

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



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &  
CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 17/05/2024.**

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

<b>School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm</b>	
20/05/24	Year 7 Foundation Evening in person.
21/05/24	Year 8 Shakespeare's Globe trip. £36.43 per student.
23/05/24	Cambridge University Careers talk – Day in the life of a university Student Year 7 & 8 (details to follow).
<a href="#">27-31/05/24</a>	<a href="#">Half Term.</a>
12/06/24	Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip. £38.43 per student.
17/06/24	Year 8 Foundation Evening in person.
21/06/24	The Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald KC MP talk to Year 8
22/06/24	*Save the date* Edwinstree Summer Fayre (details to follow)
26 & 27/06/24	Show dates for School Production. 6.30pm both nights
<a href="#">28/06/24</a>	<a href="#">INSET Day.</a>
08/07/24	Year 6 Whipsnade Zoo trip (details to follow)
09/07/24	Sports Day
<a href="#">11/07/24</a>	<a href="#">County Transition Day.</a>
16/07/24	Visit from Bishop of St Albans.
17/07/24	Year 5 Queens Park trip £14.50 per student.
<a href="#">19/07/24</a>	<a href="#">End of Summer Term 1:20pm.</a>
<a href="#">02/09/24</a>	<a href="#">INSET DAY.</a>
<a href="#">03/09/24</a>	<a href="#">Year 5 Induction Day.</a>
<a href="#">04/09/24</a>	<a href="#">Autumn Term Begins Years 6-8.</a>
16-18/09/24	Year 7 Residential – Essex Outdoors Bradwell.
<a href="#">28/10/24 – 01/11/24</a>	<a href="#">Half Term.</a>
<a href="#">06/12/24</a>	<a href="#">Occasional Day.</a>
<a href="#">20/12/24</a>	<a href="#">End of Autumn Term 1:20pm.</a>

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- Understanding my Autism/ADHD
- Parenting SEN Children when separated, online programme.

**SATs Volunteers**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported us through the SATs this week by reading for and supporting pupils. The pupil's and staff really appreciated your help, and that you gave up your time to support us all. You helped make our week run smoothly and calmly.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.  
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## How can I support my child to stay safe online?

The week you will have received a Parentmail alerting you to a WhatsApp group in year 5 receiving pornographic images. The police have been informed and on first look, it seems to have been a person who is not part of our community. I have been asked to give you guidance on how to help your child stay safe. Having taught online safety to all year groups for the last 5 years, and by inviting parents annually to online safety talks, these are the key messages and websites that we know help.

- When you give your child a phone you open your child to the world, like opening the door of your house and saying off you go.
- The online world has wonderful space to research and discover, but also significant risks that adults struggle to manage let alone children.
- Without privacy settings and an adult monitoring a child's phone regularly, a child is at greater risk.
- Helping your children to learn that to stay safe is to chat to those they know and trust, not to strangers or big groups of students, this helps to protect them.
- [11-18s | CEOP Education](#) This website provides helpful guidance on setting up privacy settings and monitoring sights.
- [Home Safety Activities \(ceopeducation.co.uk\)](#)

We will look again to organise and offer parent talks from an outside speaker, on how to keep your child safe online. In the last 5 years we have had around 40 parents attend these events. Parents have found these informative and help to support your child to navigate the immense resource the internet offers, but in a safe way.

## Food and Nutrition:

### Year 5

We've started our evaluations which are the final part of our pizza project. There has been some very good descriptive writing. I am looking forward to marking these over the half term. Merits have started going home, so keep an eye out! No cooking next week.

### Year 6

We've been looking at our digestive system and seeing how fibre is beneficial in 'moving everything along'. We will be creating fruit cupcakes next week where we are reducing the sugar content and increasing our fruit and fibre intake.

### Year 7

The last of our Spaghetti Bolognese has been cooked and I hope you thoroughly enjoyed it. This is one of our most complex (due to knife skills involved) dishes and the pupils smashed it! Well done everyone. Evaluations next week, so no ingredients needed.

### Year 8

Excellent work with our protein alternatives. We'll be completing our evaluations next week. No ingredients needed.

