

Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of
England School



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS &
CARERS**

Week Ending: 29/03/2024.

Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Diary Dates:

School Day – 8:40am – 3:10pm	
15/04/24	Start of Summer term 08:40am.
16/04/24	Cultural Food Day – Change to School Lunch menu
22/04/24	Year 6 Foundation Evening in person.
23/04/24	Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo trip.
26/04/24	Year 8 Thorpe Park trip.
06/05/24	Bank Holiday.
13-16/05/24	Year 6 SATs Week.
20/05/24	Year 7 Foundation Evening in person.
21/05/24	Year 8 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow).
23/05/24	Cambridge University Careers talk – Day in the life of a university Student Year 7 & 8 (details to follow).
27-31/05/24	Half Term.
17/06/24	Year 8 Foundation Evening in person.
12/06/24	Year 7 Shakespeare's Globe trip (details to follow).
8/06/24	INSET Day.
11/07/24	County Transition Day.
16/07/24	Visit from Bishop of St Albans.
17/07/24	Year 5 Queens Park trip (details to follow).
19/07/24	End of Summer Term 1:20pm.
02/09/24	INSET DAY.
03/09/24	Year 5 Induction Day.
04/09/24	Autumn Term Begins Years 6-8.
16-18/09/24	Year 7 Residential – Essex Outdoors Bradwell.
28/10/24 – 01/11/24	Half Term.
06/12/24	Occasional Day.
20/12/24	End of Autumn Term 1:20pm.

What about the start of the new term?

We will look forward to seeing your child on the 15th of April. Please prepare them for a normal school day – just a reminder for the first week of term, on the days your child has PE, they can come to school wearing their kit.

Afterschool Enrichment clubs

At the start of next term there will be a two-week window to sign up for new clubs before they start on Monday 29th April.

What changes are being introduced to the students' toilets in the Summer?

The main block of student toilets will finally be completely refurbished in the summer. We will be providing students with 10 girls toilets, 10 boys toilets and 2 toilets which will be unisex options. All toilets will be enclosed floor to ceiling, which will maximise students' privacy.

The work will begin the week before the summer holidays, and we will ask the boys to use the gym and medical room toilets for this week to help us get ahead with the work.

School Dinners

Please find attached our summer menu for school dinners. The cost of a dinner will increase from £3.20 to £3.35. from 1st April.

Please log on to www.schoolgrid.co.uk to book your child's dinners.

Educational Visit payment deadlines

Y8 Thorpe Park - Friday 12th April 2024

Y5 Whipsnade - Friday 12th April 2024 **It is not too late to sign up for the trip.**

Y7 Residential Deposit - Friday 26th April 2024 (current Y6)

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

If you are a parent or family member who is willing to attend either the Thorpe Park or the Whipsnade trip, we would very much appreciate your help. By attending, you reduce the number of teachers we must take and reduce the cover experiences by children left at school. If you are willing to attend and support us, please email admni@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

The costs are incurred by the school, it is your calm presence that is required.

When will I have an opportunity to hear more information about the year 7 Residential trip in September?

We are planning to host an early evening talk about the residential early next half term. Mr McCarthy is our lead for this trip and on his return post Easter, we will confirm a meeting with parents, to let you know more about the opportunities available for their child.

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As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

IF I have a SEND need, who can I talk to in school and seek advice from?

Our SEND team is divided into different areas, these include:

Our **Sunrise room** – led by Mrs Bailey, where students who are at risk of school-based avoidance are nurtured. Our **Pupil power unit** led by Ms Arnold, who focuses on interventions for Pupils who need extra support in and out of the classroom and our **Wellbeing Hub** led by Ms Harris and supported by Ms Surrey, this is where the main interventions for well being take place.

Next term Mrs Carter returns from maternity leave, and she will be taking on the lead SEND enquiries alongside Mrs Gant while we wait for the return of Ms Company in September. Her specialism is Autism.

It is this team that leads the provision for SEND in the school. **If you have an enquiry, please use the SEND email address of – you will receive a reply from us, letting you know which member of the team is dealing with the enquiry.** We log and track all enquiries, so as not to lose anything, but if you don't here from us, please email again. Since Covid the demands for SEND nationally have peaked at a time when budgets are shrinking.

Caribbean Themed Menu – Tuesday 16th April - Revised date due to school closure

Our Dynamic Diversity student group have been working closely with our canteen to look at offering a diverse menu at least 3 times a year. This has come about as our Diversity days have seen students grow in interest and confidence with food from around the world.

Unfortunately, this change will cancel out any existing bookings for that day. Please log on to www.schoolgrid.co.uk to ensure your child's dinner is rebooked.

Half term merit winners

Congratulations to 6B who have won the merit challenge this half term. Mrs Brock and the form will decide when their non-uniform day will be after Easter.



Buntingford Swimming Pool

As I am sure you know, the Buntingford Ward Freman Swimming Pool closed in November, and we are now working really hard to get it up and running again. Currently, a business plan is being written and grants are being applied for.

I am organising a great big fundraiser to get the ball rolling with the grants as these organisations need to see that the community is behind the project and that the facility has the support of the local people. We will be having a "Dance the Decades" evening. The details are on the flyer that is attached to this newsletter. For more information or to buy your tickets, please follow the link below.

[Buy tickets – Dance the Decades – Freman College, Sat 27 Apr 2024 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM \(tickettailor.com\)](https://www.tickettailor.com)

Everyone is welcome, so please spread the message! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by using the link above. Thank you, Mrs Burt.



Mental Health Support Teams
Parent Workshops

Year 6 SATs – How Parents can support with Exam Stress Workshop at Edwinstree

The parent exam stress workshop will be at 9.00am on 19th April. The Mental Health Support Team will be coming in to talk to parents about how to support their child throughout the SATs and answer any questions.

Year 6 SATs – Student Exam Stress Workshop assembly

Pupil exam stress workshop will be on Friday 26th April pupils will be given strategies to help prepare them for the SATs.

Parent Sleep Workshop- Are you struggling to support your child with healthy sleep patterns? This is a growing concern for Parents nationally, come and listen to the experts help to advise about what can make a difference.

3rd May at 9am

Flyer attached.

If you would like to attend the parent workshops, please email a.harris@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to book your place.

Mrs J. Gant – Headteacher
admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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