



Edwin tree Term dates:

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

Homework week: A

Diary Dates:

25-29/05/26	Half Term
02/06/26	NSPCC Visit to Year 5 & 6 - <i>Speak out, Stay safe Programme</i>
17/06/26	Year 7 Educational visit – Globe Theatre
24/06/26	Sports Day
25/06/26	Year 5 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
26/06/26	INSET Day
04/07/26	Summer Fair
07/07/26	Year 6 Educational Visit – Whipsnade Zoo
09/07/26	County Transition Day
10/07/26	Year 8 Trip to Felixstowe / Camp out
17/07/26	End of Term 1:20pm.

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We hope you enjoy the sunshine and find time to enjoy your children, family and friends over the half term.

We anticipate children returning in full school uniform, but if we were to continue to see hot weather, we will post on Facebook and Parentmail, to alert you to the option of wearing PE kit.

How much did we raise for MND?

We are noticing our food bills increase, and our ability to make ends meet getting tougher. We were amazed at your kindness and generosity in helping our year 8 boys raise over £700 for MND yesterday. The joy on one young man’s face, who had lost his grandfather to MND 7 months ago was a picture. Supporting our community to learn that *if we all do a little, we have the power to do so much good* this is a beautiful gift to give our children.

We are inundated with Fullness Day proposals from all age ranges. However, we will make sure that we limited the £1’s we ask of you to just two more days next half term.

One will be on the 19th of June and will be supporting the amazing community team who are almost there in reopening the Buntingford swimming pool. All the Rib Valley schools will be supporting a £1 non-uniform day.

Timetable changes after half term

Next half term is when we start to look towards September and write next year's timetable. Whilst this isn't usually something that impacts on Mr Rowlands ability to continue teaching, as a school we are also changing our Management Information System from Satchel to Arbor (more about this change after half term), and Mr Rowland leads both these important projects.

To provide some capacity for him to complete these tasks, we are reducing his teaching. Year 5 will not have music after half term but will instead have a 7-week drama course taught by Mrs Brock. Because of this, there will be some very minor changes to the timetable on a Friday affecting 5A, 6B and 7B. These changes will appear on Satchel over the holiday. We will talk this through with students next week.

School Dinners

Please log on to www.schoolgrid.co.uk to book your child's dinners in preparation for our return after half term.

Understanding new Ofsted report cards and grades

Please find attached a letter from County explaining the changes to the renewed Ofsted inspection framework and the new-look report cards.

The letter:

- outlines the key changes to inspection under the renewed Ofsted framework
- explains each of the inspection gradings, including clarification that 'Expected' represents a high standard
- highlights the impact of attendance on the Attendance and Behaviour judgement

LifeSkills Update - Deepfakes

In the newsletter two weeks ago, we mentioned that children in all year groups are learning about AI Deepfakes. These are typically social media posts that look very realistic but have actually been produced by AI. They can be of concern as they can contain inappropriate images or videos. If you would like to learn more about Deepfakes yourself, you may wish to play this 4-minute YouTube video with your child:

[What is a deepfake? | How does it work, and what can it be used for? | Newsround](#)

Although thankfully it's quite rare for AI Deepfake nude images/videos to be produced, you may have seen in the press recently that this is increasing. Particularly relevant for KS3 students, there is a tool on the NSPCC website called Remove Report. Although we hope none of our students will ever need to use it we would rather make sure you aware of one possible course of action if this were to occur. The purpose of this site is to help young people under 18 in the UK, to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet. [Report Remove | Childline](#).

Relationships and Sex Education 2026 – All Years

All year groups will soon be starting some RSE lessons in Lifeskills. We purposely adapt these lessons as best as we can to meet the needs of our students, as well as meeting government requirements. We take a great deal of advice from the PSHE Association, who are the national body for PSHE education. This year we have again decided to primarily base our RSE lessons on those supplied by the PSHE Association, with a few additions and changes. This helps us to ensure that lessons are appropriate and cover the necessary content.

