



Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework week: A

Diary Dates:

27-31/10/25	Half Term
11/11/25	School Photographs
17/11/25	Maya Workshop 5A & 5B
18/11/25	Maya Workshop 6C & 6D
20/11/25	Maya Workshop 6A & 6B
21/11/25	Maya Workshop 5C & 5D
05/12/25	Occasional Day
10/12/25	Christmas Dinner Day
19/12/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
05/01/26	INSET Day
06/01/26	Start of Spring Term
16-20/02/26	Half Term
27/03/26	End of Term 1:20pm.
13/04/26	Start of Summer Term
04/05/26	Bank Holiday
25-29/05/26	Half Term
26/06/26	INSET Day
09/07/26	County Transition Day
17/07/26	End of Term 1:20pm.

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We hope that you have good half term with your families, and we will look forward to seeing everyone on the 3rd November at 8.40 am.

When is the heating going on in school?

Three weeks ago, a leak was discovered in our electric control panel for the boilers that heat the main school block. The repair work is due to start over half term, but we have been informed that this will not be completed until the end of the first week of our return to school. We are therefore proposing that students and staff wear warm clothing for the first week of term, with the priority on keeping warm. This will only affect the main school block; the heating will be on in all other areas. While we will have electric heaters in classroom these are small and will not heat the space like the boilers. If your child is averse to change and would rather wear their uniform that is fine.

On PE days students will need to bring their winter PE kit as this is the season where PE kits get very muddy.

Updates on winter uniform:

As we enter the winter months you might be purchasing a new 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!

We have a number of unnamed winter coats that have been left in school since before the summer holidays and we would like to find new homes for them.

During the week of half term, the coats will be displayed in the school foyer, and you are welcome to visit the school and choose a coat to take home with you free of charge.

May we take this opportunity to strongly advise that you clearly name your child's winter coat so that it can be identified should it be lost.

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 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.

Snapchat - information for parents/carers

The National College regularly produce materials for schools that can be shared with parents. Attached to the newsletter is one that was shared this week about Snapchat and is quite timely given the half term holidays next week. The idea is that they are a quick read and equip you to have informed conversations with children about online safety. If you wish to see any previous publications, you can search #wakeupwednesday but we will drip feed these resources to you through the newsletter.

Police presence in school

You may be aware that we had a police presence in school this afternoon, and I would like to reassure you that all pupils are safe and well.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Hertfordshire

At Edwinstree Middle School, we are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all our students and families. We understand that mental health challenges can affect anyone, and we want to ensure that you have access to the right support when needed.

The Wellbeing Hub has an open afternoon on Wednesday 12th November 2025 between 2.00p.m to 5.00p.m. We will be joined by the NHS Mental Health Support Team that work in the school on Mondays. If you are worried about your child's wellbeing, please book an appointment to come in and see us on this day. a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, we encourage you to reach out to us or explore these local resources. You can find more information on the **Hertfordshire County Council website** or by speaking with our mental health support team. Please see attached a leaflet with information about the Mental Health Support Team.

In Hertfordshire, there are a range of services available to support children, young people, and families with mental health and emotional wellbeing. These include:

- **Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CAMHS):** Providing specialist support for young people experiencing significant mental health difficulties.
- **Your GP Practice:** Your GP can also refer you to a psychological therapy service or a specialist mental health service for further advice or treatment. The treatment may be provided on a one-to-one basis or in a group with others with similar problems. Therapy can also sometimes involve partners and families.
- **Step2 and The Wellbeing Service:** Offering early intervention and short-term support for young people dealing with anxiety, low mood, and stress. [Award-](#)

[Winning Digital Mental Health Support For Young People | The Sandbox](#)

The Sandbox is an innovative **digital mental healthcare** service for **Children and Young People** Mental health struggle is something most of us will experience at some point in our lives – it's simply part of being human. We're here for you when that happens. We work together with the **NHS, local government, and other organisations** to help Children and Young People with their mental health.

- **Hertfordshire Mind Network:** Providing mental health support for people of all ages, including free courses and community-based support.
- **Just Talk Hertfordshire:** A campaign aimed at reducing stigma and providing young people with tools to talk about their feelings and access support.
- **SPACE** Supporting families in Hertfordshire
- We are an award-winning Hertfordshire based charity supporting families of children and young people who are neurodivergent (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Tourette's and other neurodiverse conditions.)
- Whether you think your child may be neurodivergent, are going through the diagnostic process, or have already received a diagnosis you are in safe hands.
- Everything we do is designed to help you navigate local services, build confidence, share knowledge and enjoy social opportunities and activities where you, your children and young people can 'be themselves'. You can find out more about the impact we have on local children, young people and families in our latest [impact report](#).

Please remember that mental health is just as important as physical health, and seeking support is a sign of strength. We are here to help and work together to ensure the wellbeing of all our students and their family.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. c.surrey@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.*

Parking outside of school and update email from our Police and Community Officer who is supporting the school to keep the drop off and pickups as safe as possible for the students.

Since the beginning of the term, I have attended a couple of mornings and afternoons and have moved people on from both the bus stop and the zig zags outside the school gates. The morning of Friday 3rd October was particularly bad, with some drivers indignant and or quite rude when it was explained that they couldn't stop in these areas. I know SLT has experienced similar problems. These drivers didn't appear to comprehend that the virtual gridlock on the road could be reduced, if they just dropped their children in the free parking of Bowling Green Lane Car Park, where they could then cross safely with the Crossing Guard.

An officer and I carried out a second visit on the morning of Monday 13th October. Several drivers were recorded on Body Worn Video committing the offence of; Motor Vehicle Fail to Comply with Zig Zag Road Markings in the Vicinity of a School, contrary to section 36(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. The owners of these vehicles have each been sent a Notice of Intended Prosecution in order to identify the drivers and issue them with a Fixed Penalty.

Our police community team will continue to support the work of our Deputy Head to encourage you to please find a safe space for drop offs and pickups allowing buses to park in the bus lane close to the gates. Thank you to the huge number of parents who adhere to this already.

HPCI 4th Annual SEND Survey (2025)

HPCI. Hertfordshire's Voice for SEND Families

Welcome to HPCI's (Herts Parent Carer Involvement) **fourth annual survey** of Parent Carer Satisfaction.

This survey is one way we gather information to use in our work. We ask Hertfordshire parents and carers who have children or young people aged 0 – 25 years, with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) to take part. Your responses will be used in our work with Herts County Council and Herts NHS Services to help improve services for children and young people with SEND.

We run this survey every year so we can see what's improving, staying the same or getting worse. This year we are only asking about your experiences during the last school / college year – from **September 2024 to August 2025**. We will remind you in questions by calling this "the last school year".

Please complete the survey thinking of ONE child or young person only. If you have more than one child with additional needs, please complete a survey for each of them if you can.

Depending on the needs of your child, our survey could take up to 30 minutes to complete, and if you would like to share additional comments with us, we have left spaces for you to do this.

The survey will close on Sunday 9th November 2025 at 11pm.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCISurvey2025>.

FREE Sports & Social activities Friday 31st October

With thanks to funding, East Herts Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are able to provide a FREE to attend Social Evening for 11-16 years on Friday 31st October, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at The Sports Pavillion. There's no need to book, just turn up.

*For and on behalf of
East Herts Community
Safety Partnership*



Mrs J. Gant – Headteacher

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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