



**NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS**  
**Week Ending: 11/01/2019**

**Diary Dates:**

7/1/19	Spring Term
15/1/19	Parents' Evening 5T/5C
17/1/19	Parents' Evening 5F/5P
25/1/19	Author <b>Andy Mulligan</b> visits KS3
w/b 28/1/19	Mock SATS for Year 6
4/2/19	Young Voices at the O2
11/2/19	Parents' Evening 8E/8H
12/2/19	Y6 Parent in school Workshop
13/2/19	Parents' Evening 8K/8T
25/2/19	Parents' Evening 6H/6W
27/2/19	Parents' Evening 6J
4/3/19	Parents' Evening 7C & 7F
6/3/19	Parents' Evening 7R & 7S
12/3/19	Y6 Parent in school Workshop
13/5/19	SATS Week for Year 6

**How do I report my child's absence?**

To report a student absent please use the direct attendance email:

[attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**Welcome back to the Spring Term**

It is lovely to start the New Year as a "Good" school, but we are not about to rest on our laurels. Our action plan for this year is to address the two key areas from Ofsted:

Strengthen teaching, learning and assessment in the school by ensuring that:

- Teachers plan sufficient **challenge in their lessons for the most able pupils**
- Teachers incorporate opportunities for pupils to **practise their numeracy skills** in a range of subjects outside mathematics.
- Improve outcomes, so that they are at least good in all subjects and for all pupil groups, by strengthening the progress made by: **the most able pupils in mathematics and the most able, disadvantaged pupils.**

The Action Plan can be found on our school website [www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

We will update you on our progress in these key areas every term. Our game plan is to then take on the new Ofsted framework which will be launched in September 2019.

**What is our Christian value this term and our Collective Worship based around?**

This week students celebrated the Christian calendar of Epiphany and considered the historical evidence around the Three Wise Men or Magi and their journey to Jesus. They finished with the escape of Jesus from Bethlehem. This term we will spend some time exploring the early life of Jesus, prior to Easter and the Resurrection. This exploration fits beautifully with our new Value 'Humility'. As we begin to explore this theme, we are discovering that Jesus is an excellent

role model for this value. Please note 'humility' allows us also to tackle 'pride and arrogance' that can often befall preteens!

**What happened to all those plastic bags?**

Thank you for your help in rounding up your plastics. The students spent the last Thursday of term working hard to sort, yarn, and then weave the plastic. This was a serious challenge and the craft leaders worked tirelessly to master the task and then share with their classes. The school felt at times, like a production factory with students strategically grouping to organise their activities. At the end of the day we managed almost one mat! And you may laugh, but we really had no idea of the time consuming capacity involved in this. So we are grateful that a team of dedicated crafters are going to join together this term, to weave their magic and complete our tasks and Ms Sanders will lead the Crochet Club. Our plastic warriors are now on a campaign with Mrs Booth as the lead, to convert the remaining plastic bits into eco bricks, more about this in the next few weeks!

**What about the Millennium Garden challenge to create a new structure?**

What is happening to the plastic on the new ROA's? The engineer teams from each House will meet our engineer team experts next week, to create and design the new structure for the Millennium Garden. We will let you know the winning designs.

**Message from the SENCO**

I will be arranging term 2 review of strategies with Parents next week for those students on our SEN Register. If you are a parent of a child who is currently not on the register, but you have concerns about their learning needs, please do not hesitate to contact me on: [senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)  
Miss Company

**Can you help support the SATs? It is not exclusive to Year 6 families!**

Any help you can offer will really support our most vulnerable students in their exams. If you feel that you would like to volunteer in this way please contact Miss Company on [SENCO@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:SENCO@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk) We require approximately ten adults to support our students from 9am-11am on each of these days. You will need to be available for all 4 mornings and also available for **SATs week (13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**. Guidance and training will be given, as appropriate for your role which may be to act as a reader or scribe, or as a supportive adult within a classroom during the tests.

