



Diary Dates

7/9/20	School starts for all students entry times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:30pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:25pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:20pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:15pm
17/9/20	Y5 - Meet the Tutor – information attached
24/9/20	Y8 HPV =Immunisation
14/10/20	Flu Immunisation Y5/Y6/Y7

Please congratulate your child for the compassion and resilience they have been displaying as they return to school. The vast majority are taking considerable time and effort supporting the school to keep everyone safe. They are getting used to spending significant time with a smaller team of teachers and longer lesson times - we are very impressed with them! I would also like to thank you for your support in following the staggered start and finish times, as well as following the social distancing guidelines. This is really helping us.

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 school that you inform us via our dedicated attendance email address every morning: 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 for 10 days 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.

I really think my child has got a cold and I am struggling to book a test what do I do?

We are so sorry, but we are not trained professionals and are required to follow the guidance, if they have one of the three symptoms listed above they should self-isolate and you need to seek that test. [NHS UK website](https://www.nhs.uk)

I am really worried we are having to self-isolate and they have already missed so much school, what can we do if my child is self-isolating?

At the start of term, we were under perhaps a naïve belief, that testing would be a speedy turnaround and had prepared small packs of learning. Middle Leaders of subjects have met this week to create advice for Parents on what work their child can do while self-isolating. We will provide a set of websites and guidance that compliments the learning in the classroom and follows the topic that they are covering at school. This advice will come out next week. We do not want to create undue stress or pressure on you or them. We are currently reviewing the Oak Academy materials to make sure they are meaningful and coincide with the learning that is taking place in the classroom and will build the majority of our learning guide on these materials.

If your child does not have access to online learning, we will provide hard copy alternatives that can be collected from the office and will be ready next week. In the meantime, students have their class text, a reading book and their SMHW learning. The Oak Academy, which includes lessons for maths on most days. From the link below, choose your year group and subject (maths). Don't be afraid to choose content from another year group.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>
To maintain and brush up on their general skills with arithmetic style questions
<https://myminimaths.co.uk/>

Why are you not creating the resources that were available during lockdown?

During lockdown, staff had a limited teaching schedule and planned time to create the considerable online learning resources. In the event of lockdown of a year group, staff will move their planning time for in school lessons and marking, to planning lessons using the model we set up last term. However, as of the end of this week, no member of staff has capacity to deliver both online learning and lessons. We are currently considering other options.

Is there likely to be a school lockdown as we move into winter?

Certainly the cases in the UK are on the increase as you will have seen, and in the event we receive confirmation of a Positive test result, we will consult with Public Health England. However, with the current timetable and staff manning all of break and lunchtimes, students are remaining in class bubbles with very little mix within year groups and none with other year groups. Therefore, we are in a position that a lockdown would be for a class bubble and or a year group bubble. Students will then move to online learning at home. A hard copy of work will be available from the school office and we will continue with the scheme of work.

How can we reduce the possibility of a whole school lockdown?

The more you can support the school to keep year groups in year groups, [except siblings] the more likely we are to avoid an outbreak. Public Health

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require a full lockdown if an outbreak of Coronavirus occurs and currently, we have to report that a small but substantial minority continue to attend the park after school where they are mixing bubbles. *Please help us to avoid this lockdown by avoiding year groups mixing before and after school.* If you are currently sending your child to the park you are risking that mix. Please help us to keep the school open, by finding alternative meeting places for friends of the same year group.

What are we noticing in our second week at school?

- Many students have gained access to on line sites that are not appropriate for their age range and have had poor safeguarding in their use of mobile phones during COVID and the summer holidays. Many are letting us know their poor practice so we can inform you. Please remember the “ThinkUknow” website has all the advice on what you can do to keep your child safe and on age appropriate sites. Private settings are essential on each app.
- We are also discovering a small, but significant minority of students are addicted to their phone and we are helping them with this
- The Online Safety training was a positive decision, as we are discovering poor safeguarding practice, with some talking to strangers online, others with unsafe passwords and many sleeping with their mobile phone or other electronic devices and admitting they use them in the night. We are addressing each of these issues.
- All students are working hard with staff to socially distance and KS3 can manage this in year groups, class bubbles and between each other with very little touch. We are working with them to increase the gap between them and their friends.
- Year 5 and Year 6 are children although working hard, will lapse and touch each other in their class bubble, we are supporting them to move away from this activity.
- Student’s confidence in asking questions and taking risks has decreased and we have work to do to build this up. They are more worried about making mistakes and we are supporting them to feel confident when they do make a mistake, and to reassure them this is learning.
- Many more students are talking about and openly show signs of anxiety. This is manifesting itself in either being very quick to anger or tears. Year 5 in particular are anxious about their health and when and if they get signs of a cold, this quickly becomes a fear of COVID.
- When we nudge their memory, it is being awakened and they are able to remember what they learnt before.
- The majority are enjoying being back at school.
- They are learning to be compassionate with each other and the staff.

