



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 18/09/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates: Term Dates 2026-27

Homework week: - A

Diary Dates:

23/09/26	Freman College Open Evening
24/09/26	Rescheduled Year 6 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
25/09/26	ESA School Disco – All Years
01/10/26	Edwinstree Open Evening 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
12/10/26	Flu Vaccinations – All Years
20/10/26	School Photographs / Year 5 “Getting to know you” Parents meeting 5pm
26/10-30/10/26	Half Term
06/11/26	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
11-12/11/26	Year 6 Lancaster Model
17/11/26	Flu vaccination Mop Up
19/11/26	Year 7 Hertfordshire Lieutenancy presentation
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.

Contents

Edwinstree Open Evening.....	1
Year 5 ‘Getting to know you’ meeting.	1
School Photographs	2
Dangerous drop offs	2
Fire and Lockdown drills	2
How are we reviewing Benedicts law?	2
What is Pete’s place?	2
What has been happening in COWO?	2
Tutor COWOs	2
Hall COWOs this week	2
Conkers Fun	3
Curriculum Overviews and how you might use them?	3
Food and Nutrition – All Years.....	3
Gardening Club.....	3
School Production	4
Coram Family Lives.....	4

Edwinstree Open Evening

For prospective Parent/ Carers.

1st October 2026, 6pm - 8pm. Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm

We invite the community and prospective parents into the school to tour and hear the Heads speech.

If you are a parent of a year 6 or 8 student, we would like them to attend to help us with the tours of the school, and Year 5 and 7 to help with subject demonstrations. If you are able to support by allowing your child to take part between 6 and 8pm, please reserve the date. Letters and more information will follow early next week.

Year 5 ‘Getting to know you’ meeting.

What is the Year 5 *Getting to know you* meeting about?

We would like to invite you and your child to the *Year 5 Getting to know you* evening on Tuesday, 20th October from 5-6.30 pm. This parent session is designed to allow you to meet your child's Form Tutor, view the work they've been doing and hear from our English, Maths and MFL department heads about the work they are completing this year and how you can help. Your child is welcome to attend with you. Our SEND team will be available on the night and will be based in the hall.

Doors will open at 5pm. English, Maths and MFL will deliver their presentations in the hall at 5:30pm. English and Maths books will be available to view in the Tutor Rooms. Either pop up before or after the talk, to meet the tutor and hear how they are getting on. Form tutors will be based in their form rooms- the pupils should know their way!

5A - Mr Murphy, Room E2, 5B – Mrs Banner, Room C2,
5C – Mrs Burches, Art Room, 5D – Mrs Hill, Room A10 (upstairs).
We look forward to welcoming our parent and carer community to our school.

Mrs van Wyk - Head of Year 5.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
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School Photographs

The school photographer is booked for Tuesday 20th October 2026. Sibling photos will take place first, followed by individuals. Please may we ask that your child comes in with clean uniform, wearing their Edwinstree School sweatshirt and hair has been styled if necessary.

Dangerous drop offs

Please may we ask again, that you think twice before dropping off students in the bus lane and blocking access for coaches, or parking on the zig zag lines at the front of the school main entrance/Reception as this is an illegal drop off point, and raises concerns about the safety in this area.

The Sainsbury car park is available, and the lollipop person is at the ready to help your child cross, we never moan if your child is late, we just give them a welcoming smile and usher them in. There is no need for a drop off at the school gates that puts others at risk.

We also ask that students use the bottom gate or side entrance gate by the park and not the main entrance to Reception for arrivals and departures as the staff car park is very busy at these times.

Fire and Lockdown drills

We completed our first fire drill practice this week and will complete another one in a couple of weeks. As we would expect, students were great.

Twice a year, we talk students through what to do if we have to lockdown the school: we will do this once we've secured fire drill expectations. As a school we practice this with staff, but not with students. Instead, we explain the procedure and play the sound they will hear. We will inform you through the newsletter when this will be taking place.

How are we reviewing Benedicts law?

We are reviewing our procedures and will be following the guidelines distributed recently by County, for now we are not able to distribute food to hungry students until we are clear on procedure, we do not enjoy turning them away, so please do send them in with a snack.

