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|  | **Edwinstree Middle School**  A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School  **NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  **Week Ending: 27/5/2022** |

**27/05/22 Parent News**

**Diary Dates – Week B**

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| **School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm** | |
| **30/5/22 –3/06/22** | **HALF TERM** |
| **14/6/22** | **Yr7 Parent Consultation Foundation Subjects 4-6pm** |
| **17-19/6/22** | **Buntingford Summer Arts Festival** |
| **22/6/22** | **Yr5 Felixstowe visit** |
| **22/6/22** | **Police Talks Yr7 & Yr8 (Lives not Knives)** |
| **23/6/22** | **Yr7 Felixstowe visit** |
| **24/6/22** | **Twilight INSET Day – students not in school** |
| **27/6/22** | **Occasional Day – students not in school** |
| **28/6/22** | **Yr8 Parent Consultation Foundation Subjects 4-6pm** |
| **4/7/22** | **Online Safety talk Sessions KS2, KS3, Parents (timings TBC)** |
| **5/7/22** | **Yr6 Parent Consultation Science & Foundation Subjects 4-6pm** |
| **8/7/22** | **Yr6 visit Felixstowe** |
| **11/7/22** | **Yr8 visit Felixstowe** |
| **12/7/22** | **Sports Day** |
| **13//7/22** | **Open afternoon 2pm-7pm** |
| **13/7/22** | **Yr6 Theatre Trip to see Wicked** |
| **14/7/22** | **County Transition Day** |
| **22/7/22** | **End of term 1:20pm finish** |
| **28-30/9/22** | **3 Day Residential Trip for Yr7 (current Yr6) more details to follow** |

Finally, we have managed a half term without an outbreak of COVID and this should translate if it continues, into a term where we see students move from good progress to rapid as they continue to recover from the Pandemic. Next term, you will receive a final report on your child’s progress this year and it will include written summaries of the learning that has taken place in each subject, and a wellbeing write up from your child’s tutor.

**How do I report my child absent?**

If your child is unwell or has a medical appointment, please notify the Attendance Team via [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) or you can leave a message on 01763-271446. In the event your child tests positive for Covid-19, please email: [covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**Which students are catching up after COVID?**

We are noticing an obvious correlation between attendance and catch up. The positive news for our school is that our attendance is at 92% which is above the current national average in terms of attendance, despite COVID outbreaks and over 130 students absent and 14 staff in the worse outbreaks. This is a huge testament to you, in helping support your child to get into school.

**What role does homework play in supporting students to make rapid progress and catch up?**

After pupil and Teacher attendance, homework is the second biggest factor in determining whether they will make rapid progress and return to age related or above in their learning. If a student and home are making the time to complete homework, students are much more likely to make rapid progress. Sadly, we still have a small but significant number of parents and children who are struggling to achieve this. Post Half term we will be talking to all parents of children who aren’t completing work to offer support, advice and help. Phone calls will be conducted by our admin support team and in particular Sharon Marler and Rachel Heywood who will help to solve problems and get your child back on SMHW website and learning. Please remember if their failure to complete homework is a resource issue we can help.

**What homework should be completed over the holidays?**

Please ensure that your child takes opportunities to read with you or alongside you at least 5 times a week. If you have opportunities to practice times tables – a game of darts is great for this, please do. If you fancy a chant of the times table on the way to a destination in the car we would encourage you! Seeing you struggle with the 7,8’s 12’s but continuing is a great lesson for students in resilience and determination.

**Why does the school close to students from the 24th to the 27th June inclusive?**

The school is taking one of its allocated inset days on 24th of June, therefore school will be closed to students on that day. The 27th of June will be our additional occasional day, this day is given to schools and students in recognition that we do not benefit from the extra bank holiday due to the Queen’s jubilee taking place at Half term. Schools can place this day anywhere on the calendar, and for us it falls at the end of this weekend. We always collaborate with Freman on our inset days to support families in juggling children’s time off. We do hope some of you get to take advantage of this long weekend.

**What trips are coming up that we need to be aware of?**

If you are a Year 6 parent please read the accompanying letter which introduces you to the Year 6 going into Year 7 Sept 2022 residential trip. All other parents please make a note of the date of the seaside Felixstowe trip, letters will go out in the first week after Half Term and we will be asking for a contribution of £21.25 plus spending money. As promised, in order to enable all students to participate in trip this year we have stuck to the guides you gave us and kept the costs at between £50 and £75 pounds. We are currently sourcing a residential opportunity for year 8 in 2023.

