



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 20/01/2023

Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
24/01/23	Flu vaccination catch up – Yr. 7&8
30/01-02/02/23	Mock SATs Week
13-17/02/23	Half Term
08/03/23	Rescheduled Year 8 Geography visit to London
30/03/23	Year 8 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
03-14/04/23	Easter Break
17/04/23	Summer Term Begins
27/04/23	Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
01/05/23	Bank Holiday
08/05/23	Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III)
18/05/23	Year 7 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
29/05-02/06/23	Half Term
29/06/23	Year 6 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
13/07/23	County Transition Day
21/07/23	End of Summer Term

Teacher Strikes

We are currently looking at the impact of those staff who are making the difficult choice to strike. This is not as easy as it might seem! Employees are not required to tell their employers whether they intend to strike or not, although Head teachers are able to ask. Employers can ask their staff to cover lessons, however staff are not be compelled to do this. The strike days for this area are scheduled for:

- 1st February
- 1st March
- 15th March
- 16th March

We will be meeting next week to plan, but for the moment, we ask that you get ready with a plan on each strike day to keep students at home, as on our current projections we are unlikely to be able to open the school for all year groups.

With significantly reduced staff, we will be prioritising year groups in school on the following basis:

- Protect the exam year which is year 6.
- Consider the age of the year group, and the ease at which parents can keep their child at home.

We will also explore opportunities to provide on line learning for those year groups who are at home. With teachers on strike we need to manage your expectation, this will not be a full day of live online lessons.

Calendar error – and awful timing.

In setting the calendar over a year ago with Freman, I have made an error which has meant that students are 4 sessions short (2 days) of their expected slots in school this year. I am extremely sorry.

I only realised this error in our published dates when Freman returned to school and we didn't. I am now looking at how I begin to recover the time. We can make one change immediately which will be to move the Inset day that we had planned on the 30th of June to a normal school day and staff have been informed of this change. If this causes you or your family problems please email the attendance team on attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and we will discuss how to support you as this is my error. I can reassure you that I will now count and count again my calendar dates to ensure this is the one and only time we make this mistake.

Academic Consultations

We look forward to next week's Academic consultations, having held a number this week. Following this process, we will ask you for your feedback on the event.

Foundation evenings start this term and are in person:

Dates are below:

Foundation Evenings		
In-person evenings – 5pm to 7pm		
Date	Year	Subjects
Thursday 30 th March	Y8	French, History, Geography, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE
Thursday 27 th April	Y5	Science, French, Humanities, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE
Thursday 18 th May	Y7	French, History, Geography, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE
Thursday 29 th June	Y6	Science, French, Humanities, Computing, Technology, Art, Music, PE, RE

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5A Tutor Change

5A will have a change of their main tutor from the week beginning Monday 23rd January. Mrs Earnshaw will still see them every Monday, but Miss Jackson will be taking over from Tuesday - Friday. They are very familiar with Miss Jackson as she teaches them RE and has been supporting reading with 5A in the mornings. The reason for this change is that Mrs Earnshaw will be supporting year 6 students in their run up to SATs. Miss Jackson is delighted to be working with 5A.

Advance notice: timetable changes after half term

In Y5 and Y6, as well as Technology across the school, there are subjects that operate on a carousel. The following changes will be made after half term.

Y5

5A - French lesson P4 Wednesdays rather than Computing
5B - Computing lesson P4 Wednesdays rather than French
5C - French lesson P5 Wednesdays rather than Computing
5D - Computing lesson P5 Wednesdays rather than French

Y6

6A - PE lesson P3 Wednesdays rather than French
6B - PE lesson P1 Fridays rather than French
6C - French lesson P1 Fridays rather than PE
6D - French lesson P3 Wednesdays rather than PE

Y6

Technology (whole school)

Classes will swap teachers and subject

Advanced notice: PE will be offering swimming in the Summer term and we will notify you of this change closer to Easter

Support with year 6 SATs

Are you able to support us with year 6 SATs? We are looking for more parent helpers to support us during our Mock SATs week, which will take place from 31st January - 3rd February 2023. In the past parents, grandparents and carers have supported us and the students who need extra help, which has meant that we have not needed to cover significant numbers of students.

We are also looking for parents to support us during the official SATs week, now confirmed as 9th - 12th May 2023. Duties would involve, supporting students by reading questions to them or prompting them and supporting the class teacher with any administrative needs. We will train you in advance. If you are able to support us on some or all of the days, please contact us by email at a.earnshaw@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 6 SATs Home Learning

Please find attached details regarding SATs Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Friday 12th May 2023, and Writing Assessment 28th June 2023.

