



Diary Dates

School Day – 8:40am – 3:05pm	
03/07/23	Year 6 Felixstowe Trip
04/07/23	Sports Day
05 & 07/07/23	Strike Action
07/07/23	Year 8 Essex Outdoors Harlow trip and Camp Out in school.
11/07/23	Reserve Sports Day
12/07/23	Fullness Day
13/07/23	County Transition Day
19/07/23	Evening School Production - The Island that Rocks
21/07/23	End of Summer Term 1.20pm
01-04/09/23	INSET Days
05/09/23	Year 5 induction Day
06/09/23	Autumn Term Begins for all Years
18-20/09/23	Year 7 Essex Outdoors Bradwell – Educational Visit

What is happening on strike days (5th and 7th of July)?

Edwinstree will be closed on the 5th of July to all students. This link takes you to the distance learning that your child can access on the day.

www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk/learning/distance-learning.aspx.

We are also actively encouraging students to log on to Satchel One, where they will find posted teams links to live lessons on the day, where staff are not striking and in school. We are sorry, we are unable to publish these in advance. Where there are no live lessons, they are able to use the distance learning to complete topics that they are working on in each of their subjects.

On Friday 7th July, Year 8 will be in school to take part in their trip and camping activity. We are still looking for parents who are able to support the 7th of July trip to Harlow, if you are able to support please let us know by emailing admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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What about vulnerable and key workers?

With expected numbers of teachers striking we do not have a facility for significant numbers of vulnerable and/or key workers children. Next week Ms Marler will be phoning our most vulnerable to discuss support. If you are a key worker that has no capacity whatsoever to support your child during the closure – please email Ms Marler admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and we will look to see if we can support, but this support is extremely limited. We may still say we can't support but we will try. Please only ask if you really have no other option.

Please note, if you do require support it will involve your child working on distance learning in the computer suite. Not covered lessons.

If my child has free school meals what happens?

We will prepare packed lunches for those students who have free school meals and you will be able to collect these lunches from 12pm onwards.

To avoid waste we would really appreciate it if you emailed admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk by Monday morning 9.00am if you wish to take up this offer.

Form Movement Year 6 into Year 7

As Year 6 students move into Year 7 we discuss the opportunity to mix the students as they begin a new key stage. The process would usually start shortly after SATs.

As with any change I have taken time to ensure we make the right choice. This has caused the miscommunication that we will not be mixing the students next year. I have corrected this with the students and have given them the opportunity to select three students they work well with to inform the choices I make moving forward.

I will endeavour to secure as many choices as possible, but where it is not possible to secure all choices, I will assure at least one choice. In the event this is not possible, I will inform any child affected before the forms are given out. Thank you, Mr. Kelly

Fun Swims

Please give consent on the link below for your child to attend.

Quin House win KS2 – Tuesday 11th July

<https://forms.office.com/e/h08G2tweDW>

Please note that for the fun swim, we are capped at 40 students for health and safety and therefore will be based on a first come/first served basis. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to make calls home on the day, therefore, any forgotten swimwear means your child will be unable to attend.

Year 6 SATs

Year 6 parents, please could you complete this short questionnaire regarding the support provided by the school during the SATs process. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Link to questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=BTrlzduqZ0-r9r2eTDmg8F8RSwokmeRDhMnaAtKJ1V1UM1ZPWDZBQUFDNEVUR1VJR0gzNjQ2MkEzNS4u&sharetoken=dIIIAkrlVknIpgbNFoOO>

Year 8 Science Consultations

Mrs Gravelle will be offering appointment times if anyone wishes to speak to her about Science before Year 8 go up to Freman, we are aware this was missed earlier in the year. This will be from 3.30-5.00pm on Thursday the 6th of July and Thursday the 13th of July using Schoolcloud. We will email once appointment slots are open.

Choir Club

We regret to inform you that Tuesday's afterschool Choir Club will be cancelled until the end of Term.

