



Diary Dates

	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
15/2/21	Half 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

In school information: (If your child is online please skip to the out of school information).

How are we deciding whether a child can take a place at Edwinstree for in school learning during this pandemic?

Having reviewed our Risk Assessments and the latest Government advice (updated versions are online) we have made the initial step to limit classes to 15 in order to get as close to the 2 metre distancing rule as possible. Parents of children who currently have a place have been contacted to explain the guidance and how we will prioritise requests for a place in school. If a child is currently in school, but low on the priority list, they understand that should a higher priority child request a place their request will be supported, which means parents of a lower priority child would need to find alternative arrangements. At the moment, we have managed to cater for all requests but several of our classes are now full.

The new Priority System

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>) and in the order that it prescribes.

The priority order is:

Category 1 - Vulnerable Children

Category 2 - Critical Workers as defined

- a) Both parents are classified as critical/key workers, neither can work from home.
- b) Both parents are classified as critical/key workers, one can work from home.
- c) A single parent is classified as a critical/key worker and has no support bubble.

- d) One parent is classified as a critical/key worker, the other parent is working from home.
- e) One parent is classified as a critical/key worker, the other is not working or furloughed.

Please also be aware that with the new virulent strand a recent addition to government guidance for critical/keyworkers has advised **“parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children home if they can.”**

Why don't you just increase the classes with the demand?

We are having to create a careful balance between supporting students with vulnerability and parents who are critical workers (noticing that the list has expanded dramatically) and providing space and time for all our staff to plan, deliver and provide feedback to the majority of students who are learning from home. We won't do this, we cannot provide a decent service to these students if we have any more classes in school, the school is currently operating a 50% timetable, half the lessons it normally would, alongside trying to plan a 100% timetable and respond to 100% of the work in school and at home.

How are we managing the safety of students in school?

KS2: Due to the additional risk and the capacity of the new variant of coronavirus to spread quickly, we are being extra cautious. We are supporting students to socially distance in class and in corridors, asking students to wear masks in the tight spaces in school and any movement outside. **Year 6** - It has been discussed with students where a teacher has a particular need and they understand the reasons and have agreed to wear masks in the classroom.

Year 5 - The Year 5 Team are clear that students will wear masks in the corridors but not in classrooms, as the team believe they are still getting to know us and a warm smiling face is more important at the moment. *If a child forgets their mask they are given a disposable one, but we do encourage students to remember their own mask, especially if they travel by school transport*

Outside we are restricting games to non-contact, which includes no ball games and we have witnessed time and time again that students are unable not to tackle or bump into each other. Students and staff will be planning other game activities for outside and deciding which ones they would like to play. All Students are secured in their class bubble, so that at

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maximum they are mixing with 8 teachers, 1 LSA and 15 students.

KS3: Year 8 students, in discussion with teachers have decided to trial mask wearing in lessons as well as in small spaces. With compassion in mind if a student finds this too restrictive they will be given a break. For SEND individuals we will provide the face shield to support. When a student's SEND needs do not support this decision, they are seated the furthest from students and staff in the classroom. Staff have reported back that they are managing this and teachers find this helps them to feel more confident in approaching a child to provide support. As a team, students and staff have agreed to continue. Thank you to Year 8 for their honest and compassionate approach to this trial, we appreciate their consideration for each other and the staff involved.

The Year 7 team have a small number of teachers who for individual reasons, will request students to wear masks in the classroom. Students will be informed which teachers and will have a chance to discuss why and again, we will do this compassionately. Our Year 8 trial taught us, that stepping outside can help if a child is feeling hot and when returning to the classroom after running around, students need a little time to cool down before being asked to put their masks back on. The same individual approach to each child and their need will be taken as in Year 8.

Our students are desperate for sporting activities and the PE department have researched some safe games. Currently, football is not appropriate. When students pass the ball, it quickly moves into touch and tackle, so we are using balls and shooting games. We are also cautious about basketball, which involves touch, so for the moment these games are not allowed. We will discuss with students what is appropriate and focus on getting them moving and active.

Entry into school - The least supervised time is the entry into school as we continue to find students arriving early. Please can you make sure your child comes equipped with a raincoat, warm clothing, a change of shoes or footwear you are prepared to get muddy. The safest place for the students to meet in their classes at the start of the day remains the field. These areas are clearly spaced so students do not mix bubbles or groups and we will continue to meet

on the field every morning. All other outside activities will take place on the hard surface.

