



Edwinstree Term dates:

<https://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/school/term-dates.aspx>

Diary Dates:

25/11/24	7B Non-Uniform Day for winners of merit competition
28/11/24	8B and 8D – Online Academic Reviews
05/12/24	Fullness Day – Mental Health/Wellbeing more details to follow
29/11/24	Lights of Love ceremony, Manor House, Buntingford.
03/12/24	Year 5 Christingle
05/12/24	Fullness Day – Mental Health/Wellbeing more details to follow
06/12/24	Occasional Day.
11/12/24	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas School Lunch £3.35
12/12/24	Year 7 and Year 8 Christmas Services at St Peter's
13/12/24	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Services at St Peter's
18/12/24	Joint concert with Freman College. 6pm start, held at Edwinstree.
20/12/24	End of Term 1:20pm.
06/01/25	INSET Day
13/01/25	Year 8 HPV Vaccination
14/01/25	7A & 7C - Online Academic Review
16/01/25	5A & 5D - Online Academic Review
21/01/25	7B, 7D, 5B - Online Academic Review
23/01/25	5C - Online Academic Review / Year 8 In Person Foundation Evening
03-06/02/25	Year 6 Mock SATs
14/02/25	Last day of Term
17-21/02/25	Half Term
25/02/25	6A & 6D - Online Academic Review
04/03/25	6B & 6C - Online Academic Review
10/03/25	6A Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6B Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
11/03/25	6C Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6D Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
20/03/25	Year 7 In Person Foundation Evening
04/04/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
22/04/25	Start of Term
05/05/25	Bank Holiday
08/05/25	Year 6 In Person Foundation Evening
12-15/05/25	Year 6 SATs
26-30/05/25	Half Term
05/06/25	Year 5 In Person Foundation Evening
27/06/25	INSET Day
10/07/25	Transition Day Parent Transition Evening 5-6pm
18/07/25	End of Term 1:20pm.

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Car Park

We are increasingly concerned about the safeguarding of children, due to the number of non-staff cars using the school staff carpark during and after school hours. Therefore, we have decided to trial keeping the school gates closed both during and after school with effect from Monday 25th November. We hope that this will discourage parents and other users, currently using the carpark and encourage them to walk onto the school site using the pedestrian gate. Please note it is illegal to park on the zig zags outside the school in the layby. Please use the Sainsburys car park or scout car park next to Norfolk Road pump track/park. Many thanks for your support.

Events

As we approach the season of Advent and head towards Christmas, we would like to share with you the **music** events that are coming up between now and the end of term.

- **Friday 29th November** - Lights of Love ceremony, Manor House, Buntingford. The school choir are leading the singing. All are welcome to come, sing some carols, and take part.
- **Tuesday 3rd December** – Year 5 Christingle at St Peter's. Year 5 students make their own Christingles during the day and then walk down to St Peter's for a short service with Reverend Kirsty Wainwright. If there are any Year 5 parents who wish to support the walk/service, please would you contact the school on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- **Thursday 12th December** – Year 7 and Year 8 Christmas Services at St Peter's. Timings to be confirmed but services between 10am and 12pm.
- **Friday 13th December** – Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Services at St Peter's. Timings to be confirmed but services between 10am and 12pm.
- **Thursday 18th December** - Joint concert with Freman College. 6pm start, held at Edwinstree. All welcome!

What are our snow procedures?

Please see attached to this newsletter our snow procedures, along with a consent form link to complete.

If your child lives in Buntingford and is KS2, [Year 5 or Year 6] please be aware we cannot release your child from school without a designated person to collect them. Please confirm the name of the designated person[s] permitted to collect your child from school. If your KS2 child has an older sibling in KS3, please indicate that you are happy for both of them to go home together.

If your child lives in Buntingford and is KS3 [Year 7 or Year 8] and you are happy for your child to be released from school, without adult supervision, please give permission for your child to walk home and confirm they have a key to get in. Please indicate if you wish your child to wait for your designated person[s] to collect them from school. Please be aware we cannot release your child from school without written parental consent. Buses maybe early if snow is forecast.

Mental Health Focus Week

This half term, we are trying a *focus* for each week. This week's focus is Mental Health. Next week will be attendance. Hertfordshire has once again focused on its annual campaign to make sure students talk when they have a worry or concern.

Attached with this newsletter are the following information leaflets from the Just Talk Campaign that are well worth a look:

- Just talk basic advice for parents, with a particular focus on boys.
- An online safety guide to help your child stay safe and informed online.
- Guidance on online gaming for neuro diverse children, however, I would recommend this for all.

Please remember that as a school, students are regularly supported and encouraged that it is "ok not to be ok, but it is really important to tell someone." The morning PowerPoints in registration and Life Skills schemes of work help them to think about their wellbeing, so that they are able to notice when not ok and once noticed to seek help. If you have any concerns, please contact the Wellbeing team via email: Wellbeinghub@edwintree.herts.sch.uk

We are exceptionally privileged to be working with the NHS Mental Health support team in Edwintree Middle school, they support students, staff and parents and deliver regular workshops, for more information contact a.harris@edwintree.sch.herts.uk

If you would like to hear a little more about how we help your child to notice, identify and then use a series of tools to help when they feel down or anxious, we will offer an opportunity for you to attend a session on the 5th of December to hear about this work.

Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Service

The Children's Wellbeing Practitioner (CWP) training programme was driven by Health Education England as a response to ensure that children, young people and their parents/carers have access to evidence based preventative and early intervention support for common emotional wellbeing and mental health difficulties. The aim of the HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners is to ensure that children and young people can easily access evidence-based support, early in the development of the problem through workshops, groups and 1-1 interventions. Adolescent Anxiety (For young people aged 11-19) Adolescent Low Mood (For young people aged 11-19).

