Years

Although we do not set Home Learning over the Christmas break, we always encourage students to continue reading. We have attached a winter reading list with some great suggestions of books for all ages.

This link also gives some tips about encouraging reading for pleasure: [Top tips to encourage reading for pleasure - Learning with Parents](#)

Food and Nutrition – All Years:



What a week we had last week. Our mussels arrived late on Wednesday which meant a fully packed seafood Thursday was in store.



Five classes across the school were able to

participate and learn more about this sustainable form of seafood and they all got to try mussels Thai style. There were some very happy pupils who ate lots and a few that were put off by the looks

but enjoyed the taste. Very few declined them altogether which was lovely, as learning about new tastes and flavours is what it is all about!



Did you know that mussels offer a powerhouse of lean protein, essential vitamins (like B12, A, D), minerals (iron, zinc, selenium, iodine), and heart-healthy Omega-3 fatty acids. All while being low in fat and calories, supporting brain function, immunity, heart health, and energy levels. At about £5.00 per kilogramme, they are an inexpensive source of protein. I am hoping that the *Fish Heroes Programme* has a few more treats for us this year. Fingers crossed I will be quick enough to get in and secure further free fish supplies.

- **Year 5:** has worked really hard on their first evaluations over the past two weeks, creating written assessments on their own products. There has been some very good writing, showing understanding and product self-evaluation.
- **Year 6:** Congratulations to 6A and 6B for completing the most time limited practical we do in school. Very well done! I sincerely hope the pupils enjoyed their marinated, grilled chicken (or halloumi) wraps. 6D you are cooking next week and 6C, please remember your ingredients for 9/1, the first week back from holidays!
- **Year 7:** After completing our Food Science Experiments, we are now baking a wonderful Carrot Cake. Remember, you can swap out the carrot for beetroot or courgette - the choice is yours.
- **7A -** we still need to complete our results. 7A, 7B and 7C you are cooking next week. 7D we will do a bake-a-long the first week back in January, please make sure you bring your ingredients on the 9/1 - reminder on Satchel 1.
- **Year 8:** We have filled the corridors for 2 weeks with the wonderful smells of Gingerbread - Christmas has definitely arrived in the Food Room thanks to 8A and 8D! 8B will bake next week. 8C will bake on 9/1 - the first week back in January.

A reminder about acrylic/gel nails as there are a few sets appearing again - they are a Health and Safety risk in the kitchen and are not part of the school uniform. Due to our limited fridge storage space, please ensure your child is collecting their food and any leftover containers. Food can only be kept for 2 days in the Food Room before being disposed of due to H&S. If dishes are left, they are put through the dishwasher ready for collection. However, the number of un-named containers and food items does mean there is quite a growing selection of tubs in the Food Room. Please encourage your child to collect any dishes the next day if they do not come home after a practical. Named containers normally find their way back during the week.
Mrs van Wyk

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Year 5 News:

Christmas Letter

Wow Year 5, what a wonderful start to your time at Edwinstree... We have been to Duxford, met Mayans and sung carols- to name just a few achievements so far.

I wanted to say to thank you to all our Year 5 parents and carers for your support, care and helpful feedback this term. We really do mean it when we say no problem too small, your contact helps us better support our whole Edwinstree family- so thank you.

And now to the pupils...I have been incredibly proud with how they have adapted and settled at Edwinstree, it's a big change and they have handled it expertly, seeking help when needed and really supporting and boosting each other along the way, it has been a privilege to work with them.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of both me and my wonderful team to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mrs Kelly – Head of Year 5

Year 6 News:

Year 6 SATs

- Mock SATs 02/02/2026 – 05/02/2026
- Official SATs 11/05/2025 -14/05/2025

Are you able to support us with the mock and/or official SATs?

Duties include supporting teachers in the classroom and working with students as a reader, scribe, or prompt. We will provide a short amount of training for this on the day. Many students require this support, and we are always incredibly grateful to anyone who volunteers, as this ensures that all students receive the support that they need.

If you are able to help on any of the days, please complete the following form.

[SATs helpers for 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Year 6 English Books

We are sending the Year 6 English books home this weekend so you can look at what the children have been doing this term. I hope you get a good chance to have a look through with your children!

Please make sure books are returned on Monday.

Thank you!

Mrs Doré and Mrs Mayne

Year 8 News

RE - Holocaust and Islamophobia

Within RE, in the new year, pupils will be looking at the Holocaust and Islamophobia as part of the Spring term scheme on prejudice and discrimination.

At Edwinstree we believe in embracing life in all its fullness, this includes sensitively and appropriately looking at emotionally challenging subjects.

The Holocaust is not the story of millions of lives lost; it is the millions of stories of individual human beings who were persecuted simply for who they were.

We have a duty, as educators, to those who lost their lives, continue to suffer and to our future generations to ensure we reflect, remember, and respect.

Pupils will be informed that there are several parts of these lessons where they will be confronted with upsetting information. They will be assured that it is ok to be upset, angry or worried, that the classroom is a safe space where we will support each other.

If pupils need time, they will be allowed to step outside the classroom. Post the lesson, pupils will be assured that we will continue to support each other and that if they need to talk, they can see myself or one of their trusted five adults.

They will be guided through the BBC Newsround guide – [Advice if you're upset by the news - BBC Newsround](#).

- Share your worries.
- It is normal to feel upset.
- Do something that makes you happy.
- Remember it is rare.

Due to the emotional impact that comes with studying the Holocaust and Islamophobia, we encourage you to help your child process the material they will be learning. Please be open to their questions--it is all right to not have all the answers. It is just as important to talk with your child about their thoughts and ideas as it is to talk about content.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for further resources, please do not hesitate to contact me on a.kelly@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We thank you for your support, Mrs Kelly

Academic Consultations and Foundation Evenings – All Years

We have added our parents' evenings dates to our newsletter. The Academic Consultations (core subjects) are held online with bookable appointments, books will be available to view online with the teachers. The Foundation Evenings are held in school and give you a chance to look at work and speak to teachers on a more informal basis. Information on how to book the January appointments will be out next week.

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

Please note that all afterschool enrichment clubs will not run on the last week of term.

You will have an opportunity to sign your child up at the start of the term – clubs will be up and running from the 2nd week of term.

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Edwinstree School Association



Thank you to everyone who donated teddies and chocolates for the Christmas Market tombola and the mums and kids who helped out at the event. We raised £153 and had lots of happy children with their new teddies!

DSPL Parent Coffee Morning



Ward Freman Swimming Pool Funding

You may be aware that our charity is about to become the freeholder of the Ward Freman swimming pool in Buntingford. Funding from East Herts District Council will provide new filtration and pumps in the plant room. We have delivered 7000 leaflets to 95% of the homes in Buntingford and surrounding villages asking for community support in our Crowdfunder campaign which will repair the pool tiles. The Crowdfunder has been awarded £15,000 by Sport England but this will only be paid if we reach our target of £30,000 by the 3rd of January. We are currently just shy of £26,000 this would enable us to get the pool open in Autumn 2026 ready to teach more generations of children to swim. Please see flyer attached.

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

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