**Parents' Evenings**

Dates for Parents' Evenings for all years can be found in the calendar above. You will be notified by Parentmail when the online booking system is open.

**Year 5**

Parents' Evening takes place next Tuesday and Thursday. Staff will bring students books so that you have an opportunity to review their progress together.

*As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.  
As a community we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

We look forward to seeing you next week. Please ensure that you have booked a joint appointment to meet your child's maths and English teachers. Science teachers will be available for you to drop in to discuss your child's learning too. Students are welcome to attend the appointments.

**Y6 Mock SATs are taking place from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January.** This will give your child an opportunity to run through the process of SATs week and undertake a week of tests; we find that this is invaluable in taking away some of the mystery and fear of SATs week. Following this, there will be several opportunities for you to visit school and find out how to support your child through the SATs process [see above]. In order to support your child through Mock SATs week, please talk with your child about the importance of sleep, diet and punctuality in order to feel physically ready for these days and also ensure that they are clear that we don't expect them to know everything yet! The outcomes of Mock SATs will guide and inform our journey to the May tests.

Y6 parent and child workshops will be running on Tuesday 12/2/2019 during the morning, to help you find out more about how you can support your child through this period. More information to follow but this will be a useful opportunity to learn how to work together to learn key skills and processes. An additional opportunity to find out in more detail how to support your child will take place at a Year 6 Parents' Evenings

### **Year 7 and Year 8**

KS3 have begun their knife and gang crime PSHCE Scheme of Work. Attached is a link to parent guidance information leaflet which will guide you through the topics that we will be covering.  
[http://www.knifecrimes.org/000904\\_KNIFE\\_A5\\_LEAFLET.pdf](http://www.knifecrimes.org/000904_KNIFE_A5_LEAFLET.pdf) Do take time to talk to your child about what they are learning.

**Our homework timetable** is back and operating and we are on week 1 this week. Don't forget that we also post KS3 home learning on our website weekly.

### **What is Winter uniform?**

Winter uniform: A long or short sleeve shirt and a school tie. Ties are purchased from the school at reception. Please refer to Page 5/6 of your child's ROA.

Formal shoes: it is getting harder and harder to distinguish a formal shoe, but we are clear that we expect students to arrive in black shoes; plimsolls are unacceptable as a winter shoe. These will not support your child through the wet winter months. Please help us by making sure that your child has the correct uniform for the start of term.

### **Message from the Town Council**

Buntingford Town Council are conducting a survey regarding the regeneration of the town parks. We hope you agree that it is important that the voice of the users is taken into account at this stage. The

survey can be completed online by following this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/C9woFsD58jgJMUuG2>

### **Library Books**

Thank you to everyone who supported the school library fundraiser last term. Many excited children enjoyed browsing the tables for some great bargains. We will continue to display remaining withdrawn library books for the rest of January and collect any donations: £1 for three old books. All proceeds will be used to buy pristine, up-to-date books for the libraries. Many thanks to the Year 8 Leaders who worked very hard to set up the sale. If you happen to be having a clear-out, please think of us; we would be delighted to accept any appropriate books for our KS2 and KS3 libraries. Please continue to use the Reading House Competition Bookmarks. This is a great way to encourage your children to read for at least twenty minutes, five times a week. If you haven't seen one lately please ask your child to collect a new one.

### **USEFUL CONTACTS:**

#### **Confidential helpline**

**Call our free and confidential helpline for support** Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (**previously known as Parentline**).

Please call us on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Our helpline service is open 9am – 9pm, Monday to Friday and 10am – 3pm Saturday and Sunday. For callers from Scotland, Children 1<sup>st</sup> run Parentline Scotland and you may wish to contact them on 08000 28 22 33 Monday to Friday from 9am - 9pm.

Email support - The lines do get very busy, if you are unable to get through, you may want to email for support, advice and information.

Please email: [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk). Who aim to respond within 24 hours, Monday to Friday.  
<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

**Jo Gant**  
**Headteacher**

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