Gardening Club

Thank you very much to all the gardeners who have helped so well over the past term. This Tuesday coming will be our last session. We have had a fabulous time creating new beds, planting and experiencing what a kitchen garden is all about. The donations received have all been put to use and we managed to raise some more money for more equipment and soil to complete our large bed.

Food and Nutrition:

A sincere apology from me for the two cancelled practical's - it is not something I do lightly as putting our skills into practice is what it is all about!

Year 5: Well done for creating some fabulously fruity salads. The colours and range of vitamins and minerals will most definitely keep you in tip-top condition.

Year 6: I am more than convinced that there are a number of raw broccoli converts! Well done on mastering the grill and honing your cutting skills.

Year 7: I doubt that many of us will ever make sweet potato cupcakes ever again. The food science experiment conclusions have definitely shown that sugar and honey are the best when it comes to making cakes.

Year 8: Please don't forget to bring in your Gingerbread ingredients, correct shoes and clean nails for your last practical.

Key events happening as we lead up to the end of term:

Year 6 Felixstowe trip on Monday 3rd July 2023

Due to the traffic works on our journey, it has been taking longer to get to Felixstowe so we have informed the students that they are able to bring their mobile phones to use on the bus for the journey. We will actively encourage them to leave their phones on the bus for the day, but if they chose to take them it will be at their own risk, and the school will not be liable for loss and or damage. Please check the weather forecast and make sure they come in appropriate clothing, rain or shine they will be outside for a good period of the day.

Students have also asked to wear non-uniform and as on previous visits Felixstowe has not been busy, we are happy to support this.

Students can bring a packed lunch. Students can have fun crabbing, fishing, and enjoy the large park area. Activities you may wish to pay for – a small fairground with rides and a pier with all the slot machines you would expect from a seaside beach area. Opportunities to buy ice cream, candy floss and traditional seaside food etc.

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Please note students do not need money to enjoy the trip, there are enough activities for them to do. But if you are providing them with some, please no more than £20.

Sports Day 4th July 2023

We are looking forward to hosting our sports day next Tuesday, attached to this newsletter is a letter from our PE dept. detailing the timings and events of the day, along with a map of the events. Following discussions as a department, we would like to invite spectators from 11:45am to give you the opportunity to watch your child compete, should they not wish to compete in our afternoon relays. Thank you, PE Dept.

Year 8 Camp Out – 7th July 2023

What if my child is planning to camp out on the field?

If your child is planning to camp out, you are welcome to set up your tent on Friday any time after 5.30pm. Students are welcome to arrive from 7pm for the evening event. Pick up time the next day is 8am at reception. More details to follow early next week.

Safeguarding talks with outside agencies

To prepare students for the long Summer – In the last weeks of term we have invited various outside agencies to come and talk to KS3 on the following topics:

- Knife crime (Date to be confirmed)
- **County lines – 19th July 2023 for KS3**
- Cyber safety (Date to be confirmed)

Apart from County lines we have experienced a student or two falling foul of these issues and we think it is important to provide this education prior to our Year 8's leaving.

Fullness day – Wednesday 12th July

Students will be continuing to look at how we can as a school and a community, make our lives better whilst maintaining and improving the environment. Before Christmas our day revolved around reducing energy, for this day the students voiced they would like to consider wildlife and habitats and how we look after them. The key theme is always that we can all do a little something to make a difference. Students will be in normal lessons but will be able to volunteer for one of the free talks and

activities available on the day. Here is a list of some of the talks they have on offer:

- River Rib talk and action on looking after our local river
- Hedgehog Friendly garden talk and explore
- Food and Farming
- Sustainability in Action
- RSPB Fowlmere
- Sustainability in the High St
- How does a local horse charity, support students to learn about healing through horses?
- Build a bug palace
- Honey Bees and their habitats
- Wild flower restoration and support work
- School clean up Eco warriors of the future
- Growing our own food and how we can use it.
- How do we support our pond?

The 'Bug Hotel' building session will be using a range of scrap materials for construction. Do you have any of the following materials at home (that would otherwise be thrown away!) that you would be kind enough to donate?