The following represent the lessons that are planned within the specific RSHE section of the curriculum; the intention is to teach these lessons as a unit.

As we continue to adapt the curriculum, there will likely be further teaching and overlaps that refer to the *Relationships and Health* aspects of RSHE. Although this is not currently expected, in the event of any additional teaching or significant changes that refer to the *Sex* aspect of RSHE, parents will be pre-warned within the school's weekly newsletter.

The lessons that we define as "Sex Education" are highlighted in Red in the table. Within the detailed overview below you will find these lessons within:

- Relationships 2 - Unit 4 RSHE Year 6 – How a Baby is Made
- Relationships 2 - Unit 4 RSHE Year 8 – Contraception and STI's.

We also attach the Relationships, Sex and Health education (RSHE) Policy. This details your legal right of withdrawal which applies just to the lessons highlighted in red.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Time To Change	Puberty recap	Puberty and emotional changes	Relationship values
Menstruation and Wet Dreams	Puberty: Change and becoming independent	Menstrual wellbeing	Influences on Relationship Expectations
Personal hygiene	Positive, healthy relationships	Healthy and unhealthy relationships	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
Emotions and feelings	How a baby is made	Managing conflict	Consent – avoiding assumptions
Keeping My Body Safe (incl. age appropriate FGM preventative education)	Consent KS2	Introduction to consent KS3	Sexting
Boys Talk/Girls Talk on puberty		Body image	Pornography, Sexting and the Law
		Keeping My Body Safe (incl. age appropriate FGM preventative education)	Contraception/STI's

Fidget Aids

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

Gardening Club:

We have been super busy the past few weeks, and our empty beds are looking much healthier now that they have been planted up. A few more donated veggies have gone in.



We have been watering daily to ensure our plants are feeling bedded in before the break.

Mrs van Wyk.

Food and Nutrition:

Another week of foods from around the world. We've travelled between Italy and Asia and created some scrumptious dishes.

- **Year 5:** Some fabulous pizza designs from 5A, 5B and 5D. I hope the pizza's made it home so that parents and carers got to see the final masterpieces. 5C will be cooking the first day back, please remember your design (most important) and ingredients.
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- **Year 6:** Layered pasta salad is the theme of the week. Two excellent practicals so far by **6A** and **6D**. **6B** and **6C** don't forget your ingredients (and a container to take it home in) as you are cooking first lesson back after half term.
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- **Year 7:** Food Science is on the cards! We've spent the week taste testing 3 cakes – seeing how sugar affects the outcome of a desired product. When you return, you will be cooking up 6 batches of cupcakes. School provides the ingredients for the Food Science Experiment.
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- **Year 8:** We've finished up our visit to Asia this week and are looking at Healthy Eating next. Please would individual pupils (8A) who owe me written home learning bring it in for their next lesson.

Thank you to all who remembered their correct shoes on the Fullness Day, much appreciated.

Please encourage your child to help out in the kitchen over the half term – either washing up, prepping vegetables or cooking something tasty for you all to enjoy.

Mrs van Wyk

Year 5 & 6 News

NSPCC's Speak out, Stay safe programme

On 2nd June the NSPCC will be delivering the Speak out, stay safe Programme to years 5 and 6. We are extremely fortunate to have the NSPCC delivering this face-to-face as year groups.

This will consist of a session led by the NSPCC and a related video beforehand in a Life Skills lesson. More information is in the attached NSPCC letter. There is an anonymous survey that the children fill in and the attached letter explains that you may withdraw if you wish.

Year 6 News

3rd Payment - Y7 Residential September 2026

The 3rd payment towards the Year 7 Residential is due Friday 29th May 2026. Please log on to school gateway to complete the payment.

Thank you to those who have already paid and completed the consent form.