If you are struggling with the cost of living, please speak to Mrs Marler. We work closely with the food bank.

What is Pete's place?

Pete's place is an offer from St Peter's Church to students, to pop in after school for a hot chocolate or ice pop in the summer and for a chat. Up to 75 students were taking this opportunity last year. As part of Benedicts Law, we have alerted the team at St Peter's Church to the procedures around allergies.



Coming soon St Peter's Church after school Club. More information next week.

What has been happening in COWO?

Collective worship is the afternoon reflection time that takes place every day for students. In a normal week they would experience an afternoon session with the Head of School - Mr Rowlands, on Mondays or Tuesdays, and a Key stage COWO on Wednesdays or Thursdays. In the times they are not in the hall, Mrs Gant will provide the tutor COWO's that take place in their tutor rooms. At the start of each term, we take time to remind students of what it means to be in Edwinstree Church of England school.

Tutor COWOs

Your child/ren will have heard this term about our theological quote that steers the school.

John 15.5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit"*

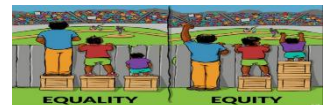
They will have been reminded or learnt (in year 5) that our vision is the trunk of the tree and has 3 words in it. (You can see the full vision at the bottom of the newsletter) We acknowledge that:

- **Students are unique**
- **Students have their own set of wonderfols, and we try to help them to find them and hold onto them.**
- **We are here to help their education, but more with parents to help students flourish.**
- **We recognise that we all live Life in its Fullness with lovely times if we are lucky and sad times – we address and plan for both.**



They will know because life is Full, it is ok to not be ok, but we want them to tell someone. They have been completing a piece of work in tutor time on their trusted adults and friends and should now be able to tell you who they are.

We also use bible stories to help us think about the world. The bible story they are always reminded of is the **Parable of the Vineyard worker**, it's an interesting story and they learn the difference between **equity** and **equality**. The vineyard farmer uses equity. Can they tell you why?



We believe at Edwinstree that **equality** is that we try our utmost to ensure that all students leave us ready for their next stage of education. But the **equity** is that how we help them to get there, this will be different for each child.

Hall COWOs this week

In Collective Worship this week, we started to explore the theme of **Humility**, reflecting on CS Lewis' quote *"True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less"*.

Mrs Cove also shared her story of the heart transplant she had last year and competing in the Transplant Games in Sheffield this summer.

We also had our first singing assembly of the year, with Y7 students helping Y5 to learn two of the regular songs we sing; *'City on a Hill'* and *'Feels Good'*.

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Conkers Fun

As part of the Fullness of Life, we are planning fun into our time and next week they will hear about a conkers competition.



Curriculum Overviews and how you might use them?

Attached are overviews of the learning taking place in school with your child.

If you use the link below, it will take you to our website. When you click on the link it will take you to our subject pages that outline our intent. If you click on the curriculum maps, they will guide you on what topics we are using for learning.

If you click on the threshold concepts for each year group, this takes you to the key learning that we are looking to secure with each child. This is what we assess your children's progress on during the year.

<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/learning.aspx>

Food and Nutrition – All Years

Welcome back to another bumper few months of cooking at Edwinstree. Your child will know if they are currently in *Food and Nutrition* or in *D&T*.

Due to classes being mixed at the beginning of term, your child may not be with the same peers as last year in the Food Room/Workshop – please keep this in mind if you did recipe ingredient sharing last year.

Please do let the office know if your child develops a food allergy or intolerance so that we can keep the Food Room records up to date too. We do a number of taste-testing, both bought-in products and made-on-site and do not want any accidental food ingestion.

Please keep in mind all the health and safety requirements as mentioned to pupils in the lessons, as well as in the letter you will receive next week with regards to ingredient requirements until February. Incorrect uniform will result in a no cook lesson during which theory work will be supplied.

A uniform reminder for boys and girls that:

All **shoes** must be polishable in design and protect the foot from spills and liquid splashes - fabric trainers and astros are not suitable.



