



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 21/04/2023

Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
27/04/23	Strike Action
28/04/23	Year 8 Thorpe Park Visit
30/04/23	Herts Gala Music at the Royal Albert Hall (choir students)
01/05/23	Bank Holiday
02/05/23	Strike Action
08/05/23	Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III)
09-12/05/23	Year 6 SATs
18/05/23	Year 7 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
19/05/23	ESA School Disco
22/05/23	Year 5 Felixstowe trip
29/05-02/06/23	Half Term
08/06/23* New Date	Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
29/06/23	Year 6 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
03/07/23	Year 6 Felixstowe trip rescheduled
13/07/23	County Transition Day
21/07/23	End of Summer Term 1.20pm
01-04/09/23	INSET Days
05/09/23	Year 5 induction Day
06/09/23	Autumn Term Begins for all Years
18-20/09/23	Year 7 Essex Outdoors Bradwell – Educational Visit

The weather has caught us all out this week, and we were dressed for Spring and yet it has felt like winter at times. Please can we encourage you to make sure your child has warm clothing as it will be even colder next week.

Enrichment Afterschool clubs

Attached to the newsletter is an updated version of the Enrichment clubs list shared earlier in the week. Please note that Art club is now full. We are also running lunchtime clubs, which include Choir, Textiles, French, and chess. We are also exploring some sports clubs too. Information about lunchtime clubs have been shared with students in school and they should speak to the member of staff running them to sign themselves up.

For afterschool clubs, please click on the title of the club (hyperlinked) to sign up and give permission for each of the

afterschool clubs. Clubs start the week beginning Monday 24th April.

When are the next strike days and what is happening?

We are sorry that once again we are unable to open to students on the 27th of April due to the strike. We will therefore only be offering a key worker service to students on that day. If you would like your child to work with a supply teacher completing distance learning in the computer room, please email s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

For all those children at home we would advise again that we are not able to provide direct cover for a teacher that is striking and therefore we are asking your child to log onto SMHW at 8.45am and look to see what lessons they have that day that are going to be live. Where they do not have a lesson, they are able to access the distance learning to choose lessons and activities from the selection of work on offer for this term.

For the 2nd of May we are currently looking at bringing in only Year 6 to support them for SATs, as the morning sessions are likely to have more Year 6 staff in and we are really conscious that this would support their wellbeing prior to their SATs. While we work on the logistics within the restrictions that the strike places on us, i.e. staff are unable to cover, please plan for all students to be out on the day. We will notify Year 6 parents next week with regards to this. For all other students once again, the school will be closed.

Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening

Due to the strike we are moving the date of this Parents evening to the next available slot which will be Thursday the 8th June 2023.

Timetable changes

We are letting you know of some changes we will be making to the timetable in the first full week of May.

Humanities

- Mrs Kelly is returning from maternity leave and will be teaching RE on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Miss Jackson, a humanities specialist, will be teaching KS3 History and Geography on those days, continuing to teach RE on Mondays and Fridays.

Science

- Mrs Shelley, who is a well-known face in the school and is also a science trained teacher, will be teaching Y5 and Y6.

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- We welcome Mrs Gravelle back who is currently supporting the Y8 Science cover teacher before coming back full time later in May.

Next week we will be sharing any changes to your child's timetable via morning registration, but we felt it important to keep you up to date.

PE Summer 1 Timetable

Attached is the timetable for Summer term 1. It outlines what sports your child is doing and when.

Swimming

From week commencing 1st May, Years 5 & 6 will begin their swimming lessons within PE for a half term. This is a curriculum requirement. Your child will need a swimming costume/shorts, a swimming hat and a towel for the lesson. The lessons will be run by a member of staff, a swimming teacher and a lifeguard will be present. They will be structured based on existing swimming ability and aim to have your child swim "competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres".

The groups swimming during this first half term are:

5B, 5C, 6C and 6D.

Further detail including payment details will be sent out next week. Mr McCarthy - Head of Year 8 & PE

Asthma Inhalers

If your child is asthmatic, please ensure your child has their named asthma pump on them and provide a spare to be kept in the office in case of emergencies.