Year 6 into 7 form changes

As year 6 move into year 7 and a new Key Stage, we are planning to mix all form groups and wish to give you early warning about this so you can start to discuss with your child over the half-term holiday.

At the start of the new half-term, we will be sending home a link to an online form which we would like you to fill in together with your child. You and your child together will have a week to fill in the form. On the form we will give you three or four choices of other students your child wishes to be with. As with previous years we will do our very best to guarantee they are with **one** of these. There is also an optional box to identify any students that would not be a good choice to be with.

We will be talking this through with students before the link is sent out. Once the link is sent, we would appreciate it if you would fill this form in together with your child by the deadline to ensure that your requests are met.

Edwinstree School Fair – Saturday 4th July 2-4:30pm

Thank you to those of you who informed us that it is the Ware and Hertford carnival; we will look out for this date next year to make sure we don't clash. Unfortunately, due to staff commitments we are unable to reschedule.

Please keep the afternoon free as we would love to see as many of you as possible. Pupils will be in charge of their class stalls between 2pm and 4:30pm on the day. They will be working out rotas and what their stall is all about after half term during class COWO's. Please do encourage your child/children to take part. All funds raised get put back into school and benefit the pupils - so far, we've purchased gazebos for sports days, a greenhouse to help grow ingredients for use in Food lessons and currently we're looking at purchasing recycled plastic benches for pupils to use outdoors. We would love some help setting up at the beginning and packing away at the end of the day. Edwinstree is looking forward to seeing you there. Mrs van Wyk



Edwinstree School Association

May I thank the ESA for funding the ice-creams for our post-SATs treat for year 6. You can imagine that for the children it was an important opportunity just to relax after four days of exams and a long build-up beforehand.

For some, Friday afternoon was finally the opportunity to become carefree again after being quite stressed for the whole of the week. The ESA funding of the afternoon made such a big difference, along with the organisation of the whole school disco in the evening.

MHST East Herts WoW Camp - Applications now live

A colorful flyer for the 'Warriors of Wellbeing' (WoW) Camp. The title 'WOW! CAMP' is in large, bold, yellow letters. It announces the return of the camp from Monday 27th July to 1st August 2026, hosted by Simon Balle. The flyer lists benefits like improving emotional literacy and understanding mental health. It includes a QR code for applications and a deadline of 12th June 2026. Logos for MHST and Lee Valley are also present.

Warriors of Wellbeing
WOW! CAMP
WoW Camp returns :
Monday 27th July – 1st August 2026
Simon Balle all through School

WoW camp aims to support children ages 8 - 12 yrs, attending the East Herts Schools in partnership with the MHST. This is a free NHS service.

- Improve emotional literacy with qualified mental health & wellbeing practitioners
- Understand the importance of mental health and wellbeing
- Learn about the "5 Keys of Wellbeing" to promote positive health
- Promote positive wellbeing through fun-filled, educational activities

To apply for a place
Scan the QR code or
By 12th JUNE 2026

Please note – Completing an application does not guarantee a place at WOW Camp
The MHST WOW Camp is NOT a child care service

Application link: [Mental Health Support Team East Herts WoW Camp 27th July - 1st August 2026](#)

Coram Family Lives Groups & Workshops

Please find attached flyers regarding the following workshops

- Less Shouting More Cooperation six-week group.
- Getting on with your Pre-Teen/Teenager six-week group
- Reducing Conflict two-hour workshop
- Anxiety around ADHD two-hour workshop
- Sibling Rivalry two-hour workshop

An advertisement for Coram Family Lives featuring a photograph of a smiling family (father, mother, and child) looking at each other. Below the photo is the slogan 'We build better family lives together'. At the bottom, there are logos for Coram Family Lives, Investors in People, and Living Wage, along with the website 'www.coramfamilylives.org.uk' and the charity number '1077722'.

We build better family lives together

coram family lives
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
LIVING WAGE
www.coramfamilylives.org.uk
Reg charity number: 1077722

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

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*