





**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 28/11/2025.**

**Edwinstree Term dates:**

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

**Homework week: A**

**Diary Dates:**

04/12/25	Year 5 Christingle P4 and P5
<a href="#">05/12/25</a>	<a href="#">Occasional Day</a>
10/12/25	 Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch Day 
11/12/25	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Services (am)
12/12/25	Year 7 & 8 Christmas Services (am)
15/12/25	Freman / Edwinstree Christmas Concert (6pm tbc)
16/12/25	Fullness Day for The Child Brain Trust
17/12/25	Lister Hospital carol singing
<a href="#">19/12/25</a>	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>
<a href="#">05/01/26</a>	<a href="#">INSET Day</a>
<a href="#">06/01/26</a>	<a href="#">Start of Spring Term</a>
13/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5B English and Maths 5D English and Maths 8C English, Maths, Science
14/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 8A English, Maths, Science
15/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7D English, Maths, Science 7B English, Maths, Science
20/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5A English and Maths 8B English, Maths, Science
21/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 5C English and Maths 7A English, Maths, Science
22/01/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 7C English, Maths, Science 8D English, Maths, Science
03/02/26	Year 8 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
<a href="#">16-20/02/26</a>	<a href="#">Half Term</a>
24/02/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6A Maths and English 6D Maths and English
03/03/26	Academic Consultation 4-7pm 6B Maths and English 6C Maths and English
04/03/26	Y7 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
<a href="#">27/03/26</a>	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>
<a href="#">13/04/26</a>	<a href="#">Start of Summer Term</a>
21/04/26	Y6 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
<a href="#">04/05/26</a>	<a href="#">Bank Holiday</a>
12/05/26	Y5 Foundation Evening 5-7pm
<a href="#">25-29/05/26</a>	<a href="#">Half Term</a>
<a href="#">26/06/26</a>	<a href="#">INSET Day</a>
<a href="#">09/07/26</a>	<a href="#">County Transition Day</a>
<a href="#">17/07/26</a>	<a href="#">End of Term 1:20pm.</a>

## Table of Contents

Curriculum Focus Newsletter .....	1
A huge thank you .....	1
Parent Questionnaire .....	2
Afterschool KS2 Rugby Cancelled .....	2
What is happening in the lead up to Christmas? .....	2
Edwinstree Choir .....	2
Occasional Day – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December .....	2
Year 5 Christmas play at Layston .....	2
Christmas Lunch .....	2
Year 5 Christingle .....	2
Christmas Advent .....	2
Christmas Tree Festival .....	2
Food and Nutrition – all years .....	3
Year 5: .....	3
Year 6: .....	3
Year 7: .....	3
Year 8: .....	3
What is our snow procedure? .....	3
Headlice .....	3
Edwinstree School Association .....	4
NHS Parent / Carer Motor Development Information Sessions ...	4
Families Feeling Safe Workshop .....	4
Free workshops for Mums, Dads & Carers .....	4

### Curriculum Focus Newsletter

Attached is our curriculum focused newsletter for the Autumn term, designed to give you an insight into what students have been learning and how you can support them at home. Our website publishes our curriculum for you to look in detail.

### A huge thank you

To all parents and students for all our Fundraising activities.

Thank you so much for your recent kind donations, we are pleased to let you know our recent totals raised are:

- Fullness Day for Cancer Research £819.27
- Children in Need - £337.30
- Poppy Appeal - £325.02

Each Fullness Day is inspired by a child wanting to make a difference to a cause close to their heart. Next week a Year 6 student will be talking to the school about her desire to support the Child Brain Injury Trust.

We will hold our final Fullness Day of the year on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December with a final bake-off sale and non-uniform day.

## Parent Questionnaire

Can you help us to take stock on how you think the school is doing? What you are pleased with, and what we need to improve on?

If you have 5 minutes to complete a questionnaire we would appreciate it. We do look at the results and listen to your voice, publish the outcomes and a plan of how we will address issues raised. Your voice is important to us.

