



**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>

A huge thank you for your very measured approach to the staggered timings of the day, we really appreciate your consideration to maximise social distancing. A couple of parents have asked, due to siblings or pickups at other schools, if it matters if they are 5 minutes from the drop off time. We are trying to be reasoned and measured in our responses and if your child enters the site and is able to stay in their individual play space without support, then we can accommodate them.

**What have we noticed this week?**

- Your children want to learn, but have inner worries about what they have missed and will they be ok continue to concern them and we are addressing this
- They are really enjoying being with their friends.
- Emotions are heightened in almost all children.
- Many are very attached to their phones, it is their lifeline and we are working on weaning them off – this is working as we go through the week.
- The older students find social distancing easier than the Year 5/Year 6 – but all of us are finding it hard.
- Students are worried about “getting things wrong” and less likely to volunteer answers.
- They are adapting to the changes in the school swiftly
- Students and staff area very tired at the end of the day as we are having to think extra hard about our movements and safety.

**Why are there so many unanswered questions?**

As we begin our new school year living with Covid, it is understandable that you have many questions. Please bear with us, we are trying to answer as many as possible, but be aware, this is new and unknown to us too, we are all on a steep learning curve. In order to support you, we have attached a summary of all the generic questions asked this week and we hope you find this useful. Please accept that if you email us a question that we know we have answered in the newsletter, we will refer you to this document. Please continue to ask questions, they are helping to shape our practice in this new and unknown world.

**What Timetables did you consider?**

Please see the Timetable options attached which explains our choice.

**What is the focus of the Newsletter this week?**

As well as publishing our answers to these questions, we are looking to focus on making sure you are clear about the plans for your child in the up and coming weeks as we re-engage them with their learning. Accompanying this newsletter is our **School Improvement Plan for the first half term** which outlines our aims in detail. However, I have provided a summary below

**Context: Our first half term School Improvement Plan** is based on the guidance provided by the **Education Psychology Service Hertfordshire County Council, Returning to School May 2020**. For guidance on our Health and Safety plan to return all students to school please, see our Risk Assessment document and summary table that was emailed to all stake holders on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and can be found on our website.

**Why have we chosen to use this document and its advice to help shape our plan?** Research and initial guidance, alongside our observations of students returning to school in June (Year 6) and July (Year 5) evidenced that the pandemic and associated lockdown arrangements had impacted on all members of the school community in different ways, **but all are affected to some extent**. It advises that before **rapid learning** can take place in school there needs to be a **clear plan to support the wellbeing needs of all staff and pupils** with a plan for more targeted support for our most vulnerable.

**Why is our School Improvement Plan titled ‘Re-engagement’ and not “Catch-up”?**

The psychology tells us that before anyone can learn or reason, they need to feel regulated, connected, safe and secure. The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced these feelings in all of us to some lesser or greater extent. The key purpose of our initial School Improvement Plan is to support students and staff to develop the following:

- **Increased sense of safety**
- **A sense of control and efficacy**
- **To regain and stay connected**
- **To promote a sense of calm**
- **To promote and to secure a sense of hope.**

The advice also guides us that the focus should be on what the **children learnt and what they have forgotten**, rather than what they were **expected to learn**. This is not about catching up; learning is not a competition but a journey of progress. A middle school provides the perfect opportunity to do this. In our first half term we will concentrate on **reawakening student engagement with learning and confidence**. **We will also secure where their new starting base is, what they have forgotten and how we can help**. As we get to know your child by working with them again, we will be assessing what really has gone on with their learning. Once we are clearer of the impact of the time out of school, we will use this knowledge to reassess our planning and curriculum in order to plan the most effective learning sequence and to begin targeted and additional support for those that need it.

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### **What will my child experience in the first half term?**

- Opportunities to talk about their experiences, feelings and a variety of strategies to help them grow from this period in time.
- Opportunities to practice compassion with each other and within the school.
- Opportunities to get excited about their learning – if we get it right, students will want to share what they are learning with you every week, without you having to drag it out of them!
- A unified approach to supporting their writing and reading whatever lesson they are in, but particularly the Humanities subjects alongside English
- A unified approach to supporting their numeracy – with all subjects signed up and planning to contribute to the maths learning this term. ie geography students will be learning about data presentation and manipulation as part of their schemes.

### **If we get it right and COVID stays away, what will you notice in your child?**

- A reduction in their anxiety and worry, they are able to talk about strategies they have used to notice their worries and what they used to stay calm. If we get it really correct they may give you advice.
- They will feel proud and give examples of how they have acted compassionately managed their anger etc. If we really get it right they might give you advice.
- They will laugh more.
- They will begin to feel secure in their learning, less worried about what they have missed and more focused on what they are going to be learning and how it will help them.
- They can talk about reading and writing in all subjects and what they need to do next to improve.
- They will talk about hope and feel good about helping others, including an agreed charity.
- They will use the word ‘fun’ when describing an activity or learning experience.

### **Will Parents Evenings go ahead this term?**

As you may be aware, as I write this on Wednesday evening, the COVID situation is changing again and we are now being asked to group in no more than six. We are clear that Parents Evening in school cannot go ahead. We are planning to offer a two week opportunity for all parents of all year groups to book a telephone conversation with one of the Year Team teachers to discuss your child’s progress over the first term. More information about this to follow

### **What about Year 5 Meet the Tutor on 17<sup>th</sup> October?**

Again we are unable to proceed with this event in its normal format. Pre- COVID, the evening was designed for any parent keen to speak to their child’s teachers and find out how they have settled in. Should we have a minor concern or wish to share an intervention strategy, we would make an appointment with you. The evening is also used to introduce home learning and our expectations of homework in English and Maths at the school.

