



**Diary Dates**

	New entry and exit times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:45pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:40pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm
14/12/20	Year 5 & Year 6 Christingle
18/12/20	End of Term - 1:20pm finish
4/1/21	Inset Day
5/1/21	Spring Term

**What happens if my child or a family member tests positive for Covid-19?**

If your child or family member tests positive or has symptoms, please inform us using the Covid-19 contact email:

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

**What happens if my child test positive for Covid-19 during the holidays?**

The Government has asked schools to continue to trace Covid cases up until and inclusive of the 24th December. In the event your child tests positive, please contact us on [covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk). After this date we will not need to know of a positive test until the Inset Day on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.**

**Main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

**Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:**

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide)

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Advent**

Attached to the newsletter is an update on our Advent activities for next week. Thank you to everyone who has and is supporting these events in the lead up the end of term.

**KS2 Christingle: if your child is in school**

Thank you to those who have brought oranges into school. If you haven't yet, and are able to, please could you bring one in with you on Monday?

**KS2 Christingle: if your child is not in school**

Packs for 6A are in reception ready for collection. 5A and 5C have been sent home with packs today. All they require is an orange! If the technology works I will be sending a link via SMHW on Monday so you can take part 'virtually'. If this does not work, I will send instructions home for you to make your Christingle, please send a photo so we can share them with the other students.

**Will we be closing early and losing the Inset Day on 4<sup>th</sup> January?**

Having received the information that the Government made a slight U-turn by announcing we could finish on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, but then use an inset day elsewhere to make up the time. We consulted with the local Heads in the area our judgement is that for our schools, this is too little too late. We are also really clear that with the constant changing picture of COVID, the school will need Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Inset to prepare for the students return on Tuesday 5/01/21. Therefore, we have made the decision to finish on Friday 18/12/20 as planned, subject to more Covid-19 cases. If you make the choice to remove your child in order to self-isolate in preparation for Christmas, please notify the school. This

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absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised' but we appreciate your honesty. Students should continue with online distance learning via SMHW or order hard copies from the school office up until the end of Thursday. Friday is an end of term day to have some fun amongst all the COVID restrictions! We will also take time to celebrate Advent and the Christmas story.

### **End of Term**

Normal closure at the end of term is 1:20pm and Freman College at 1:30pm, but in order to continue to stagger our exits, we will be releasing students from the bottom gate in the following order:

**Year 8 - 1:10pm**

**Year 7 - 1:15pm**

**Year 6 - 1:20pm and Year 5 bus students who will be escorted Freman**

**Year 5 - 1:25pm**

### **How is the school operating and the students and staff coping with now 18 members of staff in some form of self isolation?**

Your children and the Buntingford Community have been extraordinary in coping with the continued timetable changes and the fear of more cases striking the community. On the whole, students are calm, considerate and compassionate to the staff, who are all working hard to keep the school functioning. All that is happening next week has been explained to your child, so please talk to them.

Christmas preparations have been adjusted to allow for some Covid safe fun and an opportunity to celebrate the 'true meaning' of Christmas. The timetables for next week are attached for Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7. The Year 8 timetable remains the same – except for **8A Distance Learning on Wednesday 16th December**. Year 8 Exit at 1:10pm on the last day of term

**Can we give and receive Christmas cards this year?** We had hoped to run a Christmas card service this year, with a planned delivery allowing for 72 hrs quarantine for cards and presents. However with the continued disruption to the timetable we have decided it is safer for students to swap cards and presents with students only in their class while at school.

### **Year 6 Norfolk 2020 Refund**

The Year 6 Norfolk visit refund cheques of £50 per student, have been posted home this week.

### **What is happening with reports this year?**

Our lead Data & Assessment Manager has currently tested positive for Covid-19, she is slowly recovering in self-isolation but we hope to get reports out to you by Christmas. The data reports will inform you of your child's current attainment level as at December 2020. This is graded as: WT- Working towards National Standard or AT - At National Standard or Above in the subjects they have been taught this term. Finally there is a small wellbeing comment on how students are coping at school.

### **Behaviour & Resolve**

I would like to make you aware that due to the high numbers of staff in self-isolation, our Resolve area is currently not available. In the rare event your child presents poor behaviour and fails to follow instructions, in line with our Behaviour Policy we will have no alternative but to send them home. Unfortunately, this will be recorded as an exclusion. We hope that the Resolve room will be up and running again after Christmas.

### **Year 8 reading books – can you return them please?**

'Trash' books. - Calling all Year 8 students! Could you have a check at home to see if you still have a copy of 'Trash' which you studied in Year 7? I have had a count up and we are still missing a whopping 56 copies! Our Year 7 will be studying this novel in January, so please have a good look and return copies so they can be quarantined safely. Thank you - Miss Devonshire

### **If I am entitled to the HCC Food Voucher Scheme how will I receive them?**

Further to our latest update from Hertfordshire County Council about the supermarket voucher scheme for families entitled to free school meals, they have sent their apologies as there has been a delay with their partner in getting these across to us. We are now likely to receive the digital vouchers by early next week, as soon as we have them, we will distribute these to you. Thank you for your patience while we await the vouchers.

There is a FAQ document outlining how the FSM supermarket voucher scheme works on the Grid at:

[http://www.intra.thegrid.org.uk/info/coronaviruss/key\\_documents.shtml](http://www.intra.thegrid.org.uk/info/coronaviruss/key_documents.shtml)

Please use the FAQs in the first instance for queries. Any families asking how to apply for FSMs can check eligibility criteria and apply at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

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### **Why don't we use a Virtual Classroom?**

The panacea of a teacher coming into a child's room and providing online learning does not in any shape or form guarantee good quality learning. If we went in a classroom to talk to children only, this would be considered poor teaching, so to arrive remotely and do the same thing does not guarantee good quality learning. However this is something we are exploring in depth.

This is more difficult for Year 5 and Year 6, as there are significant safeguarding procedures that we are required to follow, including ensuring an adult is present in the room. Currently, not all students and parents are able to access online learning, but we are working hard with parents to help support them. In our most vulnerable households, children and parents share devices and it is the younger children who take the lowest priority. However, courtesy of a Government's scheme we are beginning to support families to acquire a device.

Miss Devonshire, my lead SLT for ICT, will be visiting a number of schools remotely to find out more information next term. We have also joined the Hertfordshire initiative for remote learning online. Our ICT teacher from Freman College, is currently leading the way in teaching online remotely and this term he has gained a significant insight into what does and doesn't work. We promise this is an area we are looking to develop, but want to make sure when we do deliver in this format, it has meaning and is not just a babysitting service, which children can ignore.

**Congratulations to Year 6** - Mrs Burches would just like to say a huge 'well done' to Year 6 this term for all their hard work. They have produced some amazing Art work which will be uploaded to our website shortly!

### **KS3 congratulations**

A huge congratulations to all the KS3 students who competed in the UK Bebras Computational Thinking competition. 38 students gained a Distinction grade which is a fantastic achievement. Well done to Elliot in Y7 and Lilybeth in Y8 for attaining the highest score in their respective year groups!

Best kept classroom		Non-Uniform Day
KS2	6C	14/12/20
KS3	8B	15/12/20

### **Jo Gant Headteacher**

Timetables

Advent Calendar Version2