[Parent Questionnaire November 2025 – Fill out form](#)

## Afterschool KS2 Rugby Cancelled

Please note that KS2 Rugby afterschool club will not run on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

## What is happening in the lead up to Christmas?

### Edwinstree Choir

Good luck to our choir tonight and a big thank you for starting the Advent season for Buntingford town at the Lights of Love Festival tonight. You will see them singing at the manor house from 6 pm.

### Occasional Day – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Reminder, our Occasional day on the same day as Freman College next Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, please note the school will be closed.

### Year 5 Christmas play at Layston

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December Year 5 ex Layston pupils will be attending the Christmas play at Layston, more information and consent forms will be out next week.

### Christmas Lunch



Our Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, please see menu attached. If your child would like a Christmas lunch, please ensure you order via SchoolGrid. Cost is £3.50, payments are made via the SchoolGrid website.

**Please ensure you book your child's Christmas dinner by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December to enable the kitchen to prepare accordingly.**

### Year 5 Christingle

Our annual Y5 Christingle service takes place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Before lunch, students make their own Christingles and then, after lunch, have a short service where they learn more about the significance of the Christingle. This year, the service will be in school due to a slight delay in the renovation works at St Peter's.

Students will bring their Christingles home with them so please do ask them about what they've done.

## Christmas Advent

As students build their excitement to the big day in Collective worship (COWO), we begin to explore the story of Christmas and the advent value of joy, peace, hope and love. As part of this work, we have talked to the students about the Church meaning of Christmas, and how giving is equally as rewarding to receiving and can help to make all of us feel good.

We will also be launching our Food Bank Hamper appeal, where we will ask tutor groups to collect Christmas hamper treats that are donated to some of our most vulnerable families for Christmas. Suggested items that we will be asking students to bring in are:



- Chocolate Christmas log or non-alcoholic Christmas cake.
- Children's Christmas chocolate e.g. selection box.
- After dinner/adult chocolate (no alcohol filled ones please).
- Small sweets packet (e.g. Christmassy Haribo).
- Fancy sweet biscuits.
- Pringles or similar.
- Cheesy/savoury biscuits or similar.
- Dried fruit (e.g. apricots, figs etc).
- Tinned ham.
- Tinned tuna/salmon.
- Sweet pickles/chutney.
- Jam.
- Shower gel, hand soap or shampoo.

Thank you for any donations you can offer. The children are challenged to create a hamper that any family would feel loved and blessed to receive. If you have decorations, paper, tinsel to decorate the hamper these will be welcome as well.

## Christmas Tree Festival

It's that time of year again, where we will soon be decorating the tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church, Aspden. We welcome any handmade decorations that you would like to make together with your child! These could be made from paper, cardboard or any recycled materials you have. Our theme will be 'what brings us joy at Christmas time.'

Any handmade decorations can be handed to the Art room, the deadline is the 11<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you, Mrs Burches

## Food and Nutrition – all years

*Some very exciting news!* We are 1 of 200 schools across the UK receiving a delivery of rope-grown mussels. 2000kg of mussels have been donated by **Offshore Shellfish**, packed by **RTShellfish** and delivered by **dfds**group to lucky schools.

We will be cooking some tasty new dishes and learning about the health benefits of mussels. This has all been made possible by the **Fish Heroes Programme**, the **Fish Mongers Company** and the **Food Teachers Centre**. Fingers crossed that the harvest goes ahead tomorrow, so that we are able to cook and sample something fabulous next week!

### Year 5:

An excellent cookery session on Monday. Year 5 created their own pizzas. Some marvellous creations, I do hope they were tasty. This week the rest of the year group focussed on evaluating their products. It is very important to be able to talk about the good points and bad, skills learnt, H&S involved and where we could make some improvements next time we create this product. We will finish our evaluations next week.

### Year 6:

We looked at packaging design and what is important when it comes to the information found on boxes and packaging. We found that by studying one pizza box that it was only recommended to eat a quarter of it due to the high calorie count of the pizza. We discussed how much pizza we eat and some of the implications of overeating some of our nutrients. We compared the information from 4 boxes and designed our own box to include important information like ingredients, cooking instructions, the traffic light system, recyclability and allergen advice.

