



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 19/12/2025.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework week: B

Diary Dates:

05/01/26	INSET Day
06/01/26	Start of Spring Term
13/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5B English and Maths 5D English and Maths 8C English, Maths, Science
14/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 8A English, Maths, Science
15/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7D English, Maths, Science 7B English, Maths, Science
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
03/02/26	Year 8 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
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
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
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.



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Thank you for your support and we wish you peace, hope and love at Christmas.

As a team we feel very privileged to work in the Buntingford community with a set of parents who are caring and supportive of our school. We hope that you all manage some rest and respite, and we look forward to welcoming your child to a full day of school on the 6th of January, normal start time 8.40am.

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

You will have an opportunity to sign your child up at the start of the term – clubs will be up and running from the 2nd week of term.

Spring PE Timetable

Please find attached our PE timetable for the Spring term.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
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What equipment are we asking students to bring in to 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 - [example](#)
- You may wish to provide highlighter pens.

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

Autumn School Reports

Autumn term Individual attainment reports have been issued this week via Satchel:one. Reports can be viewed via **parent and student** Satchel:one accounts using a computer or mobile phone. Below is a short guide on how to open reports using an Android or Apple device:

Android

- Open the satchel:one app and select the red tile labelled "Documents".
- Click on the name of the report (report titles are alpha numeric)
- Click on the grey box that has the letters PDF in it.
- Click on the option "PDF reader".

Apple

- Open the satchel:one app and select the red tile labelled "Documents".
- Click on the name of the report (report titles are alpha numeric)
- Click on the grey box that has the letters PDF in it.
- This will open a white pop up with your contacts and sharing apps. At the bottom, click on the option "Quick Look".

Please note that the attendance data was extracted on the 4th of December and therefore may be slightly different to the expected percentage. Current attendance data can be viewed at any time in the app.

If you require any assistance accessing your child's report, please email Mrs Heywood: r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Thank you.

Year 6 News:

Year 6 SATs

- Mock SATs 02/02/2026 – 05/02/2026
- Official SATs 11/05/2025 -14/05/2025

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 8 News

RE - Holocaust and Islamophobia

Within RE, in the new year, pupils will be looking at the Holocaust and Islamophobia as part of the Spring term scheme on prejudice and discrimination.

At Edwinstree we believe in embracing life in all its fullness, this includes sensitively and appropriately looking at emotionally challenging subjects.

The Holocaust is not the story of millions of lives lost; it is the millions of stories of individual human beings who were persecuted simply for who they were.

We have a duty, as educators, to those who lost their lives, continue to suffer and to our future generations to ensure we reflect, remember, and respect.

Pupils will be informed that there are several parts of these lessons where they will be confronted with upsetting information. They will be assured that it is ok to be upset, angry or worried, that the classroom is a safe space where we will support each other.

If pupils need time, they will be allowed to step outside the classroom. Post the lesson, pupils will be assured that we will continue to support each other and that if they need to talk, they can see myself or one of their trusted five adults.

They will be guided through the BBC Newsround guide – [Advice if you're upset by the news - BBC Newsround](#).

- Share your worries.
- It is normal to feel upset.
- Do something that makes you happy.
- Remember it is rare.

Due to the emotional impact that comes with studying the Holocaust and Islamophobia, we encourage you to help your child process the material they will be learning. Please be open to their questions—it is all right to not have all the answers. It is just as important to talk with your child about their thoughts and ideas as it is to talk about content.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for further resources, please do not hesitate to contact me on a.kelly@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We thank you for your support, Mrs Kelly

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Brand New Christmas Phone?

Are you buying your child a new phone, games console or laptop for Christmas? Perhaps it's their first ever device?

No idea where to start in terms of online safety? The following link suggests:

1. Conversations you may wish to have with your child; and
2. Ideas for safety settings you may wish to consider for their device.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Did you know that in Australia they have recently introduced a Social Media Ban for all under 16s and other countries around the world are watching out for the impact of this ban? In the UK did you know that the standard minimum age for social media use is 13? In our Lifeskills lessons for all year 6s and above we are having honest conversations about this Australian ban and what our students think about it.

