



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 20/3/20

Diary Dates

3/4/20	End of Term
20/4/20	Summer Term begins
5/5/20	Y5 Drop-in Parents' Evening 3:30pm-5pm
8/5/20	Bank Holiday VE Day Anniversary
11-15/5/20	SATS - cancelled
22/5/20	School breaks for half term - 3:20pm
25-29/5/20	Half Term
26/6/20	Inset Day
13-16/7/20	Y6 Residential visit to Norfolk - TBC
17/7/20	End of Term 1:20pm finish

End of Term 3/4/20 – I am considering keeping school open for children of keyworkers until 3:20pm on Friday 3/4/20. I am awaiting confirmation from the Bus Company and will keep you updated

What is happening this week and next in school and out?

In school:

We have had between 16 – 21 students attending school, either children of keyworkers or identified as vulnerable. They have been completing the same Learning Objectives set for students outside of school, with the exception of Design & Technology. If your child is attending school they do not have to complete the information pack that home school children have, as this will have been covered with their teacher. Making sure your child reads for a minimum of 20 minutes for 5 days of the week remains important.

Staff have now been being allocated one day to support the children in school, and the days are broken up into subject learning. Please see the attached timetable for next week.

On Friday 3/4/20 - School will close at the normal time of 3:20pm. Buses will run as normal to collect your child. Information on the Easter bus service is to follow.

We are following the government guidelines on how to social distance, please see link. These include: [social distancing for schools](#)

- On school entry and exit, breaks, lunchtimes as well as toilet visits, students are asked to use the sanitising gel available and to wash their hands.
- At the start of each day, students are reminded about the importance of social distancing.
- Any child displaying the symptoms of a high temperature or coughing should not attend school and will be sent home.
- There are only one or two children using public transport and they are being spaced out on the coach. There are no Freman College students on these routes, so there is no risk of crowding!

- Due to the small numbers in school, we have a minimum of 2 staff, so our classes have been around 9 – 10 students at a time. Students are spaced out to follow the 2 metre safe distancing rule.
- Students are supervised at break and lunch to make sure that they stay 2 metres apart.
- Thank you to Parents and Carers for not waiting for children at the gate, but waiting a safe distance from each other.

Out of school this week and next

Your child should now be working through the subjects accessible on line, or the learning packs available from the School Office. Throughout the time your child is educated at home, hard copies will be available for everything. Students should complete their work in the book provided. They will be completing the same work as those in school, but more independently. Please remember to prioritise Maths first, then English, then Science, the other subjects are a bonus.

When will I receive my refund for the cancelled Y8 Normandy Visit?

A claim form was sent to the Travel Insurance Company at the end of last week and your payments will be returned to you without delay as soon as the claim is settled.

Will the Year 6 Norfolk Visit go ahead as planned?

We are currently considering our options regarding the Norfolk visit in July and we will update you as soon as we have any further information.

What are the plans over the Easter holidays? Out of school during Easter

Please make sure that students continue to read for 20 minutes 5 times a week, but do take the holiday.

In school during the Easter Holidays

8:40am – 3:20pm [except Good Friday & Easter Monday]

If you are a parent Keyworker currently using our in-school service and wish to continue over Easter, we should have received confirmation today. We are currently planning to run an Easter Programme, operating the same school hours. The bus companies are considering supporting this service, but we need to know numbers. If the Easter Programme goes ahead, it will operate as a normal school day, like last week. If your child normally has dinners, we will provide a packed lunch service, or students can bring their own packed lunch. Students don't need to wear school uniform, but will need a change of footwear and layers, as there are significant outdoor activities. Staff are planning subject inspired days, but with enrichment activities.

What is happening post Easter?

Out of school learning post Easter We would very much appreciate it, if you would read this section with your child, to directly inform them about their learning - Thank you

It looks very much like social isolation and home-schooling for the majority of children will continue

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long into the Summer Term. The school has been preparing to make sure that your child's learning continues, following the planned route of learning already outlined for the Summer Term. Whether your child is in school or out of school, they will complete the **same learning**.

We have trained staff and are implementing the following:

- 1) "Show my Homework" as the main communication device after Easter. This will provide the set work for each subject, links to video and the capacity for students to seek help, comment and or return set work to us. Early next week, you will receive personal information on how to log on and set up for your child and yourselves. This programme can be viewed on a desktop, tablet and or a phone.
- 2) Quality learning that allows students to continue with the planned schemes of work. My Senior Leadership Team have been looking at how we can provide a set format for the learning we have prepared, that can be read from and accessed from a mobile phone. Each week students will receive work in lessons of one hour. For example, a Year 8 English student will receive 4 hours of English. When and how they choose to do this is up to them, some might immerse and complete in a day, others will break it up. A Year 5 maths student will receive 5 hours of maths work to complete once a week again how they do this is up to you and them.
- 3) Learning that is supported by video links created by teachers and set up on a Private 'YouTube' account. More information to follow.
- 4) Learning that is interactive, so students will be able to comment on the work set and ask for help. We will publish a timetable next week, so you will know when a teacher is available to respond to any requests, posted during the week asking for help.
- 5) Multiple choice mini tests will take place every week in each subject. These will be completed on line and teachers given feedback. The tests will be used as a diagnostic to let us know if a student or class have not understood something. This replaces a question and answer session that would normally take place in class.
- 6) Assessments each half term as a minimum that can be returned via the "Show my Homework portal" link that are graded.