**How are we responding to previous Parent Questionnaires?**

We sent out a questionnaire to parents in March 2022 and published it on the web and in our newsletter. However, the questions for SEND were not clear. We are also keen to hear your advice about parent communication regarding your child’s progress, as 53 out of 138 felt we could improve. We are therefore offering parents the opportunity to come into the school to speak to the Head about this key area. We are also interested in exploring the impact if any, that you feel from the school being a Church of England school.

After half term if you would like to help us find out more about what parents think, and help us to recover from COVID we will be issuing dates and times to indicate that you would be willing to attend one or more of the group discussions. Thank you for your support in helping us to hear your voice and shape Edwinstree future.

**Youth for Christ visit – 29th June to 1st July**

In association with Rachael Went and The Brave Trust, the touring band associated with Youth for Christ, ‘The Sense’, are coming to Edwinstree on Wednesday 29th June for three days. They will help lead Collective Worships, as well as helping to deliver some RE lessons and be around for students to talk to. More information will be available nearer the time but, in the meantime, here is part of their ‘blurb’. Their latest release can be found [here](https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=IEIyuakOqi4&t=21s).

*“The Sense are our touring band that uses music to reach young people with the gospel message in a dynamic and relevant way. Travelling throughout the UK and abroad, The Sense visit schools and churches, performing at youth events and concerts and performing in a variety of situations. The band are passionate about spending time with young people, listening to their stories and helping them understand more about what it means to be a Christian today. The Sense provide the opportunity for students to explore areas of belief and faith in a non-threatening way – interacting with band members and asking their own questions. They aim to create an environment where pupils can enjoy their learning experience, ask their own questions and begin to make sense of the world around them.”*

**Choir**

Choir will no longer be running after half term. Part of the reason is to enable more support to be given to prepare for ‘Pirates of the Curry Bean’. It has been great to spend time with a small but committed group of students and I look forward to its re-launch in September.

**Pirates of the Curry Bean: Update**

We are very excited that the performance date is fast approaching. In order to have the show ready to a high standard, it is necessary to extend the after-school rehearsals to 4.30pm. We will also be calling additional rehearsals on Friday lunchtimes as the show date approaches and during the first week of July for technical and dress rehearsals – you will be advised of these.

During the half term break please support and encourage the students to learn their lines and practice the songs (these can be found on show my homework).

All cast members are expected to attend all after-school rehearsals to enable us to work on as much as possible in the short rehearsal time. They have been working so hard – we are really impressed with their effort and cannot wait for you to see their hard work in July!

Please also find attached a costume list with details of what each character should wear and when the costumes need to be in school. Thankyou Mrs Brock

**Outdoor Chess Club - Great Munden Recreational Garden**

Great Munden Recreational Garden have launched an outdoor chess club for adults and Juniors 6-8pm with an instructor who also helps run the Bishops Stortford club and resides in our Parish. Each session costs £1 per person.

For your information, the Great Munden Recreational Garden was left in Trust for the benefit of all the Parishioners and we are offering different events at the site to appeal to as many Parishioners as possible.  It is also a charity with an educational purpose.  The club is open to all from 10 to 15 years old. Please see attached flyer.

**Buntingford Platinum Jubilee Saturday 4th June**

Buntingford Town Council are hosting a family fun day at the Seth Ward Community Centre Playing Fields to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty and they are hoping that children will enter into their fancy-dress competition the theme being 70 glorious years, aimed at all children aged up to 10years including pre-school ages. The fireworks will be no longer than 15 minutes and will finish no later than 10:30 pm.

Please see attached flyer.

**Volunteers Required for Summer Arts in Buntingford Festival**

**WE NEED YOU!!**

**17th, 18th, 19th June 2022, Layston Court Gardens, Buntingford**

We need volunteers to help us run the first ever Summer Arts in Buntingford Festival in Layston Court Gardens. Volunteer duties will include helping stalls set up, meeting and greeting artists, as well as the less glamorous activities such as picking up litter and emptying bins – in other words all the normal jobs that a Festival brings.

We are looking for volunteers to help us during the hours 7am–11pm on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and then on Monday 20th to help us dismantle the tents etc.

If you are able to spare a few hours to help us on any or all of these days, initially please send an email with the hours and days you could help, and we will be in touch. The email address is: **volunteers@summerartsinbuntingford.com**

**Thank you in advance – with your help we can make Summer Arts in Buntingford a great success.**

See Flyers attached

**Jo Gant**

**Headteacher**

*Attachments:*

*Year 6 Parent Letter*

*Pirates of the Curry Bean Costume*

*Chess Club*

*Buntingford Platinum Jubilee Saturday 4th June*

*Summer Arts in Buntingford*