



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
23/11/20	Non uniform day Reward: 5C & 8D
25/11/20	Flu Immunisation catch up
26/11/20	Inset Day – School closed
27/11/20	Inset Day – School closed
4/12/20	Occasional Day
11/12/20	Christmas Jumper Day
14/12/20	Christingle
18/12/20	End of 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

Can I trust social media to give me accurate advice about the Covid-19 cases?

We received a number of calls on Thursday after inaccurate information about a Covid-19 positive case at Edwinstree was posted on a variety of social media sites. Please be reassured that in the event of a Covid-19 positive case, we will notify you asap.

What can I expect from learning if my child is sent home to self-isolate?

If your child is individually self-isolating, you will find “classwork” posted on SMHW – if you require a hard copy, please notify the admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. If a whole class is sent home, we will return to the model of the summer term, with a detailed lesson plan and resources for students to follow. The teachers self-isolating will be available via SMHW in order to support and provide advice via the chat line. All students self-isolating are expected to complete their homework and hard copies can be requested from the school office.

Why are Year 7 on a 3 day in timetable and a 2 day out?

In supporting teachers and students to self-isolate [when a positive Covid-19 test was identified in a Year 7 class] we were faced with the challenge of seven staff being absent from school. As staff work in teams, this left almost all the Year 7 team isolating and Year 7 classes in school facing three days of supply teaching. We therefore, made the call that having struggled

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to recruit quality supply teachers, that students were better to access distance learning. Please be aware that in the event this happens and more children test positive for Covid-19, we will face further decisions like this. We will notify you asap.

Is there a reason we still have around 30% of our parents not engaging in homework?

Please can you help us? Prior to lockdown around 85% of parents engaged with their child and supported homework. However, since lockdown we have seen a drop in the number of parents engaging with their child and supporting them to complete their home learning. If you are struggling to access the learning please email Mrs Heywood via r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk who can help. The Pupil Premium team of Mrs Arnold and Mrs Marler are supporting all PP students over this term to access, and become familiar with how to use this system. If you need help please ask!

What did the Lancaster Model Year 6 Questionnaire reveal?

Year 6 took part in a national questionnaire to ascertain their health and wellbeing, which was run by the NHS Nursing team. Students sat the questionnaire two weeks ago and the results are in. The concerns raised by the questionnaire were as follows:

We have attached the report for you to read, but our headline figures were:

- 29% have not had regular eye test checks and 23.4% not had regular dental check ups
- With diet, only 28% are having five or more portions of fruit and veg per day
- Bullying is a concern for 22.4% with 45.8% having been bullied in the past and 22.4% of the children knowing someone who is being bullied. However, please read the next bullet point as this explains that this is rarely in school. When questioned ‘online’ was the main cause.

Our strengths even during Covid-19 were:

- Only 2.8% were currently being bullied which is a real positive.
- 87.9% are happy at school and 86% enjoy being at school.

We are hoping that this is the first evidence of your love and care and our commitment to the wellbeing of our students. This year we have concentrated on the values of ‘hope and compassion’ and our wellbeing curriculum has supported students on the whole, to remain positive and well.

Please note: where a concern was flagged from this questionnaire, parents were informed and support was offered by the NHS.

INSET Day Enrichment Activities

We are busy planning a range of activities that you might like to explore with your children on Inset Days on Thu 26th and Fri 27th November. This will be available on 'Show My Homework'. There is no expectation you will complete anything but we thought we would share some great ideas with you. If you cannot access Show My Homework please contact Mrs Heywood at r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk so that she can support you. If you still cannot access Show My Homework and would like a hard copy please email: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk no later than **Monday 23rd November** so we can send a hard copy home with your child.

What is happening on the inset days? We have been talking to Freman subject leads this week to discuss what elements of the curriculum are essential for students to cover before arriving at Freman, while we had this information pre Covid-19, we needed to review in light of the last 9 months. We have also spent time assessing where your child is in their learning and we will be collating this information early next week, in order to give us an accurate picture of the damage of Covid and the progress students have made since their return. You will receive a data report and wellbeing comments this term and an opportunity of Parents' Evening sessions in January. Some parents kindly informed us that Freman's new Cloud system was really effective as a means of meeting. We are currently investigating how this operates and whether we can use it.

What charity are we raising funds for this term?

As part of our learning about the value of hope, in December we will be looking for students to provide opportunities for you to donate and or buy something they have created, in order to support our bid to raise funds for twelve Christmas hampers at a cost of £40 each for the Buntingford Food Bank. Year 5 are hot of the mark and have already decided how they will do this, please read below!

Year 5 Sponsored Walk

As part of our Year 5 Social Advocacy project this year, the cohort will be taking part in a sponsored walk to help raise money for the Buntingford Food Bank Christmas Hampers. This will take place during Year 5 PE lessons on

either Thursday 10th or Friday 11th December respectively.

Students will need to be:

- Sponsored per lap – we suggest a donation of 20p per lap
- Wearing a Christmas themed outfit – this could be as simple as tinsel or as elaborate as an elf costume!

Students will need to collect their sponsorship money and bring into school in a sealed envelope on Monday 14th December.

Home Office campaign launched to protect victims of child abuse

The Home Office has joined forces with charities including Childline, Barnardo's and The Children's Society to launch a new campaign to protect victims of child abuse.

The month-long campaign, '[Something's Not Right](#)', encourages young people to recognise different forms of abuse, including sexual and physical abuse, report it and receive help. The campaign will see animated adverts aimed at secondary school aged pupils aged 13 and over, running across Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. Young people will be directed to a [dedicated page on the Childline website](#) where they can access information and seek support.

Hertfordshire Heroes have launched a Christmas card competition for Years 5 and 6. If you would like to take part, please visit the website below and click on the Christmas card competition link: www.hertfordshireheroes.org

The Golden Broom Award - This is our fun award for the class that has helped our Cleaning Team, by making sure, their room is tidiest!

Best kept classroom		Non-Uniform Day
KS2	5D	23/11/20
KS3	8C	23/11/20

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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