



Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Timetable: Week commencing 28/10/204 - A

Diary Dates:

28/10/24 – 01/11/24	Half Term.
06/11/24	Year 5 Duxford trip (£16.65 per student)
18/11/24	6A/6C Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
19/11/24	6B/6D Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
21/11/24	5C/5D Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student) 8A and 8C – Online Academic Review
22/11/24	5A/5B Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
28/11/24	8B and 8D – Online Academic Reviews
05/12/24	Fullness Day – Mental Health/Wellbeing more details to follow
06/12/24	Occasional Day.
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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How to ensure that your child stays warm in school?

We would actively encourage you to ensure your child is multi layered for school each day, as the students and staff continue to agree to limit fossil fuel consumption, by turning off our heating at 12-midday. Following this routine, over the last two years has shown us that the heating has been acceptable in school until about 4.30pm. This has saved us substantial amounts of money.

We also love bright coloured coats that help students stand out in the winter for their journeys into and home from school.



Non uniform day Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you for your kind donations towards our non-uniform pink day for breast cancer. We have raised £461.00.

School Dinners

We have a new menu starting after Half term, please ensure your child's school dinner is booked on SchoolGrid before 8.55am on Monday 4th November.

Year 5 Updates

And Relax...May I extend a hearty "well done" to our Year 5 Cohort and their wonderful parents and carers!

The start of a new school, new faces, new uniform, and the joys of new school systems is never easy, so thank you for navigating that journey alongside us.

Year 5 Duxford educational visit

Takes place on Wednesday 6th November.

Your child will need to bring with them:

- Full school uniform with comfortable shoes or trainers.
- Outdoor clothing appropriate for a winter's day out.
- A packed lunch [no glass bottles please]
- A small backpack [to be carried throughout the day]
- Any medication [including travel sickness tablets] clearly labelled with their name to be handed to the office by Monday 4th October 2024.

On the day of the visit, students need to arrive at school by 8:40am for a prompt departure at 9:30am. We will leave Duxford IWM at 2pm and arrive back at Edwinstree at approximately 3pm. Therefore, we will be back before the end of the school day.

Year 6 Updates

Parent/Carer Meet & Greet

Please find attached our slides for the Year 6 Meet and Greet to this week's newsletter. We will complete a You said/We did for after half term, where we will respond to your suggestions. Thank you for the large numbers of parents who attended to hear how they can help their child next year.

Year 7 Updates

Year 7 have settled well into key stage 3 and the secondary school experience. We will be reviewing how they are coping with homework in all subjects post half term, and we will be contacting you if we see any students that are struggling, and offer them support.

Year 8 Updates

Year 8 Academic Reviews

Year 8 parent/carers will get a chance to book an online appointment to meet their child's English, Maths and Science teachers, as well as their tutor, on the following days:

8A and 8C: Thursday 21st November from 4pm to 7pm

8B and 8D: Thursday 28th November from 4pm to 7pm

The window for booking these appointments for all tutor groups will open on Monday 11th November. We will send out instructions on how to book and confirm a time that the booking window opens after half term. A SEND representative and a Governor will also be available and you can book in a session with them if you wish.

We are conscious that in 1 year's time your child will be close to deciding, as a year 9 what GCSE option subjects they wish to take and which to drop. We have therefore moved the foundation subject meetings earlier. The opportunity to meet the Year 8 Foundation subject teachers takes place on Thursday 23rd January from 5pm to 7pm.

Academic Reviews and Foundation evenings for other year groups will take place in the Spring and Summer term.

8C/8D Science

In Science we have been looking at energy transfers. This week we have looked at radiation as a thermal transfer. If you wanted to explore this learning further at home, then there are several free thermal camera apps available on mobile phones. You could install an app and work as a family to explore different levels of thermal energy that are given off.

Have fun! Mrs Barrett

All Years Maths Equipment

Whiteboard pens: In maths we do a lot of work on mini whiteboards. This allows students to try out their ideas, and the teacher to assess the understanding of the class. Please ensure that your child comes to every maths lesson with a working whiteboard pen so that they can partake in the lessons.

Sharp pencil: In maths students write in their books in pencil, this allows them to correct mistakes, particularly when drawing tables and graphs. Please ensure that your child brings a sharp pencil to each lesson.

