

**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of  
England School



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &  
CARERS**

**Week Ending: 15/03/2024**

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Week: B

Diary Dates:

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
18/03/24	Year 5 Foundation Evening in person.
19/03/24	Cultural Food Day – Change to School Lunch menu
20/03/24	Year 6 SATs Parents Information Evening. 5-5.30pm
22/03/24	KS2 Easter Service at Edwinstree
26/03/24	MIND Wellbeing sessions Period 2 - Year 8, Period 3 - Year 5.
27/03/24	KS3 Easter Service at Edwinstree
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.
23/04/24	Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo trip.
26/04/24	Year 8 Thorpe Park trip.
06/05/24	Bank Holiday.
13-16/05/24	Year 6 SATs Week.
20/05/24	Year 7 Foundation Evening in person.
21/05/24	Year 8 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow).
23/05/24	Cambridge University Careers talk – Day in the life of a university Student Year 7 & 8 (details to follow).
27-31/05/24	Half Term.
17/06/24	Year 8 Foundation Evening in person.
12/06/24	Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow).
28/06/24	INSET Day.
11/07/24	County Transition Day.
16/07/24	Visit from Bishop of St Albans.
17/07/24	Year 5 Queens Park trip (details to follow).
19/07/24	End of Summer Term 1:20pm.
02/09/24	INSET DAY.
03/09/24	Year 5 Induction Day.
04/09/24	Autumn Term Begins Years 6-8.
16-18/09/24	Year 7 Residential – Essex Outdoors Bradwell.
28/10/24 – 01/11/24	Half Term.
06/12/24	Occasional Day.
20/12/24	End of Autumn Term 1:20pm.

**Caribbean Themed Menu – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Our Dynamic Diversity student group have been working closely with our canteen to look at offering a diverse menu at least 3 times a year. This has come about as our Diversity days have seen students grow in interest and confidence with food from around the world.

Unfortunately, this change will cancel out any existing bookings for that day. Please log on to [www.schoolgrid.co.uk](http://www.schoolgrid.co.uk) to ensure your child's dinner is rebooked. We apologise for our oversight in not giving you more notice.

**CARIBBEAN THEME DAY**

**Menu**  
Reggae Chicken Wrap  
or  
Fruity Caribbean Curry (V)  
served with  
Rice and Peas  
Apple Slaw  
Sweet Corn  
Coconut and Lime Cake  
or  
Tropical Fruit Salad

On Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March Edwinstree will be serving a Caribbean Themed menu.

This is the first menu in cultural food themes we can enjoy from around the world.

**What is the difference between a Core and a Foundation Parents evening?**

Core evenings are online for Maths, English and Science. Foundation evenings are more informal events, where you can arrive at the school any time between 5 pm and 7pm to review your child's foundation books and speak to the teachers. There is no formal appointment time for this event. Foundation subjects are those in the curriculum that are not English, Maths or Science. Our Chair of Governors will be available to speak to you if you wish, there is also an opportunity to scan our QR code to download a questionnaire and give us feedback on the school and where we can make further improvements.

**Why are there so many supply teachers in the school and what are the plans for post Easter, will this continue?**

We are experiencing a high level of staff with medium to long term illness, which has resulted in a number of supply teachers. We have been working hard to remedy the situation when a member of staff is due to be absent for a considerable period of time. Solutions post Easter are as followed:

- We have secured a strong and experienced teacher Miss Nichols to lead the classes for Mrs Hayes, and she will be here for the rest of the year. Mrs Mayne our Deputy for Teaching and Learning has been working with her this term to ensure that the schemes of work are being followed, and for year 6, support is in place for their progress towards the SATs.
- Miss Bull's maternity cover is Mrs Mayne who will be with the Year 6 classes until the end of the year.
- Year 7 English classes will be taken by Mrs Russell who is secondary trained former Head of English.
- Mr McCarthy is planning to return post Easter.

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- Ms Sanders Science lessons are being covered by a Specialist Science teacher Mr Grinyai and this will continue for the next two weeks and post half term.
- Mr Wainwright-Meekins we are expecting a medium-term absence – we are looking to source a long-term supply for post Easter. Miss Nichols will be 7C Form Tutor
- Mrs Gant the Head returns from 3 weeks absence due to Long Covid, from next week.

#### Is so much ill health normal in a school the size of Edwinstree ?

Pre COVID no, post COVID we have seen an increase in the level of Medium to Long ill health. But this term has been particularly challenging.

#### What changes are there to clubs next week?

**Please be aware that due to staff absence we are unable to deliver the following clubs next week:**

Wednesday – KS3 Football

Thursday – KS2 Football

Maths Home Learning club with Mrs Earnshaw will continue to run up until the end of the term, however for **next week only** this will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and not Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Will there be enrichment clubs in the last week of term and when can I sign my child up for post Easter?

