



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
17/12/20	End of Term – finish at normal closing times
4/1/21	Inset Day
5/1/21	Spring Term – students return to school

We do hope that your child and family manage to find peace and wellbeing at Christmas, we are utterly amazed at the community's resilience and your child's ability to cope and thrive. We thank you for your patience in having to juggle the continuous changes that we have had to implement during the increase in COVID-19 cases in Buntingford.

What has your child achieved this term?

- Conquering their fear and anxiety about COVID.
- Rekindling friendships and making new ones.
- Learning how to manage and even begin to thrive, despite very limited opportunity for play.
- Learning to be compassionate and to continuously think and care for others.
- Learning that you can grow through trauma and that crying and talking about worries and concerns are strengths never weaknesses.]
- Rebooting their learning, remembering past knowledge, skills and understanding and applying this to new learning.
- Reawakening their resilience to challenge and to not walk away from tough learning but to go to it. (Work in progress).

What are our hopes and plans for next term?

- Now we are really clear the damage of COVID and have our students back learning well, we plan to push hard for accelerated progress through the Easter term – more about this in the School Improvement Plan next term
- Year 6 parents will be offered an opportunity to hear about plans for the SATs and how you can help.
- Our prayers are to get students back into and learning.

What did we learn?

- What we already knew but are even clearer about, learning is both school and parent in partnership. Those that can distance learn are at an advantage and have the most resilience to bounce back
- Teaching is never just about standing at the front of the classroom and students listening and then doing, it is about the million and one interactions with individual students that build a relationship, help to spot errors and continually tweak a child. This is what we miss the most during COVID.

Can I see what plans you have in place for students learning over the next year? Yes, the results of the planning days we took in November are all going up on our website you can see subjects curriculum plans and the impact of COVID and what we plan to do. Over next term, these plans will be simplified for all stake holders, so that you have clear learning statements that each child is expected to achieve in each subject and year group.

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.hert.sch.uk. After this date we will not need to know of a positive test until the Inset Day on 4th 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-s-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to 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

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

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 As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

Christmas Hamper Challenge

We are delighted to inform you that Edwinstree students and staff raised a total of £1,226.14 for the Buntingford Food Bank Christmas Hampers. Thank you.

Start of term

On Inset Day 4/12/21, teachers will be discussing our School Improvement Plan and key targets for next half term. In the event your child is self-isolating and or tests positive for Covid-19 and unable to return to school, please notify us via covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Any other student absence please email: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

School begins at our normal staggered 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

Students will continue to congregate on the school field at the start of the day as is their norm during COVID. Please don't forget to provide them with spare shoes.

Do we now have to buy ties and new PE kit?

No - We all have enough worries I don't want to put pressure on any parents to buy ties and or PE kit. Please continued with to the current uniform details available on our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We are keen for students to be warm and comfortable and for you to have the minimal hassle in purchasing school uniform or PE kit. This decision means you can continue to buy everything from a local supermarket. If you could continue to supply a spare pair of indoor or outdoor shoes it would be much appreciated. Please can you also make sure you child has a mask to wear in the corridors at school.

What about equipment for next term?

All students need for school is a water bottle [a mobile phone is optional but not essential], we will provide the equipment for next term. However, we have begun to record who requires equipment next term and noticed that one or two students have taken to losing equipment as an avoidance strategy, particularly pens. If we find that this continues, we will speak individual parents to ask for a potential contribution.

What about homework for the holidays?

Please continue to support your child to read during the holidays, a minimum of twenty minutes, five times a day.

What is happening with reports this year?

Data reports are with your child but if your child is not in school, they will be posted home. Please note we have also included a signature form to complete, which provides an opportunity to identify a particular teacher you may wish to speak with.

There is also a section for our Snow Procedures, please indicate your instructions in the event of emergency school closure. Please be aware **we cannot release** your child from school without written parental consent. Please kindly complete and return the Permission/Consent form enclosed with your child's data report by **Tuesday 5th January 2021**. Collection boxes will be provided in each classroom.

What about COVID testing?

As currently seems to be the norm, an announcement arrives prior to the advice. The school will be tracking all information about what the expectations are and how we do this. We promise to update you at the start of the term when there is more clarity and action.

Borrowed School Uniform

We lent a lot of school uniform to pupils last week who had either slipped over or had got rather wet and muddy, could we ask for it to be returned in the New Year as this has depleted our reserves? Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and restful Christmas and to thank you again for your continued support and understanding, during what has been a most challenging year. I hope 2021 will be a better year for everyone!

Jo Gant Headteacher

18days Wellbeing info x3
Christmas services in Buntingford
Citizens Advice

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