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**How will we replicate these opportunities?** On the 17<sup>th</sup> September we will upload to our website a video from the Head of Year, our *Show my Homework*’ [SMHW] Administrator and the English and Maths leads for Year 5. This will update you on what your children are learning, how you can help and how to ‘log on’ and get started on ‘*Show my Homework*’. We will also issue a Year 5 Meet and Greet email which will allow you access to the Year 5 Team of teachers for any queries you may have. There will also be an opportunity to book in a telephone call, but this will be time limited. You will have further opportunities to talk to teachers towards the end of half term.

### **Message for Year 5 parents, please can you talk to your child about....**

Year 5 have been amazing in adapting to school so quickly and keeping smiles on their faces as they return to full time school. However, we have noticed in their excitement, particularly boy behaviours can easily become boisterous and heavy handed, almost as if they have forgotten how to play with each other physically. This week, one individual was injured in play, resulting in him being absent from school for the remainder of the week. We will extend the amount of time spent with Year 5 talking to them about how to feel safe and support them act safely around the school, but would be grateful if you could talk to your child and support us in helping them to remember “safe play”. Thank you

### **Attendance - What if my child is ill?**

As we currently operate staggered start times to ensure that we comply with COVID regulations, our attendance procedure has been amended. As the new process is more complex and inevitably takes longer to administer, it is more important than ever that if your child cannot attend that you inform us via our dedicated attendance email address every morning:

[attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). Please use this form of communication, as our other email account is not routinely checked first thing in the morning.

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

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. [NHS UK website](https://www.nhs.uk).

### **When does a lockdown occur?**

When a child in the school has a confirmed Positive test for COVID-19, the school is required to contact Public Health, who will guide us through the process of what we need to do. One child is currently not considered an outbreak.

### **What is the school homework on their return, and will you return to using 'Show My Homework'?**

The first two weeks students will be given hard copy for their homework in English, Maths and MFL. This will give Year 5 Parents the time to log in and familiarise themselves with the system. Year 6, 7 and 8 parents will have the opportunity to re-engage with how to use the system. We cannot recommend it more highly. We will then be setting all homework online, but for the students that do not have access to a computer / tablet or phone we will provide hard copy.

### **Year 5 - What is 'Show My Homework'?**

'Show My Homework' [SMHW] is an application that we use to set all home learning tasks. This app allows children to ask questions about their work, access helpful resources, and submit their work.

### **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?**

Students will receive their parent and student log-in details within the next two weeks and instructions on how to set up the accounts. Please note, if you download the mobile app you will need to edit your push notifications on your device to prevent multiple notifications being received at inconvenient times. Unfortunately, we are unable to amend this from the school administration of the app as each device has different settings.

### **Year 6, 7 & 8**

'Show My Homework' has already been implemented and set up for these cohorts when we went into lockdown. If your child has joined us in these year groups, or you did not set this up during the summer and need assistance please email [r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) for guidance.

### **What lessons are occurring in PSHE and why?**

In the first two to three PSHE lessons, students in Year 6 – Year 8 will complete online safety training. Year 5 will be timetabled for PSHE after half term, but are being supported to ensure that they know how to stay safe online during their AM sessions. Students will be covering the topic of friendship online and the risks, their digital tattoo, age appropriate sites, the legalities behind taking images and posting them, how to ensure their phone does not increase anxiety and/or disturb sleep, how to keep safe and well and the expectations in school.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

[The above is an](#) excellent website that we are using to source our lessons. It has been created by the Police. As well as a teaching resource, there are excellent resources for Parents on how to keep your child safe on line and a step by step guide to protect their usage and ensure that they are only accessing agreed sites. It is well worth a look

*We have been alerted that there is a TikTok video which has graphic images is now circulating on WhatsApp*

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.buzzfeednews.com/amphtml/davidmack/tiktok-suicide-video>

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

Mon	Ham or Cheese Baguette
Tue	Tuna Mayo/ Cheese Salad Wraps
Wed	Tuna Mayo & Sweetcorn/Veggie Burger
Thu	Pork Sausage Roll or Chees/Tomato Puff
Fri	Pizza Roll /Sausage in a Roll

### **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. All the information you need to book is available at <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/register> online. 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.

### **Year 8**

Today Parents of all Y8 students should have received a Parentmail regarding HPV immunisation. The link for the electronic consent form can be found within the letter and must be completed by Wednesday 23rd September 2020. Please note the form will not work on some mobile phones/tablets. You will need this unique code number EE117554 which identifies Edwinstree School. Please complete the online form to accept or decline this vaccination, any issues please contact the school office.

### **KS3 Food & Nutrition – 1<sup>st</sup> half-term**

As part of the Technology Curriculum, students will be studying Food & Nutrition for the first half-term. Due to Government restrictions the school is unable to offer safe practical lessons in the specialist kitchen. To overcome this issue, we will be delivering the theory elements of the course in school and are requesting that students complete the practical tasks at home. Video demonstrations and recipe cards have been created to support the learning at home and will be available on 'Show My Home Work' and also as a hard copy. We would be grateful if you could take a photo of their finished work and upload it to SMHW. Students will be given a two week window to complete the practical.

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The ingredients are set up to feed a family of four and can be changed to suit your personal taste and budget. ***I would like to highlight that the cooking element is a request and fully understand that for some, cooking at home will be an impossible task and I would like to reassure you that no student would be penalised for not completing this work during these difficult times.***

There will be an opportunity to complete three cooking tasks this half term, starting with a stir fry, followed by bread rolls and then spaghetti Bolognese. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Booth (Yr8) or Mrs van Wyk (Yr7).

Thank you so much for all your support during these unprecedented times.

**Jo Gant**  
**Headteacher**

**Enc Timetable options**  
**Mobile Phone Agreement**

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