Please be aware that we will be closing the enrichment clubs a week early due to staff shortage. At the start of next term there will be a two-week window to sign up for new clubs before they start on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

#### PE Kits next week

On days that students have PE we are asking them to come into school wearing their PE kit. This will help teachers covering PE lessons. We would like to continue this plan until the end of term. Thank you

Please remember Students will need to bring additional shoes if they have Food and Nutrition, Wood Tech or Science as they are not allowed to enter the classrooms with material trainers for safety reasons.

#### What are the plans for the Easter services this year?

22<sup>nd</sup> March - KS2 Easter Services - 10am and 11am

27<sup>th</sup> March - KS3 Easter Services - 10am and 11am

Unfortunately, due to staff absence, we will be planning to host our services in school with our Reverend Kirsty Wainwright. More details will be out next week.

#### Food and Nutrition

Please look out for a letter next week highlighting the Health and Safety requirements for the pupils who are now in Food until July 2024. The letter will also have the ingredients list for the dishes we are making and a few top tips!

All year groups will start full practical's after the holidays.

Year 7 are required to bring in 2 medium carrots and a medium onion for their lesson next week, w/c 18 March 2024. This

lesson on knife skills will go towards their vegetable prep for Spaghetti Bolognese after the holiday.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Mrs van Wyk

#### Year 6 SATs Evening - 20th March 2024 5 - 5:30pm

We will be hosting a SATs evening for parents on Wednesday 20th March, to impart information regarding the Year 6 SATs in May.

The evening will include information about what to expect during the upcoming SATs week and how you can best support your child through the process.

The information provided will be very similar to that given during the daytime meetings in the autumn term.

We look forward to seeing you next week.

Please indicate your attendance by completing the form using the link.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0->

[r9r2eTDmg8F8RSwokmeRDhMnaAtKJ1V1UM1dKS0JEQzIxTTc1WDXMkYwSE5OM01YNC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8F8RSwokmeRDhMnaAtKJ1V1UM1dKS0JEQzIxTTc1WDXMkYwSE5OM01YNC4u)

#### Year 8 RE

Post Easter Year 8 will begin a unit on the death penalty.

They will consider arguments for and against, religious responses and develop their own viewpoints. This will all be presented in an age-appropriate manner and with due care.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me on [hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

Mrs Kelly- Head of RE

#### Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Questionnaire

As you may have seen from recent newsletters, we are continuing to teach RSE in PSHE lessons.

Please continue to read the newsletter as this will be the main place that we communicate about any changes. A big thank you to parents who have contacted us to give input about the teaching of these topics.

We would love to know how you feel about our school teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Here is the link to a short survey to gauge your opinion:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0->

[r9r2eTDmg8NhoCSp8e\\_tKrBMmRueqBv5UODY0TOY3TEpWSTeZU05LWjRMU0ZRTU9QNC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8NhoCSp8e_tKrBMmRueqBv5UODY0TOY3TEpWSTeZU05LWjRMU0ZRTU9QNC4u)

If you are at all nervous about what we are teaching, please speak to us by initially contacting

[admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

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### Film Makers club

Will be returning to school for the 17<sup>th</sup> term. The club will run every Wednesday after school starting 17<sup>th</sup> April for 12 weeks with 2 extended sessions to equate to 13 session hrs. Your child will learn about green screen special effects, learn the roles of working with camera, clapperboard & Director Roles. They will create and star in their very own film which will be fully edited and given to each child. We focus on being creative with our script writing & plot twists and more importantly, building confidence. For any queries contact Gill on [hertsbedsfilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:hertsbedsfilmclub@gmail.com) or 07341305131. Or check out our webpage and see parent feedback and pictures from on set. Scan the QR code on the attached flyer to secure your Childs place. Fees are just £31.50 per month and payment is split over 3 monthly payments. Spaces limited to 14.

What happens on the last day of term? We will be running lessons period 1 and 2 as normal, period 3 students will be watching the Edwinstree got Talent entries and nominating their favourites. Lunch will be served earlier than normal, and students will finish at 1.20pm.



### Junior Park Run

We are pleased to confirm that the test event of Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun was successful. We are now preparing for our first official event starting 9am next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, and each Sunday thereafter!

The event is open to children of all abilities aged 4 to 14, any way they wish to (they do not have to run; they can walk or skip if they prefer!). They just need to register to obtain their own personal barcode and bring it along to each event. There are also opportunities for older children and adults to support the events by registering to volunteer to undertake marshalling or one of the other supporting roles, or simply encouraging the children as they complete the course!

#### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/norfolkroadplayingfieldsjuniorparkrun/>

#### Main event page:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/norfolkroadplayingfields-juniors/>

#### How to register for parkrun:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>

Thanks again for your support. We hope to see you Sunday!

*Mrs J. Gant – Headteacher*

[admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

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