



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

**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 16/01/2026.**

**Edwinstree Term dates:**

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

**Homework week: B**

**Diary Dates:**

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
02-05/02/26	Year 6 Mock SATs
03/02/26	Year 8 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
11/02/26	Year 7 Lieutenancy Visit
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
11-14/05/26	Year 6 SATs
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
19/05/26	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation for Year 8.
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.

## Table of Contents

Academic Consultations.....	1
What's happening in COWO? .....	1
Diocese Lead for Education visit.....	2
Year 6 News: .....	2
Year 6 SATs.....	2
Year 6 Home Learning .....	2
Year 7 News .....	2
Year 8 News .....	2
Food and Nutrition – All Years .....	3
Year 5: .....	3
Year 6: .....	3
Year 7: .....	3
Year 8: .....	3
Freman College Vacancy .....	3
Free February Half Term Activities At Hudnall Park For Young People With Send Aged 13-19 .....	3
DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning – Monday 21st January 2026 .....	3

### Academic Consultations

It has been great to see you in these meetings this week and look forward to the rest of Year 5, Year 7 and Year 8 next week.

Whilst we have in-person Foundation Evenings for the other subjects later in the year, these appointments are the only formal time in the academic year where you can meet and talk to the teacher about your child's progress in these core subjects (at KS3). If you have your appointments next week, please check the timings and instructions on how to log on. We had a number of 'no shows' this week and want to make sure you don't miss out on this important opportunity.

Year 6 appointments are after the half term holidays and booking for these will be open in the first week of February.

### What's happening in COWO?

This week students have considered the parables in tutor groups and how we use them to think about our life. They went over the vineyard worker who makes an interesting decision about how to pay his workers for the day, ask them about it.

We consider spirituality and its importance in life. The ability to know who you are, who you are in relation to others, beauty and beyond.

In COWO in the hall we began to explore the value of service noticing that if we have a Christian faith, we believe that the baby born at Christmas time was God incarnate the most powerful man on earth. So, what does he do? He is called the servant king and devotes his life to healing and helping people. We now know to serve is to put someone else's needs in front of yours.

*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.*

## Diocese Lead for Education visit

We had the Diocese Lead for Education visit the school yesterday and he met a variety of students, toured the school and met with SLT. Here are his conclusions from his visit:

*From start to finish I was warmly welcomed and given a very informative tour by your Y8 students, both of whom seemed to know everything about the school from top to bottom - hugely impressive.*

*There is a strong sense of kindness and much evidence of students & adults who listen to one another. Such a vital part of life & it makes your Christian identity stronger for it.*

*The group of Y6/Y7 & Y8 students were a joy to spend time with - they could articulate what makes Edwinstree a special place & one where they feel safe, cared for & provided with so many excellent activities. They know their school inside & out which is wonderful to see & hear about & demonstrates the strength of community & belonging they have.*

*Our chat about structures & collaborations was very useful with the White Paper pending. I am hopeful of a strong steer for schools to work more closely together in strong groups - clearly something you wish to see & feels is needed from the First schools upwards. There is such benefit in working together for the children right across your area.*

*I feel blessed to have experienced your school, the adults & the students - it has been the highlight of my week.*

## Year 6 News:

### Year 6 SATs

We will publish more detail next week on the mock SATs, below are the dates. The mock SATs will run just like the real exams to give students a trial run of what it is like and to ease and allay any fears.  
Mock SATs 02/02/2026 – 05/02/2026  
Official SATs 11/05/2026 -14/05/2026

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 can help on any of the days, please complete the following form.

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

## Year 6 Home Learning

Your children have been given their CGP books this week which is where they will complete some of their home learning. Home learning for Year 6 will now consist of the following:

- One section of the CGP Reading book
- One section of the CGP GPS book
- Learn the spellings set on Satchel One
- Read for 20 mins at least 5 times a week and record this on their Reading Log Bookmark.

Once they have completed the CGP sections, they are expected to mark their work (the answers are in the back of the book).

