



NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 16/11/2018

Diary Dates:

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| 20/11/18 | Y6 Height & Weight |
| 20/11/18 | Sounds of French for Y7/Y8 Parents 7pm – 8pm |
| 22/11/18 | Year 5 Influenza (Flu) Immunisation |
| 22/11/18 | Ayesha Hazarika visits Y7/Y8 |
| 26/11/18 | 7C & 7R Parents' Evening 3:30pm-7:30pm |
| 27/11/18 | ECP ONLINE SAFETY DAY |
| 27/11/18 | Non-uniform day |
| 28/11/18 | 7F & 7S Parents' Evening 3:30pm-7:30pm |
| 30/11/18 | Image Musical Theatre KS2 |
| 30/11/18 | Light of Love Service at 6pm |
| 3/12/18 | 7C & 7S Visit Museum of London |
| 3/12/18 | Christmas Decorations afternoon |
| 7/12/18 | Occasional day – School closed |
| 12/12/18 | Joint Concert at Edwinstree 7pm |
| 14/12/18 | Y5/Y6 Charity Disco 6pm-8pm |
| 14/12/18 | Christmas Jumper Day |
| 17/12/18 | Deadline for OAP Christmas Boxes of Joy |
| 17/12/18 | 7R & 7F Visit Museum of London |
| 20/12/18 | Big Christmas Knit |
| 21/12/18 | Service at St Mary's Church Aspenden |
| 21/12/18 | End of term 2:30pm finish |
| 7/1/19 | Spring Term |
| 4/2/19 | Young Voices at the O2 |
| 13/5/19 | SATS Week for Year 6 |

Following our Section 5, two day inspection in October, we are pleased to attach our Ofsted Report. A hard copy of the report will be available from our main office from Monday. Accompanying the report is a letter from the Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body.

What are our first impressions of the report?
We are a “Good” school

This is a very unusual inspection report, as it is very rare to receive an **overall judgement** of ‘**Good**’ for the whole school, including ‘**good**’ for all other measures; leadership, behaviour, teaching and learning, but with a ‘Requiring Improvement’ judgement for our outcomes (our SATs result in Maths). How the inspector could reach this judgment is explained in the summary statement within the key findings, which identified; “*Where outcomes are not good it is because currently strong teaching has not had time to fully compensate for previous teaching*”.

I am also really pleased to see that the beautiful Christian values within the school have been identified as creating the “*school’s positive ethos which effectively... shape a caring and inclusive school*”.

We are all very proud of our students, your children, who “*demonstrate positive attitudes to their learning... and work hard and want to achieve well.*”

Teaching and learning is identified as having “*a positive impact on learning*” resulting in students “*making strong progress in wide range of subjects.*”

As both Headteacher and parent, it was great to feel proud of the school that I work in and that my daughter attends. However, just like our Chair said, ‘we hope you now trust us that this is not a complacent school, and this community and it’s students deserve an outstanding middle school, so on we continue. As before, we will publish our action plan to address the two issues identified as areas for improvement and offer Parents/Carers the opportunity to meet to discuss the way forward. Both publication and a meeting time will take place prior to Christmas.

In the meantime we hope you forgive us for our small WHOOP ! of celebration before ploughing onwards! Thank you for all your support; we could not have done this without your faith and commitment.

I do apologise for the short notice with regard to Children in Need. Fortunately, I had two very helpful Year 6 students had downloaded the fund raising pack and reminded us all of its importance. Thank you!

Keeping Children Safe - Internet Training

Having attended the safeguarding training at Hertfordshire Development Centre last week, I became alert to the increased risks and ever changing world of online safety and I wish to support all stake holders in staying up to date and aware of these risks. It has been over a year since our last parent support session and having attended a really effective training session, I have invited ECP Limited to the school to take part in an hour session with each year group, a training session with staff and an online safety session for students. The date set for the training and parent session is **Tuesday 27th November 2018**. In order to fund this training we will hold a non-uniform day and ask you to contribute £2 to support this event. Letters will be out next week inviting parents to sign up for the training event, first come first served. The link to the web site is www.ecplimited.com
Thank you for your support.

*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.*

Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisory Assistant for one hour a day during the lunchtime session. Please contact Mrs P Cox the School Business Manager for further details on 01763-271446 or email :

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Music

Please note there will be no brass lessons or brass club for the next two weeks. The lessons and club will re-commence in the first week of December. Lessons missed this term will be made up.

Paint a Poppy Challenge

Ms Chipperfield and our Art club entered the Royal British Legion Poppy competition and achieved second place in the national competition to create the best 100 year poppy display!

YEHHH! The judges thought the students showed fantastic creativity when developing their poppy display. They praised how each painted poppy decorated the school hall and gave the appearance of poppies 'falling' down the walls in remembrance. Top marks for a wide range of techniques used to create the paintings, too! The school won a prize of £100 worth of art materials. Students who took part will also receive a certificate – it's another great way to let them know how impressive their entry was! Just to let you know that our poppy display photos can now be seen on the SAA website.

www.saa.co.uk/school-poppy

Creative Writing Competition 2018

Before half term, Year 8 worked very hard writing their own mystery stories. Some students decided to enter the Creative Writing Competition, which was run by St Mary's Senior School, Cambridge. As the theme this year was mystery and detective stories, it tied in perfectly with the work we had been doing in lessons. We were very excited to be invited to the Presentation Evening in Cambridge on Thursday 8th November, and although we did not have a winner, we enjoyed being part of the celebrations. We also enjoyed listening to a talk from author Julia Golding, who gave some tips on how to get inspiration for a story. All those who entered received a certificate, and those who attended the Presentation Evening received a goody bag, including a free book! We look forward to entering the competition next year!

Healthy Snacks

Our Sports Premium Governors met Herts Catering this week to challenge the company on behalf of Parents with regard to how healthy the

snacks at break were on offer. Your and our concern lies in the fact that there seems to be a significant emphasis on carbohydrates. We have agreed to review our menus and to come away from the National guidance, in order to support a broader range of snacks such as flapjacks and muffins. More information to follow.

As part of our initiative to improve the food offer at school, it has come to our attention that a growing number of students are bringing in some very unhealthy snacks to school. We understand that the majority of these items are being purchased on the way to school without your knowledge. Whilst we appreciate that you cannot monitor what your child is bringing to school as their snack, we would appreciate if you could speak with them about the importance of healthy eating and we will deliver the same messages here at school.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Ofsted Report

Letter from the Governing Body

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