



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 17//07/2026.

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

Homework week: A
Diary Dates:

01/09/26	INSET DAY
02/09/26	Year 5 Induction Day normal school day for them.
03/09/26	Term begins for Years 6-8
24/09/26	Year 5 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
01/10/26	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
26/10- 30/10/26	Half Term
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.

We would like to thank you for entrusting us with your child this year.

We hope that you find time for respite and that you enjoy time with your children over the summer holidays, we look forward to working with you in September and thank you for trusting us to be part of your child's life journey.

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Year 6 SATs

We apologise again for the mix up with the year 6 SAT exam results. In our genuine desire to turn around the results before the end of term we missed an error in the mail merge. We did apologise to year 6 today. They now have their correct results. Here are the overall results, the progress that your child made over the year was astonishing and their efforts we commend, even if they were not able to manage the national standard yet.

The most important part of these exams is to give them confidence that all year 6 can face a challenge, work hard and come through it. We and very proud of them.

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: Edwinstree school*		Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: nationally	Percentage of pupils achieving Greater depth: Edwinstree school	Average scaled score: Edwinstree school*		Average scaled score: nationally	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics: nationally
	Data including only students who sat the test	Data of all students in the cohort, including those who did not sit the test			Data including only students who sat the test	Data of all students in the cohort, including those who did not sit the test		
								63%
English reading	75%	72%	75%	25%	104	100	106	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics Edwinstree
English grammar, punctuation and spelling	73%	70%	74%	17%	103	99	105	
Mathematics	74%	72%	75%	16%	103	100	105	
English writing (teacher assessment)	74%	74%	73%	19%	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%
Science (teacher assessment)	91%	91%	82%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

*We are required to report results including students who were withdrawn from or absent from the tests.

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Free School Meals Criteria Change

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) will be changing. From the start of the new school year, all parents/carers who are in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of the amount received. Please note, you will need to make an application for your child to receive Free School Meals. Applying takes around 5 minutes, and you will need your National Insurance number. Please see letter attached with information on how to apply. Even if your child wants pack lunches, applying brings extra money into the school and extra opportunities for your child.

SchoolGrid

Please remember to place your lunch orders via [SchoolGrid](#).

Year 7 Residential

Please be reminded that the 5th payment is due by Friday 31st July.

Mobile phones - DfE guidance

As you are aware, the DfE have instructed schools to become mobile free during the school day. Whilst schools have implemented this in different ways, we have always had the policy of handing phones. However we would like to tighten up their use before school. Below is what will be in place from September.

A bell will ring at 8.30am each day.
At this point, students should put their phones away (coat, bag, pocket) and not be visible on the school site - both in and out of the buildings.

We understand that some students like to ring/text home to let you know they've arrived. If this is after 8.30am, we will allow them to do this at the gate and then ask them to put their phone away.
At 8.40am, phones to be handed to the tutor as normal.
This should give students 10 minutes of screen-free time before the school day starts and a time to socialise with friends rather than looking at a screen. Initially, we will have more staff out on morning duty supporting and reminding students of this change.

Additional School Visits

Miss Harris and Mrs Surrey would like to offer additional school visits for any pupils who may be feeling anxious about returning to school or who may find the transition back to school challenging. If you feel that your child would benefit from an extra visit before the start of term, please contact the Wellbeing Hub at wellbeinghub@edwinstree.sch.herts.uk. You can book now or make the decision on the holidays.

Visits are available from Monday 10th August to Friday 21st August. We look forward to supporting your child and helping them feel confident and ready for the new school year

Information for my Year 5 child's first day at Edwinstree?

Please remember, Year 5 students will start school on Wednesday 2nd September 2025 at 8.40am, their normal school time. They will be asked to enter through the bottom gate and exit via the park gate at the end of the day. These are the entrances they will enter and exit all year. Students should come in their winter uniform. If it is hot, we will contact you beforehand and ask you to bring them in their PE kit. Please note that even if they have PE on the first day, no one will expect them to bring their PE kit on the first day.

From 8.25am staff will be ready to meet and greet them at the bottom (Main) gate on Bowling Green Lane. Collection will be at the side gate (Park side) at 3.10pm. Please wait outside school grounds if meeting your child, staff will be manning the gate, however, children are not registered out at dismissal.

Children are expected to arrive in Edwinstree school uniform and bring stationery (see listing below) and a water bottle daily. Please ensure you have either ordered a school lunch via School Grid or provided a packed punch, some children also choose to bring a snack for break time.