I have attached the schedule showing which parts of the CGP books to complete each week up until half term. This also shows when the home learning is due as this differs across classes.

This information will also be on Satchel One and includes a GPS toolkit which can be used to help where needed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch! Mrs Doré

## Year 7 News

Hertfordshire Lieutenancy visit to Year 7

On the 11th of February, Year 7 will have a visit from the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy, to explore the role of the Monarchy in Britain and British and Commonwealth values. This is a very special event as the Lieutenancy are representatives of the King.

[Home - The Lieutenancy of Hertfordshire](#)

## Year 8 News

External Visitor for Year 8 - Wednesday 25th February

I am pleased to share that author Imran Ahmad will be visiting the school to give a very lively, passionate interactive workshop for Year 8 about his book *The Perfect Gentleman*— a Muslim boy meets the West; which shares insights into the extraordinary social evolution of the United Kingdom in the late 20th Century, as well as anecdotes and life lessons he has learnt along the way. His book encourages us to strive for social justice, equality of rights and opportunities for all, unity, humanity, compassion, respect and to do everything we humanly can to help our planet heal from environmental destruction.

Imran has advised that he is happy to inscribe and sign books after each event, but I do not carry any copies for sale – therefore, if pupils would like a copy of the book, it can be ordered from [www.unimagined.org](http://www.unimagined.org) prior to his visit. The book is also orderable from all local independent bookshops (as well as the usual corporates), and independent bookshops are being given a discount which allows them to be competitive with Amazon.

I hope this will be a truly enriching day for Year 8 students and a great opportunity for cross-curricular learning.

Miss H Jackson

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## Food and Nutrition – All Years

A very big thank you to the two families who have very kindly donated microwaves to the Food department. We are now able to use these machines for defrosting and demonstration purposes. They were very gratefully received. Thank you!

**Year 5:** we have completed our last taste testing session of the year on Cheese and will be watching a demonstration for Cheese Straws next week.

**Year 6:** A week of evaluations, looking back at our marinated, grilled wraps. This is the most intense practical we do across the school and all pupils did a fabulous job! Very well done!

**Year 7:** Good theory work this week, including catching up on theory and green pen responses. Please ensure all books are returned early next week.

**Year 8:** We are starting our research project next week. We will be working on computers gathering information about Healthy Eating and Living and creating posters detailing our findings. 8A and 8B lessons will be in the computing suite and 8C and 8D will be on laptops in the Food Room.

If anyone has any sweet/chocolate tubs that they are not going to use, please could the Food department have these. They are used by pupils who forget to bring containers in for their end products. Last year we over 20 containers not returned, so we are running short. Unfortunately, biscuit tins are not hygienic enough to be reused due to rust. Many thanks,  
Mrs van Wyk

## Freman College Vacancy

Please find attached vacancy details for a TA.

## Free February Half Term Activities At Hudnall Park For Young People With Send Aged 13-19

During the February 2026 half term holidays, Services for Young People is offering free adventurous outdoor activities to young people aged 13-19 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including those with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. The activities are designed to inspire and empower young people while developing their social, emotional and physical skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Young people can:

- Learn archery and compete in fun games
- Zip across the valley on the high-level zip line
- Navigate the challenge course as part of a team
- Discover and explore nature in the beautiful woodlands
- Enjoy balancing and climbing on the low ropes course

The activities are funded by Short Breaks and young people are eligible up to the year they turn 19 if they are in full time education.

Families do not need to register for Short Breaks to attend. See info here: [Hudnall Park](#)

Hudnall Park is Services for Young People's outdoor activity centre set in 85 acres of beautiful parkland, private woodland and meadows, five miles from Hemel Hempstead in the west of Hertfordshire.

## DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning – Monday 21st January 2026



*Beane Valley SG14 3QA, 10am - 11.30am*

You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities.

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you
- Practical advice & emotional support
- Meet and chat with others in a similar situation
- Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss
- Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL, SPACE and ADD Vance

We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!

*DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026*



Delivering Special Provision Locally

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