Please could I ask for Food room containers to be returned. Over the past 2 weeks, 24 containers have been borrowed and only 2 returned - these are the chocolate and sweet tubs. Please can you also ask your children to collect any ingredient tubs - I have a large collection of tubs growing, none are named so I don't know who to give them back to.

Mrs van Wyk

## What is the Bike Race and what opportunity does your child has to observe the event?

On the last day before half term, we have been invited to watch the *Ford Ride London Classique* race speed competition that is coming through Buntingford as part of its planned route. This will give your child the opportunity to witness all be it fleetingly, international cyclists competing in an international competition. The event will take place between 11.30 and 12 midday, so we will be wanting to collect students and bring them to the high street to watch after break. Students will be walked down to various agreed viewing sites to watch the race. If you would like to support us in taking the children down to watch this event, please email: [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)



## School Production Programme Competition

Calling all artists! As you know the school production will be showing in June this year. The cast and I would love to have a lovely

picture on the programme we give to the audience.

The production is called: "Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies" which is a fun version of the legend of Robin Hood. Please find further details attached.

## Gardening Club



I was a little worried we would be contained in the classroom this week due to rain, but we were lucky enough for it to blow over. Lots of muddy hands and happy faces by the end. We have been very industrious, planted another 30

sunflowers, planted our donated runner beans and aubergines, replanted chives that were escaping, watered our turnips, lettuce, radish, leeks, and potatoes. We are planting echinacea from seed too - great plant for attracting insects with its pretty flowers and has medicinal purposes. I managed to stop the lawn mowing lady from cutting our wild bed outside the science block as our bit for 'No Mow May'. We are hoping to get some more colour in there after half term for all the school to enjoy. The pictures are of a few of the beds in our enlarged garden.



We have one empty bed and would love some seedlings or plant donations to go in there. We're more than happy to grow both vegetables and plants. You might spot one with trees in it - these are the trees for our Kings' Coronation walkway. We still need to purchase a few more, but these are settling in and getting ready for planting in the next few months.



Mrs van Wyk

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## Year 5 news:

### Y5 RE Faith in Queen's Park

Thank you to those who have completed and returned their forms. Payment can be made via the school Gateway. Payment and consent form should be completed by **Friday 24th May 2024**. If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk).

Pupils will have a collective worship next week where we will go over what the trip will entail and answer any questions they may have. If, as parents and carers you have any questions, I would direct you first to the FAQ page:

<https://faithinqueenspark.org.uk/faith-tours/faq/>

If you would like to discuss with me, please email:

[hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

We look forward to the pupils having this shared cultural learning experience. Thank you, Mrs Kelly

## Year 6 news:

### SATs

Well done to all year 6, who managed the SATs well and gave it their best shot. Whatever their result is, they can be proud of themselves and know that they have another two years with us if they have not quite managed national standard to catch up.

### Trips

We know year 6 parents are currently paying towards the residential trip, but we would like to offer your child a trip before the end of term as they are desperate to celebrate and explore post SAT. We will be sending out Whipsnade letters next week for a trip in July as part of their Humanities studies of biomes around the world and the animals that live in them.

## Year 7 news:

### Foundation evening

This takes place for year 7 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, this is the evening where you are invited to attend with your child from 5pm to 7pm. Your child will tour with you around the school and to the foundation subject rooms, here you can meet their teacher and review their books. Please note this is an informal session with no booked appointments. We will have a Governor representative available for part of the evening who is keen to hear your views on the school and to talk to you.

## Year 8 news:

### The Globe Theatre trip – 21st May 2024

Year 8 have the opportunity to visit The Globe Theatre on Tuesday. Our English unit in the summer term is based on Shakespeare's 'Much Ado about Nothing', and The Globe offers a fantastic interactive workshop that will enable students to explore the play's characters and themes.

If your child is not attending the trip, we would ask that they come into school, we will be running a year 8 class for those students not going.

### Year 8 Maths Home-Learning

We know that most parents/carers are supportive and double-check that their child has completed their weekly maths home-learning. We've been recently noticing that more and more pupils are slipping through the net.

Did you know that each child has 3 pieces of home-learning a week:

1. Online quiz on Show My Homework
2. Weekly Puzzle Home-Learning on Show My Homework. We also supply a paper copy to be stuck in their Home-Learning book.
3. Challenge Home Learning. Either to catch up on any gaps or to challenge themselves on a new topic.

