



NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS  
Week Ending: 28/03/2025.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

31/03/25	Residential information meeting for current Year 6 3.30pm in school.
01/04/25	Wellbeing Hub open afternoon 2-5pm
04/04/25	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>
22/04/25	<a href="#">Start of Summer Term</a>
23/04/25	Year 5 RE Educational Visit to Faith in Queen's Park Bedford - £14 per student
25/04/25	Year 8 Science Visit to Thorpe Park - £45.50 per student
05/05/25	<a href="#">Bank Holiday</a>
08/05/25	Year 6 In Person Foundation Evening
12-15/05/25	Year 6 SATs
16/05/25	ESA School Disco (more details to follow)
26-30/05/25	<a href="#">Half Term</a>
05/06/25	Year 5 In Person Foundation Evening
27/06/25	<a href="#">INSET Day</a>
10/07/25	County Transition Day  Parent Transition Evening 5-6pm
18/07/25	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>

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## Wellbeing Hub

We are inviting all parents to meet staff from the Wellbeing Hub. The staff will show you around the new hub and talk about services that are available to your children, should you need them. If your child is already under the Wellbeing Hub, we can explain how the hub now works. A member of the NHS Mental Health Team will also be available for you to talk too.

The Wellbeing Hub will be open on Tuesday 1st April from 2.00pm until 5.00pm. If you would like to book an appointment to visit the hub or speak to the mental health team, please email [a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

In the past, parents have visited for the following reasons:

- To find out a little bit more about the work that goes on here, as they know their child already visits.
- To seek advice about what support is available for their child in school and/or services, if they have a worry and or concern that their mental health is poor.
- To seek advice and support for their own wellbeing.
- To seek support from other parents experiencing similar worries or concerns.

## Young Carers

Please may we ask if your child is a young carer that you inform the school. This is really helpful for us so that internally, teachers can be aware and offer support with homework etc. We can then steer them and yourselves to the amazing opportunities available for those great young people who are helping their families. [Young Carers service - Carers In Herts](#)

## Newsletter Focus – Wellbeing

Please find attached our Spring edition of the Wellbeing Focus newsletter.

## Adolescence Netflix Series & Gareth Southgate Speech

Many members of our community have watched and are talking about the shocking Netflix drama Adolescence as well as the powerful speech by Gareth Southgate last week. As a school we have been starting to think how we should respond to both of these. The Adolescence series was certainly incredibly intense and highlighted so many aspects including misogyny, knife-crime as well as being a boy or girl in modern Britain.

We recognise that we have to be careful with the Adolescence series as it has a 15-age rating and most of the PSHE communities are suggesting we should step back directly from showing any of the series with our age of children. However, as a result of this series we have introduced a new lesson for our older children (year 8) about the topic of misogyny which also looks at sexism. We are thinking whether we can deliver a "lighter touch" version to the younger year groups and our Dynamic Diversity Group will be looking into this - we are not yet sure whether this will be a fullness day, additional lessons, or an alternate form.

Alongside this we are looking at whether we can deliver a separate girls and boys session this year which will include aspects of the above such as "What does it mean to be a boy/girl in our world today?" Over the last few days many staff have also had training on aspects of VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) which included many of the concerning aspects of the series and extended to some of the more complex parts of the series, such as the meaning of the different emojis within the series.

The school have been lucky enough to have the police coming in again this year to talk to our older children about the topic of knife-crime, which was also a major aspect of the Adolescence series.

We would welcome any further thoughts or ideas that you may have to [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

## Year 6 (current) Residential for September 25

If your child is unsure about attending the Residential in September, Mr McCarthy will hold a brief information meeting on Monday 31st March 2025 at 3.30pm, in school.

We will hold open the deposit deadline until after this meeting. Since Covid, children have been more apprehensive about the idea of a residential, however this is a chance to make great memories and a bonding experience.

## Year 6 Home Learning

Over the Easter break, we have found it really helps students to dip in and out of SATs revision. In this way, wellbeing is supported, and students return without the feeling that they have forgotten everything - it means faster return to focus and learning. Just a little work stops them from worrying.

### English

Before half term students will receive one set of practice papers (Reading, and GPS) and an answer booklet. There is a spelling test in the middle of the GPS booklet. Please remove and use the spellings in the answer booklet.

Please encourage your child to find time for some SATs revision by completing the practice papers - a little over time works well for most. Please mark and discuss. Plus... don't forget to read!

### Maths

Students will be sent home with 10 suggested pages from their CGP revision book. It is generally preferable to spend about 15-20 mins each day on this, rather than trying to complete everything in one go. A good idea is to set a timer and complete a short burst of focussed work.

## Year 7 & 8 Lifeskills Topic

Year 8 will shortly be moving onto the topic of Substances. In this topic there will be talk of caffeine, energy drinks, smoking, vaping, alcohol and also some mention of illegal drugs and their different classifications. Later in the year we are planning to teach a more limited version of this to year 7, with much of the mention of illegal drugs omitted.

