



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 25/11/2022

Diary Dates – Week B

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
25/11/22	Lights of Love Ceremony, Manor House Buntingford – Choir attendance 6PM
30/11/22	Fullness day Global warming – how to save energy and why should we? Non-uniform day
01/12/22	Joint Christmas Concert with Freman
02/12/22	Occasional Day (school closed)
07/12/22	Year 6 SATs Workshop Students Christmas Lunch (lunch menu will be bookable via SchoolGrid, for a cost of £2.80, (deadline for orders is Friday 25th November))
09/12/22	Christmas Jumper day Non-uniform day
13/12/22	Year 5 Christingle afternoon – Parents welcome (more details to follow)
14/12/22	Year 8 –Geography Trip to London to visit Grenfell Tower
16/12/22	End of Term Service at Aspenden Church parent volunteers needed. End of term 13.20PM
05/01/23	Spring Term begins
30/01-02/02/23	Mock SATs Week

To Report a student absent please email:
attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

How can you support our school to enjoy the up and coming festive season?

We encourage you to come and hear the Edwinstree choir at the Lights of Love ceremony on Friday 25th November, a get together and some Christmassy support from our local community to hear our choir re-engage with singing to an audience. We will perform carols with the Town Council at The Manor House, Buntingford at 6PM

When is our Christmas concert?

We are hosting a joint Christmas concert with Freman on Thursday 1st December. We have limited spaces available so priority will go to performers families first. There will be refreshments on sale, and a donations pot if you would like to offer a donation to support the choir and music department within the school. If you require tickets for the event, please email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with a note of how many tickets you require.

Do I have to buy a Christmas jumper for my child?

No, we are acutely aware of the cost of living crisis which teachers are feeling too, students can come in non-school uniform, they are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper if they wish, there is no cost to this day.

Helping to keep the entrance to the school safe at the start and end of the day?

Thank you to the many parents who have made a conscious effort not to park in the school's bus lane at the start or end of the day.

School Christmas Lunch

We are holding our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 7th December, students will have an extended lunchbreak that day to give them time to eat their lunch and enjoy each other's company and the Christmas music. Lunch is bookable via SchoolGrid, for a cost of £2.80, **we have extended the deadline for orders to Monday 28th November.**

What is happening on the Fullness day next week?

Students will be off timetable next Wednesday discovering how the school is making energy savings, thinking about how they can support this and how this might transfer to support families and homes in reducing energy consumption. We will be exploring how making good decisions and learning that consuming less will help our planet to reduce Green House Gases. Students are able to come in Non-school uniform to add a little cheer to November.

When will you see the school photos?

Wow what gorgeous students we have at Edwinstree! The photographer worked really hard with the students to get through all classes and has committed to getting the photographs out early next week. We will email you to let you know they are coming home with your child. If you would like them to arrive before the end of term, please place your order by the end of Friday 2nd of December at the latest.

What timetable changes are we making in order to support the students through the absence of Ms Saunders our Head of Science?

From Monday, we will be making changes to who teaches your child science. Below are the changes we are making that will initially run up until Christmas:

- Y5 - Miss Di Pasquale
- 6A/6B - Mr Nash (unchanged)
- 6C/D - Miss Di Pasquale
- Y7 - Mrs Barrett
- Y8 - Mrs Gravelle (unchanged)

There are some minor tweaks to the timings of a handful of other lessons, but this will be explained through morning PowerPoints in school.

Are you able to support us with year 6 SATs?

We are looking for parent helpers to support us during our Mock SATs week, 30th January - 2nd February 2023. We are also looking for parents to support us during the official SATs week, however, we are waiting for the date to be confirmed by the Department for Education. The dates will be confirmed later this month. Duties would involve, supporting children by reading questions to them or prompting them and supporting the class teacher with any administrative needs.

*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.*

If you are able to support us on some or all of the days, please contact us by email at a.earnshaw@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What will I find out at the Year 6 SATs Workshops?

On Wednesday 7th December we are intending to hold SATs workshops for year 6 students and parents/carers. The aim of the workshops is to support you and your child with their English and maths SATs. At the workshop, you will find out some of the expectations of the students and have the chance to look through recently marked practice SATs papers (English and maths) with your child, with the support of their English and maths teacher.