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 being 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. – please refer to the uniform requirement list on the website for more information.

Should your child have a medical requirement to wear adapted shoes, past parents have purchased spats (over shoe leather covers) available from Amazon to keep their feet safe.

All **nails** must be clean and free from polish, false or acrylic bases, BIAB and gel embellishments.

Hair must be tied up and in the case of a long fringe, clipped out of the way. For boys and girls with long fringes, a 'Jack Grealish' headband or Alice band is suitable.

If your child is absent for a demonstration lesson, they will be required to complete a theory lesson instead of cooking. This is due to health, safety and hygiene information passed on during demonstration lessons. Cookery demonstrations are due to start in the next 2 weeks. Ingredient requirements will be sent out on Satchel the week before.

Gardening Club

What a busy time summer was for all the plants in the veggie patch. Our marvellous donations of tomato plants in the summer have yielded our biggest ever crop of tomatoes – check out our freezer pic!



A very big thank you to the parents and grandparents for their generous donations. The whole of Year 7 has tomatoes available to them for the Pasta Bolognese we will be making shortly. Our final courgettes will be grated and frozen for this purpose too.



New members to the Veggie Patch team this week were incredibly helpful. Along with our stalwarts from last year, the pupils managed to turn over half of our two biggest beds, removing weeds and aerating soil as they went, harvesting and washing all the remaining carrots, podding our runner beans for seed for next year, picking two big tubs of tomatoes and washing the tools before we left for the day.

There are still several unripe tomatoes on the plants, and our hope is that they start to blush before we have a cold snap so that we can ripen them in the Food room.

Everyone left munching on carrots we harvested, which was fabulous. Pupils said they were the nicest tasting carrots they'd ever eaten, crisp, crunchy, sweet and delicious. Nothing is better than food grown without chemicals and pesticides, straight from the garden – no food miles and no carbon footprint. The tops were returned to the compost bin where they will decompose to form next year's compost.



We will be planting garlic and onions before October half term – these will overwinter and we will hopefully harvest after February half term.

A reminder that Gardening Club runs till 4:15pm on Wednesdays until October half term. It will start up again in the Spring, after February half-term due to light limitations and the weather cooling rapidly in the late afternoon. Mrs van Wyk

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School Production

This year our school musical production is **Grossbusters** by Craig Hawes. If you came to see *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* in March, you'll know what a treat you're in for, as *Grossbusters* comes from the same writer and is a brand-new show. Sign-up sheets will be available from **Wednesday 16th September** until **Monday 21st September**. Students in **Years 6-8** are welcome to sign up directly.



This year, **Year 5 students may also be considered for the production** but should first express their interest to their **Form Tutor** rather than signing up themselves. Form Tutors can then pass on the names of students they feel would be suitable for consideration and I will inform them and parents/carers if they are to attend the auditions on Wednesday 23rd September.

As school productions involve a demanding rehearsal schedule and significant backstage responsibility, Year 5 students should demonstrate excellent behaviour, a positive attitude towards school life, reliability, and independence. Form Tutors will be asked to take these factors into account when deciding whether to support a student. Please note that Form Tutor support allows a Year 5 student to be considered for the production but does not guarantee a place as casting decisions will be based on auditions, the needs of the production, and the number of places available.

Casting will be announced on 25th September and the first rehearsal will take place on Wednesday 30th September from 3.15pm to 4.45pm. Students should only sign up if they are able to commit fully to the rehearsal schedule and performances which will be on 18th and 19th March in the Evening with a Thursday matinee for the first schools.

Mrs Brock - Drama and Geography Teacher

Coram Family Lives

Parenting when separated for parents of SEN children online group

Parenting when separated for parents of SEN children - online programme

Come along to our six-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.

The programme includes:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective communication skills
- Managing emotions and stress
- Collaborative problem solving
- Building a supportive network
- Creating a unified parenting approach

Dates and times

Date: Tuesday 13th and 20th October, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November 2020
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Date: Wednesday 14th and 21st October, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November 2020
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

This will be delivered online via MS TEAMS

SCAN ME

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@coramfamilylives.org.uk or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8701

We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk

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