



**Edwinstree Middle School**  
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England  
School  
**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 7/06/2019**

**Diary Dates:**

10/6/19	5C & 5P visit Tower of London 8am-4pm
12/6/19	Y6 Parents' Norfolk Information Meeting 5pm
13/6/19	7S & 7C Computer Visit
20/6/19	Bugsy Malone - 7pm-9pm
21/6/19	Bugsy Malone - 7pm-9pm
25/6/19	5T & 5F Visit Tower of London 8am - 4pm
w/c 24/6/29	KS3 Science Assessments
26-28/6/19	Y6 Residential visit to Norfolk
28/6/19	Inset Day
3/7/19	Summer Music Concert 6pm-8pm
4/7/19	Y7 Big Bang Fair
5/7/19	Sports Day
8/7/19	Year 6 visit Tower of London 8am - 4pm
11/7/19	County Transition Day
18/7/19	Y8 Celebration Evening
19/7/19	End of Term 2:30pm

**How do I report my child's absence?**

To report a student absent please use the direct attendance email:

[attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you.

**Back to full and operating on a full budget.**

I am pleased to inform you that from September 2019 the school will be at full capacity in all years with the exception of Year 8. As demand increases to attend Edwinstree since our return to 'Good', there are waiting lists for places in Years 5 and Year 6. This means that next year we will be fully funded by the Local Authority and our capacity to grow and to support your child will increase. Thank you for your support in helping to return the school to a successful and sustainable educational establishment.

**Music news**

There will be no choir until Thursday 27th June due to Bugsy Rehearsals. There will be no orchestra on Friday 21st June.

**What is the impact on the school when you take your child away on a holiday out of school time?**

I understand the pressure to take holidays during term time due to the costs and I appreciate, for almost all parents, you have now built enough trust in the school to be honest with us and let us know when you are taking a holiday. However, although you save your child the embarrassing situation of discussing a holiday, returning with a glorious tan but covering up badly for the fact the school has been told they were ill, I am unable to authorise it.

In order to help you with childcare arrangements, we follow directly the Freman College calendar for each year. We also work hard together to encourage our local schools to share as many Inset Days as possible with us both. However, and despite this, I just wanted to alert you to the following facts with regard to absence in the last week of half term.

**The whole school attendance the week before half term was 91.8% in comparison to 95% the week before. During that week, 120 sessions of family holiday was taken (that we know about) which equals 60 days of holiday. 28 students, or 6.4% of the whole school, took at least 1 session of family holiday during that week. This equates to 300 hours of lost learning (5 hours per day x 60 days).**

I cannot prevent you from making this economic decision and I fully understand the pressure. I remain exceptionally frustrated that the wealthiest private school patrons have access to the cheapest holidays, while state school patrons pay the most! I want to alert you to the fact that attendance remains a key criteria for Ofsted and the national average is 96% for schools.

Anything you can do to support this, particularly in light of the awful virus we all experienced before and after half term, I would appreciate.

**Are you coming to Bugsy Malone to support Edwinstree students in their first musical extravaganza for a long time?**

Over 40 students are taking part in the musical and your children have been working hard to make the show special. They are really excited, and in order to add to the 1920s theme, the school will be transforming the hall into Fat Sam's Grand Slam; fizz and nibbles will also be available!

We encourage you to dress up in support of your child in smart evening wear to get with the Bugsy Malone theme! If you can make it 1920s style, even better. As the hall will be set out with tables and chairs in a nightclub style, space is limited. Any donations to support the cost of this will be most welcome on the night!

Tickets will go on sale next week for the Bugsy Malone on 20/6/19 and 21/6/19 priced £4 - Adult, £2 - Child available from the school office **so book early!**

**When is Sports Day and what is happening? - Friday 5th July 2019**

If you would like to support your child on Sports Day, please note that the school will be open from 11am onwards for parents and carers to come along and cheer your child on, in a variety of

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events that will take place during day. Cream teas and Ice-lollies will be available and you are welcome to stay during lunchtime for a picnic on the field with your child. More information later but book the date and come and join us. We are praying for a day like last year!

## **Year 5**

**Reminder - 5C & 5P visit Tower of London leaving Edwinstree at 8am returning at approximately 4pm**

A proactive parent wrote in this week to ask if the school covers the pressures of social media and educates children about the use of mobile phones. In Year 5, we spend time talking about bullying on the internet, how it can happen and how to protect ourselves. This year in Term 1, a recommended provider came in to talk to students about the different internet sites, the dangers, how to protect themselves and how to stay private and safe online. In Year 6, students will again look at cyberbullying and how to stay safe on line. In Year 7 and Year 8, internet safety becomes a key feature of almost all topics, as they discuss both the positive and negative impact of social media and the online world.

Please note: we provide a twice-yearly opportunity for Parents to meet recommended and regulated providers, who explain how to keep your child safe. This was offered in the first term with 50+ parents attending. However, I will look again for a provider for next term to support your work in helping your child to stay safe online. Follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

## **Year 5 Computing**

Year 5 have started working in computing on a multimedia presentation to compare Buntingford to another place that they know. They are looking at aspects such as population, the environment, local services and leisure activities. As part of this project they will be filming a short video and taking photos, for example to look at the extent of pollution or litter in the local area.

Over the next couple of weeks, students will be accompanied on a walk around Buntingford and be invited to take video clips using a mobile phone or camera that is capable of filming. These clips will not show images of the students themselves. Students will be given the date in advance.

Although the school has a limited number of such cameras, on this occasion, students will be allowed to use their own equipment during the

lessons to create the clip and then to download to their presentation. Phones need to be handed in at the start of the day as usual and will only be used in the computing lesson itself.

It would be helpful if the students already know how to download videos to a computer and that they bring in any relevant cables needed to complete the task

## **Year 6**

Year 6 are gearing up for their residential visit to Norfolk, we are including the kit list again, in case you missed it at the end of last term, [also available on our website]. A meeting for parents will be held on 12/6/19 at 5pm which will provide information and expectations. We encourage students to take time to have fun, play games and socialise, so no mobile phones please. A camera to take photographs is permitted. For those students not attending, we will organise a timetable that involves them supporting the lower years in their lessons, working with Year 8 to explore what life is like at the top of the school, and a few treats to ease their week. These students are expected to attend school full time during this week.

We have over 30 students looking to transfer into Year 7 next term, so we will be mixing up the classes again to accommodate the influx of new students. We aim to ensure that all new class lists will be available the week beginning 11/7/19. Please note, like last year, our most vulnerable students and parents will be consulted in advance.

## **Year 7**

Next week 7S & 7C visit the Computer Museum in Cambridge and the Big Bang visit takes place on 4/7/19. Any student not attending the trip is expected to attend school.

## **Year 8**

Leaders begin planning their end of term Celebration Evening and fun day out next week. Please make sure you have calendared in opportunities to say goodbye. Transition meetings with Freman continue this week, with further visits for our most vulnerable and for all on County Transition Day 11/7/19. We will be meeting Freman this term for a handover of all data, files and information on your child. They are beginning to look ready to leave us and seem very excited about the prospect.

**Jo Gant**  
**Headteacher**  
Kit List

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