If it's not COVID it is the weather preventing children from coming to school

Do keep an eye out for a Parentmail between 7:15am and 7:30am, what with floods and the forecast of snow staff may struggle to get to school. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, I do not have the normal flexibility to cover classes, as staff are protected by bubbles just as much as students. During January and February don't leave home without a back-up plan for a possible school closure.

Out of school information:

How are we supporting online learning and what is happening next week?

Teachers have carried out three types of trials this week and we have found:

Live lessons – Simultaneously teaching a class of students in school at the same time as teaching a set of students outside of school is not easy, but we can do it where teachers have confidence in the TEAMS programme and have a class with limited SEND need

What are the advantages? It allows students to have a similar experience to those in school, to support students to hear the teachers' explanation and see how they model what they are expecting from the student.

What are the disadvantages? If you have time to read the DFE guidance and/or Ofsted guidance you will see that it is like all lessons, and the feedback is actually the most important part of any lesson and learning, where students have opportunities to answer questions and respond to the teacher. This is very hard to achieve in a live lesson with other students in the room, to monitor the chat and the class questions is daunting, so we are looking at how we can improve this. It might be that we schedule time in. Also students are a little daunted at signing up to 2 hrs and 30 minutes of a lesson. Please let your child know that these sessions run like lessons where there is teacher input around 20 – 30 mins, they then go off and work and an hour later there might be a further 20 – minute input, so they are not online for the whole time unless they want to be.

Live chats and support – Currently we find the 'Show My Homework' comments an effective means of communicating with students. Staff are finding this process is slow on SMHW and consumes around 2 hrs and 30 minutes per class. We have also found that comments come in at all hours of the night. Yes 2am is our

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latest so far! We will be trialling LIVE chats, where a class is able to approach the teacher in a TEAMS meeting and support them together in a LIVE way! We think this might reduce the time for comments to get returned to students and provide a more effective process. In particular, we think Maths might be better supported this way. Please encourage your child to join these sessions if they are struggling, we believe this will really help. They don't have to stay for the whole session; when they have their answers they can leave.

Video lessons – Out of all the support we are offering, this method seems to have the most impact in reducing students' questions or concerns about what they need to do. The fact that the child can replay the video is really helpful. This is also the method that you have spent most time telling us via email that you appreciate and is having impact. We believe younger children have less independence and capacity to work alone, so the videos provide repeated teacher instruction. The content of the video predominantly explains what they need to do. Many teaching staff now take students through the planning guide document and then a further explanation and modelling exercise of what a "good outcome" would look like. This method seems to work really well for a middle school child.

Interventions and support – 'One to one' or 'one to three' sessions are being planned for specific students and the Learning Support Team will be trained to offer sessions remotely into your home. Individual letters and communications will be sent home if your child has been identified for one of these lessons.

If my child is struggling with a subject which of the above would you recommend most?

We would ask you to encourage them to have the confidence to come to a LIVE CHAT and share a problem or concern with the teacher, it will be resolved far quicker than the comment method in SMHW.

Reminder: Please remind your child it is important to respond to the teacher's feedback

How to manage the online learning that arrives in their inbox on Monday?

Do remember to prioritise, Maths first, English, then Science above all other subjects. Work with your child to plan their time for the week. Attached with this letter are the trial LIVE lessons going out this week and the lessons that will provide video work for your child. Hopefully, this will help you to organise your

week. We have posted on the website the timetables that are operating in school in case you wish to follow a timetable. However, this loses your capacity to prioritise the CORE subjects as the main learning that needs to be completed. Ultimately, the wellbeing of both parent and student is paramount, so find the way that works for you. Please note we will continue to post in the TITLE LIVE LESSON VIDEO LESSON and LIVE CHAT – to help you organise this better.

Where do we hope to get to in helping you to organise your learning?

On Tuesday 29th January our trials of LIVE will finish and we will lock in who will be delivering what, where. Each week we will collate a spreadsheet identifying where live lessons are taking place, as well as when the subject helpdesk will be available. Please note that this information is shared through SMHW with students, but we appreciate it may help to have it centralised. The link to access the document is available on our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your patience while we work out which method of communication works for us, our students and our subjects.

I would like to read the DFE advice and Ofsted advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-publishes-short-guide-to-what-works-well-in-remote-education>

What guidance has the Government given about attendance online? We are being asked to check daily that students are accessing hard copy work and or online learning in this case SMHW. From Monday we will be checking attendance and sending the DFE the information they require about staff and students in school. **We will then be checking who is active online.** If your child is not, a member of the Admin team will ring to check if all is well, to offer to support to help get them online. **We are all experiencing difficult times and we want to offer our support.**

My child wants to get into TEAMS but despite training can't remember the password they chose!