In total this work should take between 60 and 90 minutes each week. Their work should be detailed neatly in their yellow home-learning books and brought into school each week on the due date.

If you are unsure about weekly home-learning do contact your child's teacher via the school office.

### Transition to Freman

Is your child in need of additional support to make the transition to Freman? As well as the transition day, Freman offer, post half term, 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: [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@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 liaise with Freman and they 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 they can gain support from. Freman like us to drop your children 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.

In the next two weeks 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.

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## Edwinstree School Association

### EasyFundraising

Parents that support us through Easy Fundraising have raised £78.93 this quarter (our biggest pay out yet!). Funds are raised when shopping online from everyday things like groceries to the extravagant holidays! Please sign up using this link if you would like to help raise funds for our school. [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=256941&invite=1XMMXB&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_campaign=refCROtest](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=256941&invite=1XMMXB&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=refCROtest)

### Pre-loved Uniform

After selling lots of preloved uniform at the Year 5 and 6 foundation evenings, our stock is running low and therefore we will be unable to attend the Year 7 foundation evening on Monday 20th May. Donations of school branded jumpers, PE t-shirts or hoodies are always welcome via the school office. You can purchase preloved uniform at any time via our online shop. [Edwinstree School Association Online Shop \(sumupstore.com\)](http://www.edwinstreeschool.org.uk/sumupstore.com)

## Information Flyers

Attached to the newsletter.

- Do you have a child with an EHCP or currently considering a request?
- Understanding my Autism/ADHD
- Parenting SEN Children when separated, online programme.

Understanding my Autism/ADHD offers a range of workshops aimed at children and young people in Hertfordshire aged 7-16 years with a diagnosis of Autism, ADHD, or both. These workshops, delivered by five specialist charities in a group setting, will provide children and young people with resources and strategies to enhance their understanding of Autism and/or ADHD. For individuals aged 14 and above, diagnosed or not, there's the opportunity to access Cog's, a mental wellbeing app developed for and by the Neurodivergent community. This app aids users in navigating daily life, understanding neurodiversity, and building positive habits. Courses run for between 6-12 weeks, with both online and face-to-face. For more information here is the link: [thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk](http://thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk) .

New initiatives for Neurodivergent Children and Young people. The Toolbox from Mindler is a dedicated webpage specifically focussing on ADHD and Autism support for children and young people. The Toolbox offers inspirational content, self-help tools, interactive livestreams, anonymous text chat service (to ask any questions they may have about Neurodiversity) and lots of other resources and information. It also serves as a guide, signposting users to alternative services and accessible interventions within Hertfordshire. The toolbox will be hosting a Livestream on 29th May where the team play popular video games and answer all questions related to Neurodiversity. Here is the link: [The Toolbox | Autism & ADHD Support For Young People \(mindler.co.uk\)](http://TheToolbox|Autism&ADHDSupportForYoungPeople(mindler.co.uk))

Keeping language simple with clear The National Autistic Society is a fantastic organisation that offers support and information for children and young people with ASD. Here is a link to their website. <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

The Neurodiversity Support Hub – Herts

The Neurodiversity Support Hub which is delivered by ADD-vance, has recently been expanded. A team of parents/carers of neurodivergent children and young people man the phones where they can offer advice and answer questions on a range of issues from distressed behaviours, anxiety, school, anger, and sleep. They are there to offer support and advice as well as signpost to further help. call: 01727 833963 or email: [supporthub@add-vance.org](mailto:supporthub@add-vance.org)

Every county in England has a Local Offer as per the SEND Code of Practice 2015. This is a website that provides information about health, education and social care for children and young people (birth to 25 years old) with SEND. Hertfordshire's Local Offer has an abundance of information, advice, and signposting on support available in education, clubs and activities, parent workshops, services for young people and parents, preparing for adulthood, EHCPs and more. The website is easy to navigate and has contact details for all their services including links to associated organisations and charities. Here is the link: [The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer](http://TheHertfordshireSENDLocalOffer)

*Mrs J Gant – Headteacher*

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

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