



Edwinstree Term dates:

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

Homework Timetable: Week commencing 07/10/204 B

Diary Dates:

10/10/24	Edwinstree Open Evening 5.45pm-8.15pm Headteacher speaks at 6.15pm
16/10/24	Lord Lieutenant visit to Year 7
28/10/24 – 01/11/24	Half Term.
06/11/24	Year 5 Duxford trip
18/11/24	6A/6C Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
19/11/24	6B/6D Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
21/11/24	5C/5D Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
22/11/24	5A/5B Greek Workshop (£14.00 per student)
05/12/24	Fullness Day – Mental Health/Wellbeing more details to follow
06/12/24	Occasional Day.
20/12/24	End of Term 1:20pm.
06/01/25	INSET Day
13/01/25	Year 8 HPV Vaccination
14/01/25	7A & 7C - Online Academic Review
16/01/25	5A & 5D - Online Academic Review
21/01/25	7B, 7D, 5B - Online Academic Review
23/01/25	5C - Online Academic Review / Year 8 In Person Foundation Evening
03-06/02/25	Year 6 Mock SATs
25/02/25	6A & 6D - Online Academic Review
04/03/25	6B & 6C - Online Academic Review
10/03/25	6A Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6B Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
11/03/25	6C Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 1) 6D Parent meeting to look at SATs papers (Period 2)
20/03/25	Year 7 In Person Foundation Evening
04/03/25	End of Term 1:20pm.
22/04/25	Start of Term
05/05/25	Bank Holiday
08/05/25	Year 6 In Person Foundation Evening
12-15/05/25	Year 6 SATs
26-30/05/25	Half Term
05/06/25	Year 5 In Person Foundation Evening
27/06/25	INSET Day
10/07/25	Transition Day Parent Transition Evening 5-6pm
18/07/25	End of Term 1:20pm.

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How can we help to support our community's mental health?

We have noticed since Covid that the level of anxiety within our community, our staff, Parents and students has increased substantially. Our school improvement plan is focusing on how we can support all our community, including our Parents and Staff to manage this.

Over the last four years, life skills, tutor time and COWO have been designed to support students and staff to be open about their wellbeing and to seek support if they need to. By the end of year 8 students should have a series of tools to help them notice and manage their emotional wellbeing.

On November 10th, as part of our strategy to support our wider community, all parents will be invited to attend a session on wellbeing with their child in school. You will together be able to select which session you would like to attend.

Our aim this year is to remove the remaining taboo around poor mental health, and support families to notice and seek support where they need it. This has certainly benefited the student population and we think it can help to support others in our community.

Year 5 Parent Sessions

We are running a Year 5 parent drop-in session on Monday 14th October from 9.00am. Year 5 Parents can meet the mental health support team and ask any questions about the support that is available within school.

How will I know the progress my child is making each term?

As well as the Core Parents evening online, and the Foundation open evenings in school, you will also be able to see your child's exercise books each half-term, they will be sent home the week before half term for you to view. Can we please ask that you make sure they are returned once you have had a look at what they are doing in class and how they are making progress. If you have any query or concern once you have looked at the books, please do not hesitate to contact the admin team with the subject you would like to discuss, and the teacher will get back to you.

What have we been considering as a Church of England school?

Students have been thinking about what spirituality is and why it might be important in our lives. They have thought about Alan Rickett's the Lead for Education in the Church of England who believes that spirituality is to know who you are as an individual, who you are among others and in relationship to nature and what you think about the beyond.

The first value they have begun to explore is *Koinonia*, people who are spiritually connected. Students have considered whether we can learn from how trees connect and support each other in forests through their roots, how our oldest ancestors celebrated nature, and considered stone henge and the Autumn Equinox. We are thinking what connects us to others, and what connects us to nature?

Holidays in term time

Please note that we are unable to authorise any term time holidays. The guidance and process for issuing fixed penalty fines for taking holidays during term time has significantly changed this academic year. Please read the attachment "Parent Guide to Penalty Notices for School Attendance" for all the information.

What is expected of me if my child is a guide for Open Evening?