### Year 7:

A busy bakery of sorts this week. Our alternate sugar cupcakes smelled divine, but we wait with bated breath to find out if the flavour, texture and taste have been impacted by cutting sugar out of the recipe. This will be measured by colour, change in height and taste testing next week.

### Year 8:

Evaluations were completed on either our Curry or Stir Fry. A demo will take place next week for wonderfully festive gingerbread biscuits.

If you've managed to get a bargain on a new microwave during the Black Friday sales, please consider donating your old one to school. The microwave in Food is in desperate need of replacement and it would be most appreciated.

Please keep up with your H&S!  
Mrs van Wyk

## What is our snow procedure?

We are hoping this is pre-emptive, but we have attached our letter explaining snow procedure should we have heavy snow this winter along with a consent form link here to complete <https://forms.office.com/e/3e4m4xZhck>

If your child lives in Buntingford and is KS2, [Year 5 or Year 6] please be aware, we cannot release your child from school without a designated person to collect them. Please confirm the name of the designated person[s] permitted to collect your child from school. If your KS2 child has an older sibling in KS3, please indicate that you are happy for both of them to go home together.

If your child lives in Buntingford and is KS3 [Year 7 or Year 8] and you are happy for your child to be released from school, without adult supervision, please give permission for your child to walk home and confirm they have a key to get in. Please indicate if you wish your child to wait for your designated person[s] to collect them from school. *Please be aware we cannot release your child from school without written parental consent.* Buses maybe early if snow is forecast.

## Headlice

Please can you help us to limit the number of cases.

We have been made aware of cases of head lice in school. As you may be aware, head lice commonly occur amongst children and their presence does not mean that those affected are in any way dirty. However, head lice can cause distress and discomfort.

Head lice can only be caught from head-to-head contact. They live close to the scalp and are quick moving insects, slightly smaller than a matchhead. They lay eggs which are small, skin coloured and well camouflaged, glued to the hair close to the scalp. After the egg hatches, the empty eggshell or 'nit' stays glued to the hair and moves away from the scalp as the hair grows. The 'nits' are white and shiny and easier to see. They are harmless and can persist for weeks after the lice have been treated successfully. Lice are difficult to see on the hair as they are grey or brown. Only about one third of children with lice will complain of itching which develops some weeks after the hair becomes affected.

Fortunately, we can get rid of head lice quickly and conveniently using a medicated lotion or spray. Please see link to NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

To help us with the recent outbreak and to keep head lice under control you can take the following procedures: -

- Wet comb your child's hair twice a week, even if you do not suspect the presence of lice. Use a special detection comb available from your pharmacist.
- Check all members of the household and advise anyone who has been in contact with your child to check their hair.
- Regular brushing or combing is the best safeguard against lice.
- Keeping long hair tied back.

Thank you for any help you can give.



## Edwinstree School Association

### Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

Our Christmas jumper swap shop will be back again this year but organised slightly differently.

The Swap shop will be open for business on Tuesday 2nd December in the outdoor classroom between 3pm and 3.30pm. Simply bring in your old Christmas jumper on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and at 3pm make your way to the outdoor classroom to swap it for a 'new to you' one. School gates will open at the usual time and parents are then welcome to come to the swap shop as well.



T-shirts and tops are welcome, and you can bring as many items as you wish to swap. Please note you cannot buy the jumpers, only swaps are allowed so do not send any money with your child.

### NHS Parent / Carer Motor Development Information Sessions

Please find attached a flyer for the Motor Skills Development session for December 2025 which are running for parents and carers in Hertfordshire. these sessions run every month, and they will take place on Microsoft Teams.

### Families Feeling Safe Workshop

Please find a link below to universal workshops which are open to all parents and carers across Hertfordshire.

[Free workshops for Mums, Dads & Carers](#)

Mrs J. Gant – Headteacher  
[admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)