Food and Nutrition:

Just a note regarding health and safety in the kitchen classroom: remember your correct uniform (most importantly safe footwear).

Year 5: After a successful cheese tasting lessons and product demo, Year 5 are ready to get into the kitchen. Please keep an eye out on Satchel 1 for ingredient home learning and the date you are cooking.

Year 6: Demonstrations for Layered Pasta Salad - no ingredients required this week.

Year 7: Demonstrations for high fibre Bread Rolls - no ingredients required this week.

Year 8: Demonstrations for quick and crunchy Stir Fry - no ingredients required this week.

All Years: Please keep an eye on Satchel 1 for your cooking dates.

If there have been any changes to dietary requirements, allergies or intolerances please do let the Office and myself know to ensure pupil safety. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk

Gardening Club:

With wonderful contributions from ESA fund raising, our site staff have recently increased our kitchen garden veg patch to double its size - which is fabulous! The gardening club is starting up again next week and this affords pupils the opportunity to plant and maintain a small patch, allowing them ownership of their little 'allotment'. What is grown is then used by the pupils during cookery lessons across the Year groups. We have made use of numerous herbs, rhubarb, leeks, tomatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, apples and pears that we have grown over the past year in dishes we have made during Food and Nutrition lessons.

We are looking for vegetable and flower seedlings to add to the few we have already started to grow. Seeds, Herb cuttings, bulbs, potting soil and compost would also be welcomed! The pupils would be most grateful and will gladly make use of any extras you might have. Many thanks, Mrs van Wyk

If you see a child making an error in our community who is a known Edwinstree student- what can you do?

Thank you to the parents who are letting us know when they spot a child or children from Edwinstree behaving poorly and making errors. We will follow up with the child and parent and make sure this is addressed and stopped. We would always encourage the community to speak to us, rather than posting the information on social media, by telling us, we can do something meaningful and with impact. Thank you.

What are our plans to celebrate the Coronation?

The link below leads you to the Diocese resources which supports students to understand what happens and why we have a Coronation. This learning will take place in the COWO leading up to the Coronation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/young-people-families>

On Friday the 5th of May we are inviting students who wish to participate to attend dressed in the colours of the Union flag. We would love help from our bakers to help us celebrate at lunch time with scones, cream and jam – more about this next week. On the day we will be completing an afternoon session celebrating Charles life and passion for nature. Looking at where we can plant a coronation garden and what that might look like. We will have a chance to take a whole school photo which we have not completed in the last 10 years and finally we will finish with a Strictly come Dancing event based on the

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Swing dances of the 50's, Charles birth decade. We hope to place a lasting legacy with a new garden area lined with trees in our school and a memory for our children.

Changes to school dinner on the following dates, menus attached

Kings Coronation – 5th May

Gourmet Burger Day – 18th May

Year 8 news

The last opportunity to sign up your child for the Science

Thorpe park trip is 9am Monday 24th April.

Year 8 transition to Freman,

From early June, Freman will be offering additional visits to students who are most anxious about their transition. We have identified a number of SEND and PP students who would benefit from this, but if you have a child who you know is particularly worried about the change, please email S.Marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to alert us that your child would like to take this opportunity.

Coronation Family Fun Day

Buntingford Town Council is arranging a Family Fun Day on Sunday 7th May, including a Fancy-Dress Competition, to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Please see the attached poster for more details. Hope to see you there.

Kind regards Buntingford Town Council

Freman College Vacancy

Please find attached Caretaker vacancy.

Buntings Nursery Vacancy

Please find attached play worker vacancy.

Roger De Clare Primary School Vacancy

Hertfordshire Catering Limited are looking for a General Catering Assistant to join their catering team at Roger de Clare School in Puckeridge. The job is during school hours and is for 3.25 hours per day.

If you are interested, please contact Helene Walker on 07920 502774 or helene.walker@hertscatering.co.uk

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

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