- Bamboo canes (with holes through the centre)
- Old roof tiles
- Terracotta pots
- Stones/pebbles of varying sizes
- Twigs or loose bark
- Chicken wire
- Bricks or building bricks (with holes running through them)
- Pine cones
- Wooden pallets
- Small planks of wood
- Sticks

In the evening our eco warriors will be presenting to parents and Buntingford dignitaries on what they have learnt about what we can do to protect our local wildlife habitats.

See the advertisement below:

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INVITATION

to

Edwinstree Middle School's

Intergenerational Conversation Café – 12th July 2023

(18.30 to 20.30pm)

On this Collapsed Curriculum Day, we are asking our students one of the Key Questions of our time: ***“How can I make a difference to make our local area more sustainable?”***

We are taking groups of students to learn from local farmers, nature reserve wardens, the local chalk stream society and many other sustainability activists so that by the end of the day, hopefully they will have come up with some good answers.

To assess their answers, and to add some of their own, we are hosting, in partnership with Peace Child International, an “Intergenerational Conversation Café” – which allows you to have serious conversations with your children about the most effective answers to this crucial question.

Transition Day Thursday 13th July.

Year 8 Students will have received information on the specifics of transition day, please make sure your child attends in our uniform, if it is hot this will be PE kit and we will confirm this with you nearer the time. Your child will go straight to Freman for the day.

Year 5, 6 and 7 will have a normal day. Current Year 4 Students starting at Edwinstree in September have been sent a letter explaining the day and will arrive through reception a little later and finish a little earlier.

School Production - The Island that Rocks

The school production will take place on the 19th of July for one night only. More information to follow next week.

End of term walk to a local Church

The last day of term will involve a trip to a local church hopefully Wyddial. If you have good walking shoes and are willing please help us by volunteering to get the students there and back safely, please can you email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

How is our SEND provision changing next year?

We will be inviting parents with children that have an ECHP and/or with current LSA support in class, to a meeting to review our SEND provision and put a plan in place for the first half term. Letters will go out early next week. As part of this plan we will be talking to you about Mrs Carter's maternity leave and who we are replacing her with.

SchoolGrid

Please ensure your SchoolGrid account for Year 8's is in credit/cleared prior to the end of term.



ESA

We will be at Sports Day on Tuesday 4th July selling scones (with clotted cream and jam of course), ice lollies (50p) and cold cans of drinks (£1). We would really appreciate parents pre-ordering via our sum up shop, but we can take cash or card payment on the day. edwinstree-school-association.sumupstore.com

Area SEND Inspection

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are visiting Hertfordshire, as part of an inspection. They will be looking at arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

They would like to hear your views about the support that your child receives. You can provide your views by completing an online survey at the following link:

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10266964>

This survey is for parents/carers of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25. Your views are important and will help inspectors understand your child's experience of the SEND arrangements within your area. The survey will close at 9am on Tuesday 4 July 2023.

The survey is voluntary, and you do not have to take part. The responses will complement the evidence collected by inspectors during the inspection. If you complete this survey, you consent to the transfer of your information from SmartSurvey to Ofsted.

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Holiday Activity Programme (HAP)

HCC are pleased to inform you that bookings are now open for Summer 2023 HAP! Services for Young People are offering holiday activities throughout the summer at:

- Herts Young Mariners Base, 231 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 9AJ
- Waltham Cross Young People's Centre, Stanhope Road, Waltham Cross EN8 7DJ
- Bishop's Stortford Young People's Centre, 14 Northgate End, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2EU
- Ware Young People's Centre, Marsh Lane, Ware SG12 9QB
- Hatfield Young People's Centre, Breaks Manor, Link Drive, Hatfield, AL10 8TP
- Welwyn Garden City Young People's Centre, Oaklands College, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6AH

Priority is for young people who are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) however we are able to offer places to families experiencing particular hardship. Young people can meet other young people and get involved with a range of fun activities to help with a healthy lifestyle including sports, arts and games. A Free and healthy meal will be provided at each session.

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