Scientific Calculator: Years 7 & 8 students are required to use a scientific calculator. Please make sure that your child brings one to every maths lesson. Calculators can be bought directly from the school, please contact the office, or from Amazon, using the following link : [Casio FX-85GTCW Black Scientific Calculator : Amazon.co.uk: Stationery & Office Supplies](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Casio-FX-85GTCW-Black-Scientific-Calculator/dp/B000060000). We recommend these two calculators only. These are used at Freman for their GCSEs. We appreciate your support in this. The Maths Team

Gardening Club

An incredible well done and thank you to all who took part in gardening club this half term. We have cleared all the summer plants, picked the last of the tomatoes and rhubarb, and top soiled all the beds - moving almost half a ton of soil on Wednesday this week. It was quite a feat!

The tomato harvest this year has been frozen for year 7's Food and Nutrition cooking lesson of Spaghetti Bolognese - hopefully we have enough for the whole cohort. The beds are being dug over with manure and compost and will now have the winter to recoup and get ready for our spring planting. **Gardening club will start up again after February half term.** Thank you for all the hard work! Mrs van Wyk

Food and Nutrition

Last week we had an incredibly busy week creating in the kitchen, this week focused more on the theory side of things. Well done to everyone who created spectacular dishes. In the evaluations, there have been a few comments about not enjoying particular ingredients - we would much prefer your child to enjoy their end-product and encourage adaptations as long as it fits the recipe.

Next half term starts off with a mix of demonstrations, taste testing, cooking and theory. Please keep an eye out on Satchel 1 and the newsletter to see the requirements for your child's lesson. Please do get in touch if you have any questions. Mrs van Wyk

Parent Governor Elections

We are pleased to announce that we have 2 applicants for the Parent Governor vacancy:

We have two parents who have volunteered for the Governor role available at the school. Both are strong candidates. We are therefore asking you to read their profiles and vote for the candidate you would wish to see represent parents on the Governing body.

Ben Harper - I am excited to put myself forward for the position of school governor. As a qualified Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of experience in finance and business management, I believe I can bring valuable skills to the governing body. My expertise in budgeting, financial planning, GDPR and ICT would enable me to contribute to the school's effective use of resources, ensuring that we continue to provide the best possible education for all pupils. In addition to my professional background, I have a personal investment in the school community, with two children currently enrolled, with another who has recently moved on to Freman College after thoroughly enjoying her time at Edwinstree. I see firsthand the impact the school

has on shaping young minds, and I am eager to help continue this success into the future. With my wife already serving on the governing body, I have gained an insight into the important work done by governors and appreciate the collaborative approach required to make thoughtful decisions that foster a supportive learning environment for the success and well-being of our children.

Nick Parker - I am applying for the position of school governor at Edwinstree Middle School as I passionately believe that every child has the right to a first-class education, in a safe and friendly environment, providing each and every child with the very best possible opportunities and outcomes in life.

For over 20 years I volunteered in the local community as an on-call firefighter/watch commander, running a local fire station, attending emergencies in the community, and managing a diverse team of firefighters. Alongside that role I also have a very successful career in the private sector as a senior manager for a large telecommunications company, managing people, budgets, and large projects.

I have a proven track record of dealing with difficult and challenging situations both in the public and private sector, and if necessary, I would not shy away from asking the awkward questions or challenging the status quo if needed.

I know the experience I have gained working for both Hertfordshire County Council and the private sector will be a good blend of experience and knowledge to help support Edwinstree Middle School as a school governor.

Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) Survey

Herts Parent Carer Involvement, the independent parent carer forum for Hertfordshire, has asked us to share their annual survey with you. They want to hear from Hertfordshire parent carers of children and young people (age 0-25) with any Special Educational Need and/or Disability. Your child doesn't need to have a diagnosis or EHCP for you to take part.

The survey is open until **Sunday 3 November** and can be accessed here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HPCISurvey2024>



If you would like to know more about HPCI or to become a member, you can visit their website: www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk or call 07840 360 245.

Hertfordshire Neurodiversity Support Offer

Please find attached a flyer advertising the Neurodiversity Support offer for parents/carers, professionals and young people in Hertfordshire. The HCC and ICB offer consists of various resources including group courses, webinars and a live web chat for young people as well as the support hub and digital webinars for parent/carers and professionals.

We have also produced a [Neurodiversity Handbook](#) which offers lots of resources, support and signposting for parents and carers.

Please also look at the Neurodiversity directory [Neurodiversity Service Directory \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#) for further avenues of support.

Details of all these offers can also be found on the [Neurodiversity Support \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#).

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

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