



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 13/01/2023

Diary Dates – Week A

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
30/01-02/02/23	Mock SATs Week
08/02/23	Rescheduled Year 8 Geography visit to London
13-17/02/23	Half Term
30/03/23	Year 8 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
03-14/04/23	Easter Break
17/04/23	Summer Term Begins
27/04/23	Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
01/05/23	Bank Holiday
08/05/23	Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III)
18/05/23	Year 7 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
29/05-02/06/23	Half Term
29/06/23	Year 6 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
13/07/23	County Transition Day
21/07/23	End of Summer Term

Why is there significant cover in the school at the moment?

We are sorry to confirm that we currently have 4 members of staff on medium term absence. Subject leads are supporting students to ensure that cover is appropriate and where-ever possible we are ensuring that known supply staff are being used.

How can you support us with communication?

As staff, we are feeling the growing pressure of the cost of living and seeing our families suffering post COVID from more ill health. We are noticing that this can make us sadder and more anxious, so we are working hard to support each other to ensure that our wellbeing is maintained. We are also noticing that the same impact is happening in our community, and that in particular, increases in anxiety are leading to a small number of parents communicating aggressively with us, and we often find that once a parent has expressed that aggression, and feels calmer, they will apologise.

May we please remind you we are human, and your comments can affect our wellbeing. We are a school that always listens and where we make mistakes, will always accept, apologise and try to do better. If you can help us, by recognising your anxiety and its impact on your behaviours we would appreciate this. Thank you for listening and caring.

What is my child learning?

With academic consultations approaching, we thought it would save time in the sessions, if we have already shared with you what students have been learning, and what they are learning next. Please find the attached English and maths overviews. Please look at our website if you would like further information.

Support with year 6 SATs

Are you able to support us with year 6 SATs? We are looking for more parent helpers to support us during our Mock SATs week, which will take place from the 31st January - 3rd February 2023. In the past parents, grandparents and carers have supported us and the students who need extra help, which has meant that we have not needed to cover significant numbers of students.

We are also looking for parents to support us during the official SATs week, now confirmed as the 9th - 12th May 2023.

Duties would involve, supporting children by reading questions to them or prompting them and supporting the class teacher with any administrative needs. We will train you in advance. If you are able to support us on some or all of the days, please contact us by email at a.earnshaw@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

KS3 - Extended Friday Justice

Attached to the Newsletter is a snapshot of the Collective Worship Mr Rowlands gave on Monday, regarding the introduction of Extended Friday Justice. This was also talked about in yesterday's Collective Worship with KS3.

For a very high percentage of students, this additional consequence will not apply to them as they do not come even close to meeting this threshold.

*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.*

Academic Consultations

Thank you for signing up to appointments for next week. We are aware that there was an error in the setup, whereby you were only able to sign up for two, not three subjects: this has now been fixed. Unfortunately, due to staff illness, we are having to postpone the Y8 Science meetings. We will let you know when these will be rescheduled.

Appointment slots for the week beginning Monday 23rd January will become available early next week.

When are the Rib House Fun Swims taking place?

Rib House Swim awards will take place on Tuesday 17th and Tuesday 24th of January.

- KS2 (Year 5 and 6) - Tuesday 17th January
If you would like your child to attend the swim on the 17th of January, please would you make sure that you complete this consent form.
<https://forms.office.com/e/GZvLSWcKhM>
- KS3 (Year 7 and 8) - Tuesday 24th January
If you would like your child to attend the swim on the 24th of January, please would you make sure that you complete this consent form.
<https://forms.office.com/e/zrCVatjJ3Q>

Year 6 News SATs Workshop PowerPoint Slides

Please find attached the PowerPoint slides used for the recent workshop.

Year 7 News KS3 Geography Course

Unfortunately, we have visited the Rib River and the water level is currently too high for the trips to take place, we will therefore postpone for next week, and endeavour to rebook for the week after, weather permitting.

KS3 (Year 7 & 8) Scientific Calculators

Many students have now purchased a scientific calculator and are enjoying using them in lessons. However, there are still a significant number of students who are not bringing a calculator to maths.

Scientific calculators are necessary for GCSEs and the calculators you can buy from Edwinstree are compliant with this. We would like to encourage you to purchase one for your child as pupils are having to share them in lessons or

use spare calculators which aren't as good and don't have all the correct functions.

The cost of buying a calculator from the school is £8.32, which is a reduced price. To purchase a calculator, payment can be made via the school Gateway. If your child is PP and this cost will cause you financial difficulty, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Reminder regarding Headlice

As you are all 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. They represent a community rather than a school problem but are seen at school because the age group most affected is 7 – 12 year olds. Apart from distributing information, school staff can do little to control head lice. The responsibility lies with parents and guardians. Please take time to read the attached letter.

What news is there from County?

Winter health update - January 2023

From Head of Health Protection, Hertfordshire Public Health

As children return to schools and childcare settings, we expect to see many more cases of flu, COVID-19 and other infections that affect children's breathing (known as 'respiratory infections'). There also continue to be high numbers of scarlet fever cases, which can spread quickly, but can be easily treated with antibiotics. To help us through this term, attached is a leaflet with five simple steps we can take to protect children, minimise the spread of illness in schools and childcare settings and protect others. [Winter Health Update - Jan 2023 v4.pdf](#)

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

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