What is happening with homework?

As we re-engage students with learning, we are posting work online for Years 6,7 and 8 using “*Show*

my Homework” [SMHW] . Any queries, please email Mrs Heywood on r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We will continue to provide hard copy where necessary, for English, Maths, and MFL. Next week, Year 5 will receive information on how to set up the SMHW account and homework will begin to be posted on this site from Monday.

What is happening with the timings of the day?

We are currently looking at alternative models for our school in order to allow for the following:

- A return to 5 hours of learning from 4 hours and 45 minutes.
- Maintain students in classrooms and in class bubbles
- Reduce the length of lessons within the day
- Return to almost full curriculum provision for each class.
- Maintain as many of the teachers with their current classes as possible.

In any model we create, staff will need to cross into other year group bubbles and we will need to consult and agree how this can be done successfully. We are also exploring the timings of the day and the changes we may introduce after half term, will continue to stagger arrival and exit times. We will consult with our local First Schools to make sure, where our timings allow, you have opportunities wherever possible, to drop off and pick up from other schools without a mad rush. We are currently aware that Freman Drive is calmer and the staggered exits and pick-up points help us to socially distance exits, so we will also take this into consideration.

What are we expecting while students wait for the bus?

As of next week, all student, including Year 5 will be asked to complete homework and or read whilst waiting for the bus, KS3 students remain in masks.

How are we supporting your child to grow and manage this difficult time?

We hope you have had a chance to read the School Improvement Plan, which is based on supporting your child to re-engage with learning and support their wellbeing. As part of this plan we will be working on the following areas:

Developing a sense of; safety, control, connectedness, calmness and hope. This week KS2 students continued with the theme of developing a sense of safety. We are working to help them stop touching each other in their natural play. Students also explored what a virus is, how COVID spreads and what they can do to stay safe.

In KS3 students, explored how to gain back a sense of control, they began training on identifying their “stress buckets” and learnt about anxiety and what it can do to their bodies. They also began to notice how they are reacting to themselves and each other when their ‘stress bucket’ overflows.

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Can you help us?

Rain or shine we will take every opportunity to socially distance outside throughout the Autumn Term. We are aware this will make your child's shoes and the school floors muddy. We are looking to consider indoor and outdoor footwear by half term.

Menu for students entitled to Free School Meals

Mon	Tuna Baguette/Cheese Baguette
Tue	Chicken Mayo Salad Wrap/Cheese Salad Wrap
Wed	Ham/Cheese Panini or Cheese/Tomato Panini
Thu	Ham Roll/Veggie Burger
Fri	Pork Sausage Puff/ Cheese/Tomato Puff

What happens if a child is not listening and or disturbing the class in lessons?

All students and staff continue to follow the Behaviour Policy, but with calm and compassion at the forefront of their minds. Students are reminded and warned that their behaviours disrupt the class and are "anti-social". They will be taken through the card system and if they do not respond, they will be removed from the class and taken to Resolve. They will be calmly supported to de-escalate, their problems listened to and a resolve meeting will be arranged with the member of staff involved. Please be aware if your child struggles to de-escalate over a prolonged period of time and/or is unable to listen to staff, they will be at a heightened state of risk and may have to be excluded. We will always inform parents when their child has been in Resolve.

We would like to remind you 1st yellow cards are for minor anti-social behaviour where a child has not listened to the warning. In the event you are notified by text that your child has received a yellow card, please discuss it with them when they get home, rather than ringing the school. They will almost always know why this occurred and what it was for, as after the first yellow card they stopped what they were doing.

Meet and Greet for Year 5 next week

The Year 5 Team will be available to answer any concerns you may have, either subject or welfare related. Please see the attached letter for more information on how you can access them for a conversation and or to raise a concern, where appropriate.

Mobile phone use in school

After careful consideration and discussion, we will be trialling lunch and breaks as 'mobile free zones'. Students have become more accustomed to the fact they are unable to mix with all their friends and we are enjoying seeing their reliance on mobile phones reducing and wish to encourage this. As of Monday, we will be asking all students to switch off their phones and leave them in their bags during the day. Students may still be asked to use their phones as a tool in lessons with the teachers' permission and on the understanding that they are returned to their bags at the end of the session. We will be offering a range of activities to engage them and encouraging them to be more active during breaks and lunch. Please be aware that if you text your child during the school day they may not be able to respond until school has finished. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school office on 01763-271446.

Jo Gant
Headteacher
Y5 Letter

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