



Diary Dates:

October	Poetry Month
9/10/17	Magistrates Visit for Year 6
10/10/17	Open Morning 10:30pm-11:30pm
13/10/17	Lea House Rewards – Cinema visit
16/10/17	Y8 Parents' Eve 4pm-6:30pm
19/10/17	Y8 Parents' Eve 4pm-6:30pm
23-27/10/17	Half term
30/10/17	Autumn Term 2
4/11/17	Additional Peace Child Rehearsal
1/12/17	Occasional Day
8/12/17	School Production
9/12/17	School Production
19/12/17	Service - St Mary's Church Aspenden
19/12/17	End of Autumn Term 2:30pm finish
3/1/18	Spring Term

Letter from the Chair of Governors

If the cuckoo's call is traditionally the first sign of spring, the appearance of mince pies in the local Co-op surely means that October is now upon us and the winter term already well under way.

I've been in school several times this term and on each occasion have been impressed with the pupils' kindness and enthusiasm to learn as well as the collective determination of the school's leadership team to build on the successes of the previous academic year as they continue to move the school forward. At the heart of this progress will be strong teaching and learning which the governors expect and continue to monitor closely. I was delighted to hear the positive feedback from the Shropshire visit. Once again, our Year 6 pupils were excellent ambassadors for Edwinstree. As well as having a great time, I am told their behavior and team spirit were exemplary and they have brought great credit to the school.

This month, we welcome two new Parent Governors to our own 'Team GB': Nicki Combarro and Janeane Hails, who bring with them valuable skills and experiences and I am sure they will have much to contribute to the Governing Body. The Governors got together earlier this week for their first meeting of the school year. We spent time sorting out our own governance arrangements, like committee structures, terms of references, code of conduct and the membership of the two committees (Resources and Curriculum), where much of the more detailed planning, monitoring and evaluation goes on. As well as the occasional visits into school, we will now meet regularly throughout the school year, blending challenge and support to hold the school's leadership to account.

Yesterday's school Open Evening was a warm, welcoming occasion where we were able to showcase the very best of Edwinstree and celebrate how much this school has to offer. I would like to thank the Head, as well as all the staff and students who contributed to such an enjoyable occasion, which I am sure will have impressed all those prospective parents who attended. We have much to be proud of.

John Boulter, Chair of Governors

Year 5 – Pencil cases

At the beginning of Year 5 we issued every child with a pencil case and all the equipment they need for the school day. However, if your child wishes to bring in their own equipment/pencil case, this is done so at their own risk. We have noticed that some students have very expensive equipment that is unnecessary. While we trust our students on the whole, a £50.00 pencil case is worrying us! The school will not be responsible for lost or missing equipment. We are, of course, happy to issue children with replacement school equipment, should it run out. Mrs Earnshaw

Year 6

Parents will receive a letter this week with information regarding the Y6 SAT booster sessions. These will take place during the school day for students who need additional support. Year 6 will be taking part in a Magistrates' Day with Hertfordshire Magistrates on Monday. They will be acting in a court scene, learning how the court process works and what it is like to volunteer to be a magistrate.

Year 7 Parents

Catch up Saturdays will begin in earnest on Saturday 7/10/17 at 9:30am. We look forward to greeting all invited to attend tomorrow.

Year 8 Parents' Evening 16/10/17 & 19/10/17

The online booking system for appointments in the core subjects will open on Friday 6/10/17 after 6pm

Lea House Rewards Friday 13/10/17

On the day, students will have an early lunch at 12:30pm and then walk down to Benson Hall. The ESA will support the event, but if any parents are free to assist in escorting students to and from Benson Hall, please contact the school office.

Half term Book look

A gentle reminder that students' books will be available to view over half term. Do take this opportunity to see your child's progress, but please make sure all books are returned after half term.

Text Alerts

If you receive a text informing you that your child has been issued with a Yellow Card, please discuss this with your child in the first instance – **your child will know why this has been issued!** Should you require further information, please contact your child's tutor via the ROA for the first Yellow Card and the Head of Year for the 2nd Yellow Card.

Texts regarding 'failure to hand in homework' are for your information and do not necessarily mean a Yellow Card has been issued.

Edwinstree Facebook

As an additional way to communicate with parents, we have now set up a Facebook page. We will be using this page to remind you about school events and celebrate our pupils' achievements. You can follow our page by searching for "Edwinstree Middle School" in the pages section and looking for our profile picture below:



Attendance

We have listened to parent feedback regarding the confusion in reporting pupil absences. To simplify the process, we now have a direct email address for reporting pupil absences. As from Monday 9/10/17 please use the email:

attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to inform the school your child is absent. If the absence is reported in writing by email, we no longer require a written letter on return. Please do not use Parentmail or the admin email to inform of absences with immediate effect – Thank you

Jo Gant
Headteacher

URGENT – CARETAKER NEEDED!

The Governors at St Thomas of Canterbury School, Puckeridge are looking to appoint a reliable and dedicated Caretaker from November 2017. The post is full time, **37 hours per week including school holidays.** Please contact Mrs Wendy Sellers on **01920 821450** for further information.

Closing date: 20th October 2017