Students will be registered on the first morning in fire drill lines, where they will be reminded of their form group and Tutor. Please remind them that for the first day they will be the only children in the school. The first hour of the day will be finding out their timetable and getting to know each other. There will be plenty of teachers on hand and in the classroom supporting them on their first day. Please reassure them, no one will moan if they get a little lost, staff will walk them to their next lessons for the first week and collect them from their fire drill lines after break and lunch.

Tutors and Timetables

2026-27 tutors

	A	B	C	D
Year 5 HOY: Mrs Van Wyk	Mr Murphy	Mrs Banner	Mrs Burches	Mrs Hill
Year 6 HOY: Mr Galanides	Mrs Dore	Mrs Thomas	Mr Funnell	Mrs Booth
Year 7 HOY: Mr Kelly	Mrs Taylor	Mrs Brock	Mr Brown	Mrs Knight
Year 8 HOY: Mr McCarthy	Ms Mursell	Mrs Lane	Mrs Theroulde	Mrs Bright

Year group curriculum timetables:
<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/learning.aspx>

What does my child need to be ready for the start of a new year?

PE Reminder

For PE next year, all classes will need a mouth guard, black football socks, shin pads and football boots in order to safely participate in hockey, football, and rugby lessons. Charity shops and second hand online are great places to seek these items.

What is our Uniform reminder for next year?

Our uniform list can be found here [Edwinstree School](#).

Please do not forget the ESA offer a nearly new service for parents, please find link here to their website: <https://edwinstree-school-association.sumupstore.com/>
[Price and Buckland Parent Information Booklet](#)

School Shoes

Please ensure you consider the safety requirements of footwear in the practical subjects. In order for pupils to be safe in Science, Food and Nutrition, and DT lessons they are required to wear hard topped, polishable shoes. This is to prevent them from being scalded by hot water, burnt by acid if dropped or injured from falling sharp objects. We have to plan for such events and ensure the safety of every child. Please support your child to take part in these practical subjects by ensuring their feet are safe. Here are some example shoes that will meet the needs of these subjects.



What equipment are we asking students to bring into school with them next term?

To support your child to learn, please may we ask that you provide them with the following:

- Pencil case
- Blue or black pens
- Green pen
- HB pencils
- Ruler (30cm measured in cm and mm)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Whiteboard pen/rubber
- Glue stick.
- A small pack of colouring pencils (basic colours)
- Year 7&8: scientific calculator -
[Casio fx-83GTCW Black Scientific Calculator : Amazon.co.uk: Stationery & Office Supplies](#)
- You may wish to provide highlighter pens.

Any parent that is struggling to manage this please contact s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Mrs Marler is here to help.

Fidget Aids

We have recently seen a significant increase in pupils using fidget aids during lessons and would like to address this before the holidays.

Fidget aids can have both positive and negative effects. They may help to improve focus and act as a tool for managing stress. However, not all fidget aids are beneficial for learning. Items that require visual attention, include a game element, or make noise can actually reduce concentration, both for the pupil using them and for others in the class. Some items may also be unsuitable for certain subjects, such as science, due to health and safety considerations. As with any personal item brought into school, fidget aids may be lost or shared inappropriately. Unfortunately, we cannot take responsibility for this.

At Edwinstree, pupils already benefit from movement breaks throughout the day, as well as access to our Wellbeing Hub, where they can regulate their emotions when needed. Before allowing your child to bring a fidget aid into school, please ensure they understand the following expectations:

- I use fidgets to help me focus so that I can learn.
- I keep my fidget on my desk or in my hands.
- I do not show or pass my fidget to others.
- I put my fidget away when I am finished with it.
- I understand that if I do not follow these rules, my fidget may be removed.
- I understand that staff are not responsible if my fidget is lost or damaged.

Suitable fidget aids include simple items such as squiggle aids, foam shapes, or chewable sensory tools.

The following items **are not permitted**:

- Items that make noise
- Items with a gaming component
- Items with small parts that could pose a choking hazard (e.g. Tech Decks)
- Items containing gel or liquid that could leak or burst

Thank you for your support.





Edwinstree School Association

A huge thank you from the ESA committee to all the parent volunteers and school staff who helped at the ESA discos, Buntingford Christmas Market, Christmas

Hot Chocolate and Summer Fair events throughout the year. To every parent who donated and brought preloved uniform helping to reduce waste, we couldn't have raised so much ESA funds without you.

This academic year we have fully funded or subsidised:

- Year 5 Maya Workshop and Faith in the park trip
- Year 6 Maya Workshop and post SATS Ice Cream Treat
- Year 7 London Shakespeare trip
- Year 8 visit by Imran Ahmad
- Electric Umbrella performance at school
- Small Easter treat for every child
- New Sports Award trophies
- New gazebos

As we look forward to the new school year, we are already planning the 'New Friends Disco' in September. It will however be the last year for half of the committee as their children will leave Edwinstree this time next year. Thus, we would love new faces to join us and spend the year working together before they leave. Please get in touch edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com

Enjoy the school summer holidays.

Joanne, Tracey, Lisa, Sara, Nicki and Hayley.

St Peter's Church Christian Youth Club

As part of St Peters Church work to support young people, you will be familiar with the offer of hot chocolate and alternative refreshments in the winter months. It is a drop in space on Thursday after school to meet and chat. All staff involved are DBS checked.



St Peters are creating a young people's space in their mezzanine area as part of their refurbishment and are keen to offer children the chance to shape and decide what it should look like, how it should be resources and what activities might take place there. The Church are asking students who are interested in sharing their ideas to attend a session from 10am to 12 noon on the 1st of August. Students will be introduced to this in COWO. Please use this link if your child is interested in attending.

St Peter's Church Christian Youth Club – Fill in form

If you are worried about your child's mental health over the holidays, who can support you?

If you or your child is in need of urgent help, please speak to:

Single Point of Access (SPA) Mental Health Helpline on:

0800 6444 101 (SPA provides 24-hour mental health support)

If you are not sure what to do or are unable to speak to SPA, please call NHS **111** and select **option 2** for mental health services.

Emergencies: If someone's life is at risk, please call **999**

Healthy Young Minds in Herts

Is a website that contains information on many services that can provide help for children and young people who may be experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties and has separate sections for young people and parents & carers

Herts Mind Network

Herts Mind Network have launched a new early intervention and prevention helpline for children and young people aged 10-17 in Herts. The helpline will provide a safe, non-judgemental space to talk to a Young People Advisor or Mentor who will provide emotional support, advice and information and discuss coping strategies. For opening hours and more information please visit the [Young Peoples Helpline](http://www.hertsmindnetwork.co.uk) website. Helpline number is 01923 256391.

Just Talk

Information and support for young people and parents with concerns regarding Mental Health.

Chat Health

Chat Health is a confidential texting service offered by the Hertfordshire School Nursing Team. It's safe and easy for you to speak to a qualified health professional. We provide advice, help and support to teenagers, with any health issues such as mental and emotional health, sexual health, healthy eating, bullying, alcohol, drugs, and stopping smoking. Whatever's on your mind, we can help. Even if you just need someone who understands or want advice for a friend. Chat Health: 07480 635050

Hertfordshire Family Centre Service

Hertfordshire Family Centre Service offer support to children, young people, their parents, families and carers and can be contacted on: 0300 123 7572. They are open Mon-Fri, 8am - 6pm.

The [Family Service Centre](http://www.familycentreservice.co.uk) is made up of three different teams:

The Family Support Service from pregnancy to 11 years old

The Health Visitor Team from pregnancy to 5 years old

The School Nursing Team from 5 to 19 years old

NHS Wellbeing Service

The Adult Community Mental Health Services provides a Wellbeing Service that offers free and confidential talking therapy and practical support for Hertfordshire residents (over 16) experiencing a wide range of mental health problems such as: worry, low mood, insomnia and stress. If you feel that you would benefit from the service, are over 16 years and are registered with a GP in Hertfordshire, you can self-refer via this website.

Sandbox Homepage (mindler.co.uk)

The Sandbox is an NHS-funded service to support children and young people in Hertfordshire with their mental health and well-being. The Sandbox is a central place for resources about common mental health issues, with information on how to access additional support or emergency services.

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WithYouth

A digital service that provides support to young people who are experiencing mental health needs or would like support with their emotional wellbeing. The service is open every day from 2pm-10pm.

Financial Support Resources

Bishop's Stortford Food Bank

Providing help to anyone in Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding villages experiencing a food crisis.

Buntingford and Villages Food Support

Providing food for those in need in the town of Buntingford and the surrounding villages. Anyone who is struggling to buy food for themselves or their family can be referred to a Foodbank.

Food bank – Referral Service

You can ask Citizens Advice to refer you to a food bank. They'll usually make an appointment for you to discuss your situation with an adviser first.

If you can't go to Citizens Advice, you can ask for a referral from another organisation - for example your GP, housing association or social worker.

Your local council might be able to tell you how to get a referral to a food bank. You can find your local council's contact details on GOV.UK

Buntingford United Reformed Church



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

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