Where else can you find support for mental health?

Hertfordshire Children and Young People's Mental Health Service Directory [CYPMHS Service Directory - SW](#)

Herts Mind Network

Herts Mind Network have launched a new early intervention and prevention helpline for children and young people aged 10-17 in Herts. The helpline will provide a safe, non-judgemental space to talk to a Young Peoples Advisor or Mentor who will provide emotional support, advice and information and discuss coping strategies. For opening hours and more information please visit the [Young Peoples Helpline](#) website. Helpline number is 01923 256391.

Sandbox Homepage (mindler.co.uk)

The Sandbox is an NHS-funded service to support children and young people in Hertfordshire with their mental health and well-being. The Sandbox is a central place for resources about common mental health issues, with information on how to access additional support or emergency services.

Support Numbers

If you or your child is in need of urgent help, please speak to:

Single Point of Access (SPA) Mental Health Helpline on: **0800 6444 101** (SPA provides 24-hour mental health support)

If you are not sure what to do or are unable to speak to SPA please call NHS **111** and select **option 2** for mental health services.

Emergencies: If someone's life is at risk please call **999**

Year 5 and 6 Greek day

The students really engaged with the day and we were amazed at the bedsheets on display! Thank you for helping to fund their immersive experience.

Year 6 SATs

Mock SATs 3/02/2025 - 6/02/2025

Official SATs 12/05/2025 -15/05/2025

This week the year 6 students have been completing practice SATs papers in class. Their completed English and maths papers will be sent home with them over the next week. Please have a look through the papers with your child. During the week, we noticed that some of the children sitting the practice papers became quite anxious. If you have noticed any anxiety in your own child this week, and are concerned about this, please do let us know.

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 are able to help on any of the days, please email the school office, admin@edwintree.herts.sch.uk stating your name, contact email and the days that you are able to support.

Year 8 - 'We will Rock You' at Freman

Year 8 have been offered the opportunity to go up to Freman College to watch the dress rehearsal of this musical on Monday 25th November. They will be walked up to Freman and will be back just before lunchtime.

Year 8 Parent Evenings

Please note, core subject parent evenings are taking place online on the following dates:

8B and 8D – Online Academic Reviews – 28th November.

*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.*

Food and Nutrition – All Years

I am looking forward to catching up with cooking this week and hope you are looking forward to creating some wonderful dishes too!

The Fish Heroes Project invited schools across the UK to bid for fresh, sustainably sourced mussels for pupils to learn about and how to cook them – expanding their culinary horizons. Out of all the applications, only 200 schools in the UK were eligible for the free produce. Our bid was successful, and we will be receiving our fresh, Grade A shellfish w/c 2 December. I am hoping the delivery date allows both Year 7 and 8 to experience this fantastic resource which is grown just off our coastline. More info to follow.

Year 5: 5B, 5C and 5D please make sure you bring in your design and your ingredients for your pizza projects. Please remember the design is the most important part of the project. *As mentioned on Satchel 1 and in class, if the design is not brought in you will not be allowed to cook - the design is more important than the practical this week.* 5A we will be looking at creating your design on Wednesday and will only be cooking 04/12.

Year 7: 7A and 7B don't forget your ingredients on Wednesday. Please remember a container BIG enough for your end-product. A chocolate/sweet tub is about the right size for this dish. If you are concerned your fresh ingredients won't last until next week, pop them in the freezer - veggies too and we will use them from frozen. Please do put them into watertight containers to bring into school as they will start defrosting.

*All ingredient requirements are on Satchel 1. Please remember that if your child has an allergy/intolerance or food preference to change an item, you can send that in as we want pupils to enjoy their own cooking creations.

ALL INGREDIENTS to be named and dropped off first thing on the day of your practical outside the Food Room. No shopping bags are allowed in the fridge, so please label all ingredients.

*Please send in only the required amount of ingredients - there is only 1 fridge in the Food Room and as we have 2 classes cooking on the same day, space is very limited.

Year 8: Healthy Eating Projects were due last lesson. If you still haven't handed it in, please bring it to your next lesson. This project makes up a large proportion of the Food theory mark going up to Freman. Unfortunately, you will not be able to take part in the next practical if your project is not handed in. Please return any plastic tubs which have been borrowed in previous weeks – there are still a few outstanding.

New Parent Governor

Thank you to all the parents who took part in the election for a new parent governor. Nick Parker received the most votes and will shortly be joining our three other parent governors who sit on the school's governing body. Nick will be sitting on the school's Resources Committee. As well as overseeing the school's financial performance, ensuring money is well-spent, this committee also provides oversight of other important areas of school life such as health and safety, staffing, wellbeing and the school estate - its buildings and other assets.

My thanks to Ben Harper who had also stood for election. We were blessed to have had two very strong candidates each with much to offer but unfortunately just the one vacancy.

J. Boulter - Chair of Governors



Edwinstree School Association

Thank you to everyone who donated a bottle or teddy today. We are using these donations to run a tombola at Buntingford Christmas market on Friday 29th November 4-8pm to raise money for our school. We could really do with some help to run the stall, so if you and your child(ren) could spare just 30minutes to help on the evening please get in touch via the school office or edwinstreeschoolassociation@outlook.com.

Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

Don't forget you can bring in your donations for our Christmas Jumper Swap Shop Tuesday 26th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November. Please give these to a PTA member on the school gate in exchange for a ticket for the swap shop. New to you jumpers can be chosen on Thursday 5th December at the end of the school day.

Freman Vacancies

Please find attached current vacancies at Freman.

- 6th Form Administrator
- Exam Invigilator

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk