



**Diary Dates**

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
30/03/23	Year 8 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
31/03/23	ESA Easter Egg Hunt – and Easter service – parents support required please. <a href="#">End of Spring Term 1.20pm</a>
03-14/04/23	<a href="#">Easter Break</a>
17/04/23	<a href="#">Summer Term Begins</a>
27/04/23	Year 5 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
28/04/23	Year 8 Thorpe Park Visit (more details to follow)
30/04/23	Herts Gala Music at the Royal Albert Hall (choir students)
01/05/23	<a href="#">Bank Holiday</a>
08/05/23	<a href="#">Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation of King Charles III</a>
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
25/05/23	Year 6 Felixstowe trip
29/05-02/06/23	<a href="#">Half Term</a>
29/06/23	Year 6 Foundation Subject Parents Evening in person 5-7pm
13/07/23	County Transition Day
21/07/23	<a href="#">End of Summer Term 1.20pm</a>
01-04/09/23	INSET Days
05/09/23	Year 5 induction Day
06/09/23	<a href="#">Autumn Term Begins for all years</a>
18-20/09/23	Year 7 Essex Outdoors Bradwell – Educational Visit

**How did the students respond to the NSPCC team and our STEM visitor who were in school this week?**

Congratulations to Key Stage 2 who were visited by the NSPCC for a stay safe talk. The volunteers remarked on how well behaved, attentive and enthusiastic the students were. Our STEM speaker for year 8 Science engaged our students in the fascinating careers that are available to them in their future.

**Is there a church service on the last day of term and can you help?**

Yes, there is. The service will take place at St Peters church, following which we will hold an Easter egg hunt in Layston gardens for KS2, year 7 and 8 will hide the eggs. Once again, we are seeking parents and/or relatives who are able to help us on the last day of school, by taking part on the morning walk to St Peters. If you are able to help, could you please email [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**What is the latest update on staff?**

We are pleased to say that Ms Gravelle will be returning to teach year 8 Science after Easter with support from our current supply as she staggers her return. Ms Sanders is making good progress and we look set to see her return to forest schools work from May half term. Post Easter Mrs Kelly returns and her first job will be to support the transition of our new year 5, she will pick up as HOY 5 next year.

Mrs Kelly will also take over the main teaching of RE. Ms Jackson has secured a post as a history and Humanities teacher and will be taking over the teaching of year 7 and 8 from post Easter. We are excited to secure Ms Jackson into the school for a second year.



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### **Year 8 STEM visit:**

We were really fortunate to have a visit from two members of staff from GSK to work with Year 8 yesterday. We explored dust explosions and the pupils enjoyed trying to make the loudest bang and the most flames possible. Well done Year 8 on excellent behaviour in front of our visitors. Huge thanks to Mr Brooks and his colleague for visiting and adding some excitement to our science learning.

### **Year 5 PSHE Update**

Be aware that Year 5 will have a lesson over the next couple of weeks about Change, Loss and Grief. This will also move on to a short explore about changes in terms of the Climate. We will ensure that this is a light-touch and age-appropriate but wanted parents/carers to be aware as we know such lessons can sometimes be difficult.

### **Music Department**

There is an exciting opportunity for students to learn an orchestral instrument for free. If your child is interested, then please fill in the forms by using the link below before the end of term.

Should we find that this is oversubscribed, we shall run on a randomised selection and those who have been chosen will be informed in the first week back, ready to start on the second week back after the Easter break.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8MpSs6HezTxEIMf4wi5dcrBUOFZXQUVaUIJHODRRTkINU01LM0YyTEk1My4u>

### **How are we promoting positive mental health after Easter?**

Post Easter students will be taking part in 15-minute mental health booster sessions in their tutor period in the morning for a half term in the first instance.

For parents we are offering the following session post Easter to support our mental health work in school. More details follow.

How to keep your child safe online –

- 1) Edwinstree learning over the last 3 years and warning signs and dangers to look out for. Do you think class group chats are safe? Come along and listen to the history of concerns that have been raised by what seems like such a harmless group.
- 2) How to support an anxious child who says they can't get into school. Gold medals to any parent who is already battling with this. Come and listen to our staff and parents' personal experiences of this and share strategies and how to stay sane on the morning run!
- 3) Would you like to know how we promote good mental health in the school and what strategies we are using? Be warned the strategies are so helpful staff including myself have been trying them out at home and on family members.!

### **Freman College Vacancy**

Please find attached details regarding a General Catering Assistant at Freman College.

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## **Are you a parent of a child with Autism or ADHD?**

Or a parent that believes your child may be showing signs or traits of these neuro diverse conditions? If yes, we couldn't recommend more highly the charity ADD-VANCE and the support session offered below. As staff we completed a two-hour training session this week on ADHD and we found it really informative.

ADVANCE first half term summer programme of 6-week courses and full summer programme of online workshops funded by Hertfordshire County Council is now open for booking. They are also running weekly online support groups as well as two further workshops with Julie Every to support communication with your child when talking is too much. Their six-week courses get booked up very quickly and places for all our events are limited, so parents/carers should book early to avoid disappointment.

For more information and bookings for all courses, workshops and support groups, please see

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/add-vance-14054405963>

## **Families in Focus**

Please find attached flyers for Spring term free evidence-based courses:

- 2 courses of **A complete Guide to parenting children with SEND** – Starting Tuesday mornings and evenings from 18<sup>th</sup> April for 10 sessions of up to 2 hours. Ideal for parents on assessment pathways and/or awaiting diagnosis of children under 11 years old.
- 2 courses of **Handling anger of children aged 4-11 with ASD or ADHD** Starting Wednesday mornings and evenings from 19<sup>th</sup> April for 6 sessions of up to 2 hours. Ideal for parents on assessment pathways and/or awaiting diagnosis of children aged 4 to 11 years old.
- 1 course of **Handling anger in your family Neurotypical children aged child 4-11** Starting Thursday mornings from 20<sup>th</sup> April for 6 sessions of up to 2 hours. Ideal for parents of children aged 4 to 11 years old.

Best Wishes

**Mrs J Gant - Headteacher**

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