Open evening will take place on 10th October, you will have received a letter via Parentmail if your child has volunteered to be a tour guide or a subject helper. All students need to be dropped off at school at 6.30 via the bottom gate. If they are a tour guide, they will be asked to meet Ms Earnshaw in the Year 6 area. If they have signed up to volunteer in a subject area, they should straight to their allocated classroom. If you are collecting your child at the end of the evening, please note Tour Guides are to be collected from the hall, and subject helpers from the bottom gate area. Please return the linked form giving permission for your child to attend and letting us know whether you are collecting, or your child is going home unaccompanied.

School Attendance

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing, and wider development.

We know that sometimes students cannot come to school because they are too unwell, but sometimes parents are unsure whether to send their child into school or not. The NHS has produced guidance "Is my child too ill for school?" which provides medical advice for a range of common illnesses and is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness. Please see the attachment to this newsletter.

What we expect parents to do:

- Telephone or email the office by 8:30am every day of your child's absence (unless you have already notified us that they will be absent for a specific number of days.)
- Tell the school in advance about any medical appointments.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school refer to the NHS guidance.
- If you or your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, please contact us so we can help.

What we will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Contact home to discuss attendance when necessary.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence and have any worries, then we may make a welfare home visit.

School uniform

We are just sending a reminder about the uniform expectations we have at Edwinstree. As a pastoral team, we will be doing some uniform 'reminders' over the next couple of weeks.

Uniform expectations are below:

- White polo shirt Dark navy sweatshirt with logo available at [Edwinstree Middle School \(pbuniform-online.co.uk\)](http://EdwinstreeMiddleSchool.pbuniform-online.co.uk)
- Charcoal grey/black trousers (traditional style - not jeans) or grey/black knee length shorts.
- Black/navy skirt
- Dark grey/black socks
- Shoes or plain black leather trainers, no obvious logos or colours, must be of a sensible and safe design.

We are noticing an increase in jewellery, particularly hooped earrings. A reminder that our expectations are a single set of stud earrings which are taken out for PE.

PE kit, as well as more detail, can be found on our website: [UNIFORM sept 2024.pdf \(edwinstree.herts.sch.uk\)](http://UNIFORMsept2024.pdf(edwinstree.herts.sch.uk))

Thank you for your support. If you have any queries or problems, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

School Photographs

The school photographer is booked for Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

Sibling photos will take place first followed by individual.

Please may we ask that your child comes in with clean uniform wearing their Edwinstree School sweatshirt and hair has been styled if necessary.

Food and Nutrition

Welcome back to another bumper few months of cooking at Edwinstree. Your child will know if they are currently in *Food and Nutrition* or in *D&T*.

Please keep in mind all the health and safety requirements as mentioned to pupils in the lessons as well as in the letter you will receive next week with regards to ingredient requirements until February. Incorrect uniform will result in a no cook lesson during which theory work will be supplied.

A reminder that:

- All shoes must be polishable in design and protect the foot from spills and liquid splashes - fabric trainers and astros are not suitable.
- All nails must be free from polish, false, acrylic and gel embellishments.
- Hair must be tied up and in the case of a long fringe, clipped out of the way. For boys with long fringes, a 'Jack Grealish' headband is suitable.

If your child is absent for a demonstration lesson, they will be required to complete a theory lesson instead. This is due to health, safety and hygiene information passed on during demonstration lessons.

YEAR 7 Food and Nutrition

You have your first practical next week. Remember if you do not have bread making ingredients at home, the prepackaged bread mixes are the best and cheapest alternative.

If you have any problems in obtaining ingredients, please do get in touch as soon as possible.

Mrs van Wyk

Medicated sweets

Children should not have cough/throat sweets in school. We cannot monitor how many they are taking within the day and although the risk of adverse effects is relatively low, they are likely to have an upset tummy when taking too many. They are also a choking hazard as they are a boiled sweet. Any medication held in the school office should be prescribed by a doctor. When a child is suffering from sore throat, we would advise pain relief before school and if needed a parent can come and give another dose later in the day.



Hormead First School Vacancy

Hormead have an exciting job opportunity for a Caretaker for 4-6 hours a day to start asap.

They are also looking for a Learning Support Assistant (mornings only) to work one to one with a child with Special Needs.

Both jobs are advertised on the Teach in Herts website <https://www.teachinherts.com>

Or you can contact the school on 01763 289201

Mrs J Gant – Headteacher

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