All students should now have had some form of training on Teams, either in school or through a video tutorial. It has been good to see people joining us from home in lessons, helpdesks, and wellbeing sessions and in Collective Worship.

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This is still new to everyone so please be patient as we continue to trial the software and interactions. A few things to note:

- Our Network Manager is working on a way to reset a password from home if you cannot remember it but this isn't an easy fix as usernames and passwords are linked to our school system. For example, if we issue a generic password, it cannot be changed from home at present - only at school.
- **If you are struggling then we are asking teachers to send a link via 'Show my Homework into TEAMS, this will bring students in as guests. If they are logging in as a guest.** Please make sure they use their first name, first letter of their surname and their class For example: David B 5D. This enables us to identify who we admit into the live sessions. If we are not sure who you are, we may not let you join, so please use this combination.

It is difficult to manage live lessons whilst teaching a class in school and/or leading a Collective Worship so please limit unnecessary distractions. Unless you are asked to, please don't use the chat or the 'raise hand' facility. It is a real distraction to the presenter. You may be removed from the session if this becomes a problem

Are their protocols for 'Live' events? Yes we have adapted the good practice Freman College use and the document is attached. Please read together and help your child to adhere to it.

How will we manage the wellbeing support for children who are working online at home?

Our vulnerable students have been contacted and have individual support plans operating to support their learning if they have chosen not to attend school. With one more week of trials for learning, our next job will be to consider what pastoral support we can offer our online learners to make sure they stay connected with the school and their peers. At the moment these are our thoughts:

- Providing links to online school events – Collective Worship provide reflection and a link to school which many find supportive for their wellbeing.
- Links from our Leader of PSHE on wellbeing and mindfulness are posted on the SMHW noticeboard.

- Prioritising our newest students first. Year 5 for tutor LIVE chats and catch-ups with a roll out programme when we have capacity. Our initial thoughts are that academic catch-ups are our priority with Year 7 and Year 8 – getting students to talk through their work, but for Year 5 and Year 6, who have spent the least time at Edwinstree, they need a linkage to their teachers and classes.
- Using Thursday COWO sessions to provide opportunities for peers in school to connect with peers out of school. Below is the first trial in Year 5 being rolled out to help students have some fun and laughter and support them to stay connected with each other.

Message for Year 5 Students

What a weird time we find ourselves in, you are the first group of children to experience anything like this since World War 2...Just think, when you are old and grey you can recount tales of this to your grandchildren! In all seriousness though, I hope this letter finds you all well. Please remember the Year 5 team are here for you, if you want to share your successes or any worries or concerns you just have to let us know.

JOY! We want to spread some joy in Year 5, so look out for Mrs Kelly's "JOY" on 'Show my Homework'. [SMHW] Each week there will be a new task to do at home. Send photos of yourself completing the task to hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk by the set deadline. All images will be put together and sent out so you can see all your friends having a go too!

Parents: if you submit photos this will be deemed as consent for them to be used on the school website and our private YouTube account. For those students in school this week, please let Mrs Kelly know if you **DO NOT** want your child's photo to be used

We miss you all terribly and look forward to welcoming you back when it is safe to do so. School is far too quiet without you! Stay safe and keep making me proud. Mrs Kelly HOY5

How do we manage your expectations and encourage you to talk to us if you have a problem?

Please remember that wellbeing comes first so if you or your child struggle to get the work completed don't leave it talk to us. Our best

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form of communication is email and the key contacts are listed below:

hoy5@edwinstree.hert.sch.uk

hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

learningzone@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Can we remind you, if you are frustrated with what we are doing, please talk to us, we may not always agree but we will listen and respond. Posting comments on social media may reduce your initial anxiety but has zero impact in changing school practice.

What messages are coming from Herts?

BODIES, Beezee (NHS HERTS VALLEYS CCG) Healthy Lifestyle Programme BZ Live is starting next week. This may give parents and children something exciting and informative to do over the new lockdown period, especially if they are struggling right now.

If you're still sending out Parent-Mail, could you send out the attached image (which has a brief explanation of our service and our contact details) to advertise that we are here to help with healthy eating and activity through this lockdown and home-schooling period?

Jo Gant
Headteacher

BeezeeFlier
Protocols

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