The timings of the workshops are:

- 6C and 6D - Mr Funnell, Miss Bull and Mrs Mayne (8:55-9:55 - P1)
- 6A and 6B - Mr Nash and Miss Bull (9:55-10:55 - P2)

Please would you fill in the short survey to give us an idea of parent attendance. If you are a friend of a parent who can't make it, we are happy for you to support their child as well.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Gdt6m0g5uE>

Drinks in school

We have noticed an increase in Lucozade and other energy sports drinks being brought into school. If we see one of these drinks they will be confiscated for the rest of the day and, in the first instance, can be collected by the student at the end of the day.

Children are encouraged to bring in water bottles and, for those who don't have one, there are clean water bottles that are kept outside of reception for children to use.

Thank you for your support.

Phone calls home

The volume of phone calls home for forgotten items has increased significantly. Please ensure your child has everything prepared for the next day's lessons the night before.

We understand that it is not always practical for you to bring in items for PE, food tech ingredients and/or correct shoes. Not having the correct items may result in your child/children wearing spare PE kit or not being able to take part in food tech lessons.

KS3 Scientific calculators

Many students have now purchased a calculator and we are using them regularly in maths lessons. We would like to begin using more of the functions, but we are unable to do this until all pupils have a scientific calculator in school with them. In line with other schools, your son/daughter

will need a scientific calculator for their lessons, they will be able to use this same calculator at Freman College, where it is also a requirement for the curriculum.

The cost of buying a calculator from the school is £8.32, which is a reduced price. To purchase a calculator, payment can be made via the school Gateway. If your child is PP and this cost will cause you financial difficulty, please email s.marler@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Foreign Language Christmas Card Design Competition

Please find attached a flyer for all students from Mrs Theroulde regarding the Christmas card design competition, deadline 7th December.

Enrichment Clubs

- KS3 Maths Club session on Monday, 28th of November has been cancelled.
- Gardening Club has now finished

Food and Nutrition

Another wonderful week of Spaghetti Bolognese and healthy pasta salads being created by Year7's and 6's. Some super examples of dishes. I am sure there were some very happy parents and carers - and siblings from what I've heard!

- **Year 5:** You are all cooking pizzas this week. Please ensure that you follow the homework on Satchel 1. Just a reminder that in order for you to cook, you need to bring in your design either before or on the day of your practical.
- **Year 6, 7 and 8:** No cooking this week, but some classes have paper homework set. Please check Satchel 1.

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct shoes for Food Tech

Year 5 News:

As part of an ongoing teacher training exercise, Year 5 & 6 students may be filmed during one of their Maths, or English lessons over the next few months. A static camera will film the class teacher from the back of the class, so that only the back of student heads will be visible. The recording will be shared with one trusted training provider with a Data Sharing Agreement that complies with GDPR. If you would prefer your child not to be included in the recording, or you would like further information. Please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Fullness day next week, students will have an extra piece of learning about what global warming is, how we are all contributing to it, and why we need to make changes. This was covered in last year Fullness challenge and in Key stage 3 Geography. They will then be exploring how energy saving can help us to protect our planet.

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What are we doing to support year 6 students on their journey to SATS?

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Year 7 News:

To really encourage what we as a school call "prosocial behaviour" at an individual and class level within year 7 we are trying out two awards happening weekly between now and Christmas:

- Weekly, year 7 tutors will individually nominate a single child who has really gone beyond in any way at all.
- Weekly, the year 7 class with the largest number of merits will be invited to wear non-school uniform the following Friday.

We are trying this out until Christmas but would also really welcome you emailing myself at ho7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with any other ideas that you feel would encourage your child and their year group.

Year 8 News:

Please complete and return the form confirming your child's attendance on the visit to London, and if you are able to support on the day, please complete the relevant section. <https://forms.office.com/r/8RK7QXfdGe>.

If the cost of this visit will cause you financial difficulty, please email the office on admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Below is a picture of the South Bank market which is less than half an acre in size and has traditional stalls and lots of street food from around the world celebrating winter and Christmas food options. It's a great place to seek reasonable and unusual Christmas presents and to take in the views from the Thames.



Hertfordshire County Council Information

Please find attached some information on how parent/carers can contact CSAIS to book their children in for a flu vaccination, for years Reception to Year 6, if sessions were missed in school. The second page highlights walk-in COVID vaccination sessions

Best Wishes

Mrs J Gant - Headteacher

Attachments:

Hertfordshire County Council Information

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