## Year 8 What is happening with transition to Freman?

After Easter, Freman will ask us to compile data on our students and begin the process of hand over. After May half term we will ask you to let us know if you think your child will benefit from additional transition and more visits to Freman than the statutory transition day which takes place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July. A letter will come out providing a link for you to nominate your child. For now, year 8 seem excited for their new transition and the French teaching at Freman has once again supported them to know and experience the school.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

No clubs led by school staff will take place in the last week of term. Sign-up sheets for clubs will be released during the first week after the Easter holidays.

### Externally run clubs next week.

Boxing Club will run on Tuesday.

Film Club will run on Wednesday.

KS2 Girls Football (Royston Town) will not run on Thursday.

## Gardening Club

Even though we were light in numbers this week due to illness, we had a fabulous time harvesting the leeks from our vegetable patch! Who would have known there were so many of God's fabulous creatures working beneath the soil to enrich it. We must have spotted the tiniest snail in its shell and the fattest earthworm ever! Have a look at the photos - what the leeks looked like when first harvested and then when cleaned - what a difference. Year 7's will benefit from our leeks as they are available for them to use instead of onion in their Spaghetti Bolognese they'll be cooking after the holidays.

There are still a few spots available to join our club. Please sign your child up, if they are interested in gardening and growing food for us to use in our Food Lessons (as well as taking a few veg home along the way). Gardening Club takes place on Wednesday afternoons and finishes at 4:15pm. <https://forms.office.com/e/6bf3wfembN>



## Food and Nutrition – All Years

So lovely to see so many pupils following the health and safety rules with the correct uniform in the kitchen this week. Still a few sets of false/gel nails and incorrect shoes which I am hoping will be rectified before their next lesson. Boys, please remember that football astro shoes are NOT permitted in the food room. Health and safety rules are there to protect the pupils from accidents that can happen in the Food Room.

Year 8 and Year 7 will have practical lessons next week. Incorrect uniform will result in a no cook lesson and alternate theory work will be provided.

**Year 5** and **Year 6** will start practical lessons after the holidays.

**Year 7:** Please could you bring in 2 medium carrots to your lesson on Wednesday or Thursday. As you can see from the picture's, Gardening Club has harvested leeks for you to use in your spaghetti Bolognese. Please let Mrs van Wyk know on Monday (or via H/L on Satchel) if you would like to make use of a leek. If not, you will need to bring in one medium onion.



**Year 8:** We have again been incredibly lucky to receive tinned wild salmon from the Fish Heroes Programme. With thanks to DFDS for delivering it for free and Alaska Seafood UK for the donation, our pupils have the opportunity to cook a protein we would not normally cook in school. We will be using this to create salmon and potato fish cakes. Ingredients are provided by the school for this practical.



## Edwinstree School Association

### ESA Quiz

Thank you to all the children, parents, grandparents and teachers that took part in the ESA Family Quiz on 21st March.

Mr Funnell was an excellent question master, keeping all teams in check and we all now know a fascinating fact about barnacles!

The teachers team played their joker card early in the English SATs round and Mr McCarthy did not disappoint them, scoring full marks and putting them in the lead until round three. Then five other teams scored maximum points, playing their Joker card in the Maths SATs round, and the teachers were then unable to maintain their lead.

The winners were 'The Rapid Rubies' with the teachers coming a respectable middle of the table joint 6th.

It was a great evening, and we raised £370. This year we have not had any big fundraising projects, but instead have supported each year group with £500 to subsidise trips or workshops.

### Preloved uniform

Sales for pre-loved uniform is ongoing via our online Sum up shop, we are grateful for the office staff managing donations and collection of orders. We do have a large selection of uniform trousers, brand new grey shorts, coats and a few sports items which have not been advertised online. These will be available to buy at the school summer fair on 5th July. [Edwinstree School Association Online Shop](#)

## National Youth Strategy

Please be advised that the Government has created a channel for young people to get involved in developing the national youth strategy. 'Deliver You' is the name of the national campaign across England, which asks for views directly from young people to inform the National Youth Strategy.

The campaign, co-produced with young people, is an ambitious and exciting opportunity for young people to share their views, experiences, and ideas- and to tell the Government what really matters to them.

What is the National Youth Strategy?

- The Government is creating a new ten-year National Youth Strategy to tackle the challenges for this generation of young people and ensure that every young person can thrive.
- The National Youth Strategy will bring power back to young people and their communities and improve youth focused services, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach from Government.

Why is your voice important?

- Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow— you are the changemakers of today. Your voices, ideas, and actions are vital in shaping inclusive, forward-thinking communities and Government.
- The government is committed to giving young people a powerful voice in this process and want the Strategy to be truly co-produced.

*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.*

- We plan to publish the National Youth Strategy in the summer, with an interim report called 'Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Nation' to come out in the spring.

Timelines?

- **Place your Order** by completing the online survey from **5th March until 16th April 2025**
- **Take orders** through running a session between **5th March and May 16th, 2025.**
- **Shape the solutions** through the in-person events from **1st April to May 8th, 2025.**

Government statement here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-partners-with-young-people-to-help-develop-new-national-youth-strategy>

Young people can engage with the survey here: <https://www.iwill.org.uk/NYS-Deliver-You/> or by using the QR code:



The survey closes on 16 April 2025.

**Mrs J Gant – Headteacher**

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