Support for your family over the Christmas holidays

Services for Mental health and wellbeing

Mental health support in Hertfordshire, contact the **HPFT Single Point of Access (SPA)** at **0800 6444 101** (24/7) or dial **NHS 111, option 2**, for immediate assessment and connection to services like talking therapies, community teams, or crisis support. Key organizations include **Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT)** for most services, **HertsMind Network** for peer support, and **Hub of Hope** for a directory, alongside crisis lines like **Samaritans (116 123)** and **Shout (text SHOUT to 85258)**.

Need help now?

Call **HPFT's** freephone number: **0800 6444 101** - the quickest way to get help for a mental health crisis, day or night.

Key Local Services & Helplines

- **ChatHealth (Texting Service)**: Text 07312 263002 (parents/carers 5-19) or 07480 635164 (0-5s) for advice.
- **HPFT Single Point of Access (SPA)**: Call 0800 6444 101 (24/7) or 111 (Option 2) for professional advice and signposting.
- **Just Talk Herts**: Website for comprehensive info, tools, and links to 35+ local organizations.
- **Hertfordshire Mind Network**: Local charity with wellbeing centres and services for 5-18s, plus adult support.
- **NESSie**: Free parent support (workshops, line 07932 651319) for emotional/mental health issues.
- **SPACE Hertfordshire**: For neurodiverse families (Autism, ADHD, etc.), offering groups, workshops, and social events.

Online & National Resources

- **Minded.org.uk**: Free online education for parents/carers on children's mental health.
- **Family Lives**: Helpline 0808 800 2222, website with advice, online courses, and live chat.
- **Young Minds**: Resources for parents worried about a child's mental health.

Domestic Violence and Coercive Control, signposting to organisations that can help you in Hertfordshire.

[Herts Sunflower](#)

Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline. Free and confidential support 08 088 088 088 Mon-Fri: 9am – 9pm Sat-Sun: 9am – 4pm Or email: kim@mailpurple.org confidentially,

Key Organisations & Helplines for bereavement

- **Cruse Bereavement Support**: Free, confidential counselling, one-to-one, group, and online support.
 - National Helpline: 0808 808 1677 (Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 9:30-5; Tue 1-8).
 - For Children/Young People: Hope Again (part of Cruse).
- **HertsHelp**: Your first point of contact for local support; can direct you to the right service.
 - Phone: 0300 123 4044.
- **CHUMS**: Offers specialist support for suicide bereavement and baby loss, including groups and individual help.
- **Rennie Grove Peace Hospice**: Provides social/emotional support through trained "Compassionate Neighbours" for those affected by bereavement.
- **Healthwatch Hertfordshire**: Lists various local helplines, including the Anne Robson Trust (end-of-life) and Child Bereavement UK.

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 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.

School Contact Details

Please remember no worry or concern is too small to share with us via one of these contacts:

- Head of Year 5: hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 6: hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 7: hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- Head of Year 8: hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- School Office: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- To report a student absent from school: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- If you are worried about your child's mental health: wellbeinghub@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Edwinstree School Association



On behalf of the ESA, thank you for your incredible support and dedication throughout 2025.

Your contributions to our fundraising efforts this year have been instrumental in providing valuable resources for the school. These achievements are a direct result of your generosity and commitment to our school community.

Thank you, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year

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DSPL3 Autumn Newsletter

Please find attached Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL) newsletter for the Autumn Term.

Inclusive events, activities and much more with Hertfordshire's SEND Local Offer

Are you looking for engaging and inclusive activities for your family? Or maybe you'd like to attend something that can support you as a parent carer. The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer shares a wide range of options from multiple organisations, designed to support children and young people with SEND, and their families. What you can find:

- Family friendly clubs and activities tailored to support your child's needs.
- Activities and events for young adults (aged 18 – 25)
- Connect with support groups in your area for parents and families to share experiences and gain valuable insights.
- Free training and courses for parents to help you better support your child's needs.
- Online events that provide flexibility and convenience for busy families. Visit our page to discover these opportunities:

[SEND Local Offer](#) | [Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Vacancy at Barley & Barkway Federation First Schools



We're hiring!

We are looking for a Learning Support Assistant & Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our wonderful team.

Get in contact with us today:

Fiona Piper, Office Manager
Barley Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation
Hertfordshire SG8 8JW

 01763 848281

 admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

 www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Or apply via the Teach in Herts website:

 https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/learning-support-assistant-msa_109833.htm

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

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