



Edwinstree Middle School

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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.

Edwinstree would like to wish you a 'Happy New Year!' So what have we been up to?

In November the school was busy thinking about a variety of acts of 'service' and we explored what this Christian service meant to us as individuals and as a community and why it is important in our lives. Our Year 8 Leaders were challenged to a House Competition, to come up with a lead service involving all year groups, that lasted a month and made a difference to the lives of everyone at the school. The organisation, leadership skills and grit that our Year 8 students showed in corralling the school into action was fantastic. We saw, students daily supporting the youngest members of our community to leave school safely and a daily litter picking campaign that left us sparkling! A games club was manned by our Year 8 leaders for all the students to use each break time and a decorating team who created a beautiful 'Edwin' tree mural, painted on our corridor wall, where students queue for lunch and often get bored waiting!

Year 7 also had an opportunity to practise their leadership skills. They were challenged to organise a week of events to raise money for Action Aid. Two of the students were commissioned to write the article below as part of their leadership challenge. Let me leave to them, to explain how the week went....

Action Aid at Edwinstree Middle School 2017

Edwinstree Middle School hosted activities to raise money for Action Aid from Monday 27th – Thursday 30th November 2017. Some Year 7s organised a 'Cake Bake Off', a cake sale, a non-uniform day and a fete with stalls run by the whole of Year 7. There were seventeen leaders including Mr Galanides. They stayed in many lunchtimes to organise all the events and Edwinstree thanks them for doing a wonderful job. The main leaders were Sophie and Bear, however, they did not do all the work, the other leaders were Luke, Archie, Benji, Hattie, Finley, Luca, Emiley, Oscar, Joseph, Martin and Connall. All the leaders learnt the meaning of leadership and that they should always do things on time! They felt pride at what they had done and we hope they all become great leaders in the future.



On Monday a 'Cake Bake off' was held, about thirty students entered, but after the leaders judged the cakes at lunch time, a clear winner was found – Sophie Cook! Her 'malteser' Christmas pudding cake was rated amazing by all the leaders. On Tuesday break time the leaders sold cakes at a cake sale, the queues were humungous. We thank all the Year 7s who brought cakes in. Break time was extended from fifteen to twenty five minutes, so we could sell all the cakes to raise money. However, because there were so many cakes, we had smaller cake sales on Tuesday and Wednesday. We had a non-uniform day on Thursday charging £2 from each child. At lunch, the Year 7s had stalls and we raised lots more money. They were truly great and everyone enjoyed themselves, except the teachers in the stocks!

We are now raising all this money for two girls living in India. Seema and Susimita and we raised a total of £1,514.82. We thank everyone for all the money they raised and especially Amber, thank you for bringing in your generous donation of nearly £50! We think the highlights of the week were the amount of money we raised and the amount of fun we had. The school hopes to continue raising money in the years to come.

With all this going on in November, we still found time to stop and complete a Remembrance service. Mrs Chipperfield's class reminded us of why it is important, and shared their stories of family members who had been in WW1 and WW2. We thought long and hard about the poem 'For the Fallen' by Lawrence Binyen *"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."*

We also squeezed in time to remind ourselves of the importance of Road Safety:

As part of our Road Safety Campaign, Gist Limited visited Edwinstree to deliver a road safety presentation on how to stay safe. The presentation was informative for students, and helped them understand the risks and dangers from the lorry driver's perspective, and how dark clothing made them invisible to drivers. Students are now encouraged to wear bright colour coats during the winter months. They also kindly donated some high visibility vests. Watch out as you may see us wearing them out and about in the park carrying out community service.



In December, as the nights turned dark and the weather cold, the heat and warmth from Edwinstree Advent celebrations kept us going. Thank goodness for the world's largest chocolate calendar that goes up during advent in our decorated hall. Our expressive arts students from all year groups were out supporting the community and bringing a little cheer, here are some of the events we participated in:

'Lights of Love' Ceremony

Edwinstree Choir were delighted to perform at the 'Lights of Love' Ceremony, singing with the Mustard Seed Singers. The service provides a chance for our supporters to reflect on memories and also help raise vital funds, during the eight ceremonies around £25,000 was raised.



On Friday 15th December, the choirs and orchestras from Edwinstree Middle School and Freman College, joined forces to present a musical concert at St Mary's Church in Aspenden. The church was packed, the venue was very atmospheric and spiritual. Many of those who attended commented it was their first real feeling of Christmas.

Peace Child at Edwinstree

We were delighted to present Peace Child, a new version of the famous story of children bringing peace and prosperity to our world, written and directed by David Woollcome, with the help of the children of the cast. Songs and lyrics by David Gordon, were inspired by the Peace Book by Bernard S Benson. Following a successful performance, on the 10th December, and at the request of dignitaries of the Peace Child charity, an additional afternoon performance was held. The students were spectacular.



Finally, as we were just on the point of collapse with all the above, we had time to finish our term with a Christmas Service at St Mary's Church Aspenden

On a cold and crisp last day of term, the whole school community walked across the fields to St Mary's Church in Aspenden, for the Christmas service. Students were rewarded with a hot chocolate drink outside St Peter's Church in the High Street, compliments of Edwinstree School Association. Phew! Just thinking about it makes us feel exhausted. Still here we go with the new year!

