



**Diary Dates**

7/9/20	<b>School starts for all students entry times</b> <b>Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:30pm</b> <b>Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:25pm</b> <b>Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:20pm</b> <b>Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:15pm</b>
17/9/20	<b>Y5 - Meet the Tutor – We will let you know how to facilitate this without you entering the school!</b>

Our newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with what is happening, alert you in advance of forthcoming events and share our thinking and strategies as we continue to move the school forward. We encourage you to keep up to date with us, by taking a moment to read our weekly Newsletter, also available on our website.

**Attendance**

Please remember to inform us **every day** that your child is absent from school. Please use the dedicated email address: [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) or you can leave a phone message after 8:30am. Please do not use Parentmail, School Gateway or any other email addresses, as these are not routinely checked first thing. Thank you for your co-operation. Do remember that the Government expects students to return to school, with only the odd exception for those that are shielding and have agreement from their medical team that this is appropriate.

**What if your child is displaying a COVID-19 symptom?**

Please notify us if your child has a high temperature, a persistent cough and or a loss of taste and smell. We will notify you immediately if your child shows any of the symptoms at school. If this occurs, then we are guided that your child must self-isolate and you must seek a test ASAP, inform us when you have booked the test and of the results. Please be aware that while we await the test results, the school will continue as normal, but if a child or adult test positive, we will seek advice from Public Health for further guidance.

**What is the aim of the Government and the school?**

We are all aware that COVID has not gone away but by keeping children in their classes wherever possible and in their year groups, we are looking to reduce the potential to lockdown the whole school. In order to support this strategy, we are

managing students at lunch and break time, so that from their entry into school to exit, they are supervised and encouraged to social distance. Please help us but making sure you adhere to the start and finish times and that you have agreed with friends and family their social bubble, so students get home safely without mixing year groups (of course siblings don't count). It was really clear from Year 5 parents and students today, that these conversations had taken place and students knew what to do. Thank you.

**Will the end of the day stay at this time?**

We want to thank you and to acknowledge that we are fully aware what a difficult ask this has been. Our plan is to secure the whole school return as safely as possible and then to explore all options to: a) return to a full curriculum and b) to increase the length of the school day. We will keep you informed of our thinking and would value your opinions and ideas.

**What is the curriculum damage?**

As outlined in the Summer Term, one of the greatest strengths of a middle school is the wide and diverse curriculum and the ability for students to explore and engage in subject rooms with specialist teachers. Currently this curriculum supports the Core learning of Maths and English but does not meet the full entitlement of all subjects in each year group. Please see the attached Timetable. Times are broken into AM and PM slots which operate from the start of the day until 11:30am for AM session and 11:30pm to the end of the day for PM session. The AM also includes a welcome and settling activity in the morning and PM their Collective Worship [COWO]. While in total students are down 15 minutes on their normal lesson time to the end of the day, they are not travelling to and from each lesson, which should account for this drop in time. We will again monitor this closely. While this damage is tolerated within the guidance and can be offset slightly, once students have settled by online learning as part of their homework programme, it will need to adapt and broaden. Again we will be talking to you about how we do this.

**Do students have a tutor?**

Currently students have a team of teachers who work with them within the week and they are managed and supported by this team. If you have a query or concern about your child and you are not already supported by the SEND, Learning Zone and or PP team, then an email to the HOY is the best form of communication. Our HOY emails are as follows:

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

[hoy5@edwintree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy5@edwintree.herts.sch.uk)  
[hoy6@edwintree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy6@edwintree.herts.sch.uk)  
[hoy7@edwintree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy7@edwintree.herts.sch.uk)  
[hoy8@edwintree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hoy8@edwintree.herts.sch.uk)

### **What about homework?**

Next week KS3 students will be given homework for their Core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Languages, KS2 will have English Maths and Languages. We will send out letters next week to confirm passwords and access to SMHW for Year 5 and reminder letters if you need one for the other year groups. After two weeks, all homework will be posted via 'Show my Homework', instructions to follow shortly. Hard copies will be available from the school office.

### **What is happening with School Meals?**

We apologise that initially we planned for Herts catering to offer packed lunches for those other than FSM but for the first half term this has not proved possible. Children who have FSM continue to be given lunch and this is example of their choices for next week.

### **Menu for students entitled for Free School Meals**

Mon 7/9/20	Ham or Cheese Baguette
Tue 8/9/20	Tuna Mayo or Cheese Wrap
Wed 9/9/20	Chicken Mayo & Sweetcorn or Veggie Burger roll
Thu 10/9/20	Pork Sausage Roll or Cheese & Tomato puff
Fri 11/9/20	Pizza Roll or Sausage Roll

### **After half term we intend to bring back the choice of a school meal.**

**Please be aware we have students in school with severe nut allergies, please refrain from using nuts in a packed lunch**

**What do they need to bring into school?** Covid guidelines ask us to limit the number of items that come in and out of school daily, therefore your child only requires a water bottle a small bag for their [nut free] packed lunch, items for feminine hygiene and a mobile phone if necessary. All equipment is supplied by the school and on PE days students can wear their PE kit for the day.

