Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 23/10/2026.

Edwinstree Term dates:
Term Dates 2026-27 & 2027-28

Homework week: - B
Diary Dates:

26/10-30/10/26	Half Term
03/11/26	School Photographs
06/11/26	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
11-12/11/26	Year 6 Lancaster Model
17/11/26	Flu vaccination Mop Up
19/11/26	Year 7 Hertfordshire Lieutenancy presentation in school 5C/5D Greek Workshops in school
20/11/26	5A/5B Greek Workshops in school
23/11/26	6A/6D Greek Workshops in school
24/11/26	6B/6C Greek Workshops in school
01/12/26	Year 5 Christingle (PM)
03/12/26	INSET DAY
04/12/26	Occasional Day
08/12/26	KS2 Christmas Services at St Peter's
10/12/26	KS3 Christmas Services at St Peter's
18/12/26	End of Term 1.20pm.
04/01/27	INSET DAY
05/01/27	Start of Term

Contents

What did we explore in COWO this week? 1
Harvest Service 2
Why do we not collect Harvest boxes for the Food bank at this time of year? 2
Updates on winter uniform: 2
School Photographs 2
School Dinners 2
Buntingford Journal Christmas Cover Competition 2
Swimming 2
Food and Nutrition – All Years 2
Year 5 News: 2
Year 5 & 6 News: 3
Greek Educational Workshop – In School 3
Year 6 News: 3
National Child Measurement Programme 11th & 12th November 3
Year 7 News: 3
Hertfordshire Lieutenancy visit to Year 7 3
7C Tutor 3
Year 8 News: 3
HPV Vaccine 3
Edwinstree School Association 3
Save the date 3
East Herts Mental Health Support Team - Re-Launch Information Sessions 3
Buntingford Youth Club 3
Freman College Vacancy 3

We do hope that you manage to have a good half term break. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday the 2nd of November at the normal time in full school uniform.

What did we explore in COWO this week?

Mr Rowlands used his COWO space this week to tie together this term's value, using a person within the world of motorsport who has had a huge impact on someone's racing career, yet there is very little known about him. Importantly in this story – as I know of him – is how humble this person is in the role he played in Jenson Button's success as an F1 driver.

The woodland trust student team sort new recruits for the 5-year plan to plant trees and for the maze that is going at the back of the school field. Congratulations to Jake in year 6 who has designed the maze, planting begins in December. In tutor COWO students considered what the Church celebrate during Hallow's Eve, All Saints and All Soul's Day.

Harvest Service

We are sad to not have the Harvest services at the end of term but, given the weather and the conditions of the ground, it would have proved to be a very soggy and muddy end to a long half term.

Why do we not collect Harvest boxes for the Food bank at this time of year?

In speaking to the food bank, the town is generous with Harvest festival boxes from the local schools, so we took the food bank advice a number of years ago and moved our collection for them to Christmas time.

Updates on winter uniform:

As we enter the winter months you might be purchasing a new waterproof coat for your child, we love the brightest, loudest coats that mean students can be seen by traffic, so please do not worry about colour, we want them to be seen! May we take this opportunity to strongly advise that you clearly name you child's winter coat so that it can be identified should it be lost.

If your child is using their PE hoodie for winter warmth, they don't replace it for the school jumper, they wear it over the top as an extra layer. Thank you

Acrylic nails - please resist the temptation or pressure to purchase for your child, it means they are unable to take part in Science, Food and Nutrition and Technology when they have them. There is plenty of time for these in their future.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on 3rd November 2026. Sibling photos will take place first, followed by individuals.

School Dinners

Please log on to www.schoolgrid.co.uk to book your child's dinners in preparation for the start of term. Please note there are menu changes.

Buntingford Journal Christmas Cover Competition

We have been invited to participate in a Christmas cover competition for the front of the December/ January double edition of the Buntingford Journal.

Designs must be portrait in dimension, preferably with a blankish space near the top for the title of the magazine, or an area that it doesn't matter if it's slightly obscured.
Theme: Christmas or Winter Wonderland
Medium: Photo, Drawing, Painting, Computer Generated Art, something crafted and photographed, anything goes really!

Deadline for submission is 15th November; we therefore request all entries are given to Mrs Burches by Wednesday 11th November to ensure we get them over to the editor in time.

Swimming

We were excited to meet the manager of the Ward Freman pool this week and even more excited to say that we hope to be starting Swimming Lessons in Y5 and Y6 after Christmas. More information about this will be in newsletters after half term.

Food and Nutrition – All Years

What a fantastic way to end the half term! Bright colours of pasta salad, cheese and carrots! Just what we needed this week to brighten up the dull days outdoors.

Well done to **Year 5** for completing their first ever taste testing session on cheese. They were able to decide whether or not they preferred a vegan, red Leicester or feta cheese. Who knew cheese could be made from coconut oil?

Excellent results from **Year 6**! I am truly impressed with the high level of health and safety when working with a pot of boiling water. Very well done, your rainbow pasta salads were a triumph.

Knife skills are not that easy to master, but **Year 7** rose to the challenge. We've seen Julienne, Brunoise and Rondelle sliced carrots being perfected. Excellent knife handling techniques.

Whilst making food in practical sessions is enjoyable to most, the theory is what **Year 8** has been focussing on. Writing critical evaluations of the Protein Alternate Curry they made in class, filled our lesson this week.

Don't forget that pupils should be helping with veg prep and washing up at home to keep their skills sharp!
Mrs van Wyk

Year 5 News:

Wow! Well done to our Year 5 cohort – we've made it to half-term! It has been great getting to know the pupils over the past 8 weeks and discovering their 'wonderfuls'.

We have had some fabulous highlights this term, of which we are proud of the pupils, including academic achievements, choir performances, sporting performances, creativity in subjects, following of H&S in lessons, to name but a few.

One of the things we value most is the strong partnership between home and school. We are very grateful for the positive lines of communication we have established with families so far. Your support makes a real difference to your child's experience and success at school. Please do continue to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or information you would like to share.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to working together throughout the rest of the year and helping your child flourish.
Mrs van Wyk

Year 5 & 6 News:

Greek Educational Workshop – In School

As part of our new topic on the ancient Greeks, we are delighted to be able to offer Y5 & Y6 the opportunity to take part in an ancient Greek workshop run by a professional Historian from 'Portals to the Past'. The students will spend the whole day taking part in hands-on activities and this will provide the students with a real insight into the ancient Greeks, bringing their learning to life!

The cost of this workshop will be **£7.28** per student. This is a voluntary contribution, however if we do not have enough to cover the workshops then they will not be able to go ahead. Payment is non-refundable unless due to exceptional circumstances your child is not able to attend or the workshop is not able to proceed due to low payments received.
Payment can be made via the Arbor App and should be completed by **Monday 9th November 2026.**

If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
Please find letter and information sheet attached

Year 6 News:

National Child Measurement Programme 11th & 12th November

Please see the attached letter regarding the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) which is undertaken with the year 6 pupils.
Within the letter there is also an **opt out** link, which is also below.
School Screening Form

Year 7 News:

Hertfordshire Lieutenancy visit to Year 7

On the 19th of November, Year 7 will have a visit from the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy, to explore the role of the Monarchy in Britain and British and Commonwealth values. This is a very special event as the Lieutenancy are representatives of the King.
Home - The Lieutenancy of Hertfordshire

7C Tutor

We are writing to inform you that while Mr Brown continues to be absent from the school, we have secured an experienced middle school teacher Ms Shipley, who has worked at Edwinstree in the past. Ms Shipley will be working with us for the full 5 days of each week and will be 7Cs Tutor.

To help her reacquaint herself with the school and prepare for her new classes, Ms Shipley has been in school over the past two days, familiarising herself with the students and the curriculum. Should Mr Brown's absence continue beyond Christmas, Ms Shipley is currently able to extend her placement and provide continued cover into the new year, ensuring consistency for the students.

Year 8 News:

HPV Vaccine

The immunisation team will be visiting our year 8 students on 6th November 2026. The HPV vaccine helps protect against human papillomavirus (HPV). It is recommended for children aged 12 to 13 years old.

Please keep an eye out for correspondence via email/text which contains a link to the consent form. You will need to respond even if you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccine - there is an option to decline. Correspondence from the vaccination team will be sent to parents via the following:

Vaccinations in Schools :
vaccinations.in.schools@notifications.service.gov.uk (email)
NHSUK (text message)

If you have any queries, please contact the vaccination team directly on 0300 5555 055 (option 7) or via hct.csais.herts@nhs.net.

Edwinstree School Association

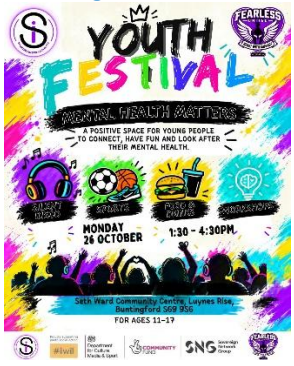
Save the date - The ESA AGM will be held on Tuesday 24th November, time and venue to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome to attend. At the end of this year we will be saying goodbye to over half the current committee and if no one else comes forward it may mean the end of the ESA. So if you are undecided about taking an active part in the ESA do come along and find out more.

If being part of the committee is not for you, perhaps you could help take over the running of the Facebook page, our online shop or pre loved uniform.

East Herts Mental Health Support Team - Re-Launch Information Sessions

Please find attached posters and booking information regarding workshops available.

Buntingford Youth Club



Freman College Vacancy

Please find attached a vacancy for a TA at Freman College

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.