Show My Homework

Early next week we will be issuing parents and students information on their "Show my Homework" log in, in order to support them and you to access our learning plans and resources after Easter. Please look out for the Parentmail early next week.

What if I don't have a computer? "Show my Homework" is accessible on a computer, laptop and tablet or by downloading the mobile phone app

How do I set up an account? Parents will receive a notification of their parent and student log-in details by ParentMail within the next two weeks. In

preparation for this, please ensure that your child has an email address that they can use to access their account. Your child's email address may be one that you already have, as long as you also have a separate one for parent notifications. The parental email address may be linked to more than one student. If you need to set up a new email address there are many free providers available online. You **do not** need to notify us of these email addresses, but please have them ready for when we send the activation instructions.

What about if my internet access is poor, my data load is limited? I don't think I can operate from a device?

Please read the advice above because despite hard copy, we will be following the same procedures outlined. Don't panic, packs will be available for collection from the School Office from 21/4/20 and each pack will have the mini tests. These will need to be returned to the School Office when you collect the next pack, so that we can check your child's learning.

Any assessments will also need to be returned. We have provided books for your child to move into supporting their own work, and we will also provide lined paper for assessments with the weekly packs. Please note: all hard copy information will have instructions on how your child can access the video learning via their own device, so you won't miss out on links.

In school learning post Easter.

A timetable for the in school provision will be out next week which will outline the pattern of learning each day of the week. We will continue to adhere to subjects being completed within a day, in order to support teachers only in school for the one day. Whether in school or out, students will complete the same learning but, we can use question and answer sessions rather than mini tests in school. If they are in school all week, they do not need to complete any of the online activities, but please still log into "Show my Homework" as we will be using this device when students return to school. If they miss any schooling, they will be able to access the subjects they missed via this device.

What support will my child get if they have an EHCP or if they are vulnerable?

This side of the Easter holidays the SEND and Learning Zone Teams have been contacting all our EHCP students and our most vulnerable, offering support and advice. Our plan is once "Show my Homework" is up and running, different students will be assigned to our SEND Team, to provide support for their learning at home. We will be using "Show my Homework" in the first instance to adapt any learning that has been set. However, we are currently awaiting advice and support from County, so please be patient. If you require support from our team, please email the admin address: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and we will respond.

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How will my child's EHCP provision be met?

The Government have implemented laws which support a loosening of the legalities behind an EHCP for a short time for schools and Local Authorities, as we are both unable to meet all the plan. However, they have asked us to contact you, to agree what are the greatest risks to the implementation of these plans and how we can address them in the next coming weeks. The SENCO or Mrs H Carter will be in touch, if they have not already done so, to make sure you have agreed a plan of action, prior to the holidays.

Supporting our Community

A huge thank you to the number of Parents offering support, we have had support with setting up Zoom, providing food for our most vulnerable families and offering support in school.

Could we please put out a plea for anyone that has a laptop that they are not using that is not ancient?

We are currently trying to provide all staff with the means to work remotely, but for those staff with children, they do not have enough computers to service all their working from home needs. If you have recently purchased a new laptop and would be willing to donate your old one, we would be exceptionally grateful. If you can wipe your personal information and drop off at the School Office with the access password, it would really help the school avoid a significant and unexpected cost. I hope you understand my need to ask?

Supporting our Community

As you are aware, during the coming weeks the school will be open to students that fall into particular categories. To help our most vulnerable families during these uncertain times, the Food Technology department would like to provide a family meal to take home once a week. While this is a difficult time for us all, it is also important to pull together and work as a community for those in need. With this in mind, we are asking for donations of food items from the list below. We have a very kind offer from a parent to volunteer their chef skills to help design and create dishes (alongside Mrs Booth and Mrs Van Wyk) from the ingredients we receive. A drop off point is set up in the School Reception for you to deposit items (a weekly drop off would be amazing!).

Food items:

- Rice
- Dried pasta
- Tinned food of any kind e.g. tinned tomatoes
- Dried pulses of any kind
- Jars of cooking sauce
- No perishables please

Your generous donations will be gratefully received by the families in need.

Collective Worship and Reflection

As a Church of England school, we are clear that opportunities for reflection remain key to your child's wellbeing. We are currently exploring how we deliver a Collective Worship programme based around our key values during this time. Our first Collective Worship from afar will be based around the Easter story and how we might use this story to reflect today.

Thank you for your support at this most challenging time

Jo Gant
Headteacher

Timetable

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