**Does my child need a coat / rain jacket? – Yes please.** The safest place for us all is outside whenever possible. Yesterday students got caught out by a light shower! This is going to happen again due to our lovely British weather. Please help us to help them stay safe, dry and warm.

**Who do I speak to if I have a worry or a concern?** No worry is ever too small so please

always come and talk to us. Email is a really effective way of communicating with us, please email the admin account so we can help:  
[admin@edwintree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwintree.herts.sch.uk)

### **What are the key messages about learning? How will you support my child?**

Next week the newsletter will focus on our School Improvement Plan [SIP] and how we intend to support your child to re-engage with learning and how you can help. When students enter the school next week, we will spend time with them to make sure they are clear about how to stay safe. Our Collective Worship value for the term will be 'Compassion', we know that as a community this is something we will be using as we return stressed and anxious students and staff to school.

### **Below are some of the key messages from subjects for the start of term:**

#### **English Department**

The English department are looking forward to welcoming you all back and hearing about what you have been reading over the summer. We hope to get lots of your book recommendations onto our library shelves as soon as possible and we are working on ways to make borrowing books Covid safe.

We hope you have had the chance to have a good rummage around at home over the summer and have found any core texts or reading books from school that you have borrowed. Please remember to bring these back and hand them in as we still have quite a few gaps on our shelves.

#### **No Dictionaries**

Students will not be able to use dictionaries when we return. However, we still want them to develop their spelling and vocabulary. As an alternative, students who have access to a phone can download the Oxford English Dictionary app to use it in the classroom. The app is free and has a microphone function so they can find the word they want to spell. There is a premium version but it is expensive. They do not need the premium version to run the app.

#### **Health & Safety in the Science Lab**

Please can all students with hair long enough to be tied back, make sure they bring a hairband with them on days they have science. Thank you Ms Sanders Lead in science.

#### **Are you interested in your child starting or continuing with Music Lessons?**

Instrumental music lessons are available with our school's music provider, Hertfordshire Music Service from September. If you haven't applied

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for lessons already, all the information you need to book is available at <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline>. They are aiming to start lessons the week beginning 14th September, but for some instruments it may be later. Please note that we have requested lessons for singing, woodwind, brass, guitar, strings and drums. HMS tutors will be teaching face to face or online and every effort has been taken to ensure both tutors and pupils are kept safe in line with guidance. A risk assessment will be completed by the school before lessons commence. Piano in the school is taught by a private tutor and not HMS. There is currently limited capacity for piano lessons and a waiting list is currently in action. Details for the piano tutor are available through the school office.

### **Key messages for year groups**

#### **Year 5**

Thank you for your careful and considered approach delivering your children to school this week. We very much appreciate the fact you recognise the need for social distancing at drop off and pick up times. A number of parents were worried about whether their child would be disadvantaged without a mobile phone. Just to clarify around 65% of students did have a phone, but some of these were just for phone calls and bus journeys. Your child will not be disadvantaged if they do not have one and will be able to access all the learning.

During Term 3 students used phones to help them support their social distance breaks and lunchtimes, but having observed Year 5 this week, we think that having phones out at break and lunch time is actually stopping them from socialising and finding new friends. We have also noticed that for some students, the mobile phone has become a crutch that limits their capacity to engage in what is going on around them and therefore, they could benefit from reducing their need for their device.

As of next week, students will be asked to place their phones in their bags for the duration of the day and only on the teachers request, will they use them (hard copy will be available for those that don't have a phone). The Year 5 Team, with students, are planning for activities at break and lunchtime to support socialising and getting to know new people, and they will not need a phone to do this. The initial PSHE lessons for all students will involve a passport to safe mobile phone use, so students understand how they can use their phones safely, both in school and at home.

### **Year 8 Moving on for 2021**

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

School open events and key dates for secondary / upper transfer. Please find attached the Moving On 2021 booklet with further details, the key dates are below

First week of September 2020	Admissions information is available online for parents to read or download
Tuesday 1 September 2020	Online application system opens and the "Moving On" leaflet is distributed via children's current school
September and October 2020	Schools hold their open events
Saturday 31 October 2020	Closing date for applications (online and paper)

### **If my child is in Year 7 or Year 8 do they need to wear a mask?**

Government guidance is that in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained, students should wear a mask. We are aware that bus companies are requesting students wear masks and we will support students to remember to wear them. At the moment all groups are operating different timetables. However, if we do spot a risk, we will ask students to wear one, so we advise parents of all KS3 students to make sure your child has a mask. As a school that supports students to own their differences and be an 'individual', we continue to operate our current policy, that a student or staff member can wear a mask if they wish. Please remember all First Aid will be administered in PPE equipment.

Thank you to everyone who has recognised the new and uncharted territory for us all, and if you have a worry or concern please email us, we will respond and review our new practice. We won't get everything correct first off, please talk to us first, post later!

**Jo Gant**  
**Headteacher**  
**Curriculum Timetable**  
**Y8 Moving On**

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