When is the KS3 RIB House Fun Swim taking place?

Rib House Swim awards will take place on Tuesday 24th January.

- KS3 (Year 7 and 8) - Tuesday 24th January
If you would like your child to attend the swim on 24th of January, please would you make sure that you complete this consent form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/zrCVatjJ3Q>

Year 7 News - KS3 Geography Course

As part of the KS3 Geography course, students are required to take part in a local field trip to the river Rib in Buntingford.

This visit is scheduled for the following days:

- **7C & 7D** Monday 23rd January 2023 during lessons 1 and 2, returning at break time.
- **7A** Tuesday 24th January 2023 during lesson 4 -returning at lunch time
- **7B** Thursday 26th January 2023 during lesson 5 and returning during COWO.

The trip will involve students getting into the river to carry out a number of experiments, therefore, it is advised they wear wellies or suitable footwear and come in non-school uniform. We would also advise that they bring a change of clothing particularly bottom half in case they get wet. If your son/daughter does not have wellies, please send them in with a pair of trainers as there are tests that can be carried out on the embankment (Please do not go out to buy wellies especially for the trip!).

I would also advise that students wear practical clothing (a little like practical outdoor science lessons). PE kit can be worn. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact with me. Kind regards, Miss Mursell

Year 7 Science

We are beginning to revise our learning ready for the end of unit assessments. To support all the students in their revision, a number of different tools will be added to their home learning list on Satchel One. They do not have to complete them all but should use the ones they think will support them the most. Most students will benefit from revising the keep vocabulary and spellings should they be unsure where to start.
Mrs Barrett

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Year 8 News – London Trip

On further planning for the rescheduled Y8 Geography visit to London, we have found ourselves in a position where due to circumstances out of our control, we are unable to commit to the 8th February. We have therefore moved the visit to Wednesday 8th March 2023. Timings of the day will still remain the same (leaving school at 9.00am and return, subject to traffic, at 4.30pm).

Thank you to all that have previously paid and given consent for your child to attend. If your child was unable to attend the original visit then please contact Mrs Holden via admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to update us if they are now able to attend. Thank you again to the parents who volunteered to support us with this trip previously, please can you email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you are able to help us on the new date.

Food and Nutrition

A very big thank you for all the chocolate tubs and ice cream containers that have been coming in. They will be most useful when pupils forget a container - and we're doing our bit for the environment too - Reduce, Reuse & Recycle!
Much appreciated, Mrs A Van Wyk

Edwinstree School Association (ESA)

We hope you all had a great festive break and have settled into the new year. The ESA had a fabulous December. We started the month enjoying all the performances from Edwinstree and Freman students and staff at the Christmas Concert. It was great to see former students supporting our concert band musicians and it gave us a chance for us all to sing together at the end. More music was played and students showed off their fancy footwork at the Christmas disco. It was lovely to see so many children enjoying themselves. Watch this space for more discos in the future!

Many thanks to St. Peter's Church for allowing us to serve hot chocolate and cakes inside the church on the last day of term. ESA parent volunteers appreciated not standing outside all morning and hopefully the students will agree that we are getting better at making hot chocolate. Sadly, there was no squirry cream on top this year, but thanks to all the bakers who donated a delicious array of goodies.

Looking forward we hope to share our fundraising plans for 2023 with you all soon. We are always open to new ideas and if you would like to join us please get in touch. At our next meeting we hope to put together a calendar of fun and fundraising events. EdwinstreeSchoolAssociation@outlook.com

The School has passed on about 30 un-named coats to us that have been lost and not claimed since the start of term. Please email us a description and we will try and reunite you. Any coats not claimed will be put up for sale at our next pre-loved uniform sale event.

Herts Gala

Places for the Herts Gala were oversubscribed. If you have received a spot for this event then you should have already been sent confirmation via Parentmail. If you have not received a Parentmail then your child will be placed on the reserve list. Should anyone cancel, we shall lucky dip the names for the spare space. Mr Wainwright-Meekins

Hertfordshire Education news:

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer wondering what to do with your free time? We need local people with your experience to become a Family Support Volunteer for our scheme. Please find attached a copy of our flyer for the upcoming Volunteer training course which starts in February.

Hertfordshire County Council and BeeZee Bodies - January Parent Mail

Attached is a PDF of our latest parent newsletter. Included is a timetable of our current face to face programmes (as we are still accepting new sign ups up to 2 weeks into the programme) and a recipe for Veganuary! Are you trying out any resolutions this year? Or is your resolution to have no resolutions?

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

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