



Diary Dates:

19/3/19	Y8 Maths Team -14 students UK Maths Challenge, Cambridge
21/3/19	KS2 French Play [Y5 & Y6]
19/3/19	Joint Spring Concert at Freman 7pm No Buggy Rehearsals
26/3/19	Bugsy Rehearsal all Cast 3:20pm-4:20pm
25-28/3/19	Y8 Normandy Residential Visit
3/4/19	Town Council AGM 6:30pm at Edwinstree Plastic Awareness
3/4/19	Sex Education Workshop – 7pm-8:30pm
4/4/19	Action Aid Fete
5/4/19	Easter Service at St Peters
5/4/19	End of Term 2:30pm
23/4/19	Summer Term
23/4/19	School Meal Increases to £2.65 per day
13/5/19	SATS Week for Year 6
27-31/5/19	Half Term
20/6/19	Bugsy Malone – 7pm-9pm
21/6/19	Bugsy Malone – 7pm-9pm
26-28/6/19	Y6 Residential visit to Norfolk
28/6/19	Inset Day
19/7/19	End of Term 2:30pm

How do I report my child's absence?

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

attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Thank you.

Bugsy Malone – No rehearsals on 19/3/19 due to the full cast rehearsal (Y5 – Y7) on 26/3/19.

Joint Concert

At Freman College at 7pm, no tickets required. The choir will be walked up to Freman during P3 to rehearse the Queen Medley with the other two schools.

Has the school continued to make progress since Ofsted?

Our school Improvement Advisor Linda Hardman, visited the school for a day to investigate the key areas Ofsted asked us to improve and to assess our progress. The Advisor met with students in all year groups, completed a Learning Walk with the Headteacher for an hour and half and then reviewed books and data. The Improvement Advisor was able to confirm that significant progress had taken place in all areas:

- Students were able to give extensive examples of numeracy across the curriculum which was evidenced in the Learning Walks and books.
- Challenge was seen in all lessons visited and all children were engaged and on task.

- The full report will be with us by Easter and we will share this with parents.

How can I help my child in Year 7 prepare for the Action Aid day and PSHCEE lessons?

Edwinstree have been supporting Action Aid for about 35 years and have sponsored many children, mainly from India. We have raised almost £30,000 during this time and we currently sponsor a boy and a girl from the country of Myanmar. Their names are Min Khant Soe and Thu Zar Maw. To assist Mr Galanides and Year 7 with this fantastic endeavour, over the next couple of weeks we will use our Year 7 PSHCEE lessons to gather ideas for stalls, resources and make posters etc. As always, we appreciate any help our parents can give and, in this instance, please don't be surprised if your child(ren) come home and raid your shoe cupboard for the 'Welly' throwing stall or start squirrelling away your make-up for the face-painting stall! In all seriousness, any craft donations for activities or sweets for prizes will be gratefully received and, in this way, we will be able to maximise our donations to Action Aid. Nearer the time, we will also be asking for donations of cakes for the cake stall from our fantastic bakers. Thank you in advance for all your support. Any queries, please contact Mr. Galanides or Mrs Keohane via the school office or through the ROA as normal. Action Aid will take place on Thursday 4th April and all donations should be delivered on the morning, including any cakes!

How much cover will the Normandy visit generate for school and students how and how does the school plan to cover it?

The educational residential visit to Normandy requires 5 staff from the school. We are very fortunate that, once again we have compassionate parents willing to support the visit along with our support staff, as a significant number of adults are required. Those attending this year's visit are Miss Bustard, Mr Baines, Miss Ealet, Miss Di Pasquale & Miss Davies. The worst hit year group is Year 7. In order to support them, we have amended their timetable to ensure that they have specialist teachers wherever possible, which means they may find themselves completing 2 music lessons rather than a cover Science for example. As well as this, Mrs Gant will be taking two sets of classes in the hall on a Geography exploration of what it is like to grow up as a street child in Cairo. Their skills and attributes will be tested against the street children. Do they match up? We will publish the cover timetable next week to help you to navigate

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your child through the week. Please note; PE lessons remain in their usual places.

Are you available to support the end of term Easter Service?

If you are available to support us in escorting students to our Easter Service at St Peter's Church on the morning of Friday 5/4/19, please contact the school office for more information.

How can parents/carers support a safe exit from the school?

Thank you to the majority of parents and carers who make safe decisions when collecting their child from school. However, please can I remind those few parents who are still not taking care to support the residents that live around our school site not to double park? A resident of White Hart Close wrote to us last week to express her concerns for the safety of the students. We have notified the Community Police to support us, and we are encouraging residents to take a note of the number plate and pass onto the local police. I have attached again the local Police letter asking for support in this area. Please help to keep our students safe.

Year 5

We are intending to hold a coffee morning to support parents of vulnerable or highly anxious students in Year 4, who will be joining Edwinstree in September. If you have a child who experienced the early transition process and would like to support this event, please contact the school office on 01763-271446.

Year 6

Year 6 students sat their second mock SATs in a calm and controlled manner. Please be aware they will be sitting further papers in the lead up to their final exams. This is to make sure that by the time the SATs actually arrives, they are used to test conditions and that we have reduced their anxiety. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the third SATs Parent Workshop session: we are glad you found it useful

Year 6 Students Preparation for SATs

We are always trying to find new ways to support our students in the lead-up to SATs tests. This year we have tried two new things

- Student and parent workshops;
- A PSHCEE unit, which explored how the brain works, how to revise and how to look after our physical and mental health.

Earlier this week, students were asked what they thought about these new initiatives. They were

really positive when explaining how these lessons had helped them.

The Gideons Visit Y7

The Gideons are a wonderful Christian organisation that have been distributing bibles, free of charge around the world since 1898. They will be coming into the KS3 Collective Worship on 7th May and handing out New Testament Bibles to our Year 7 students. If you haven't seen one of these little red bibles, then do have a look; they have a wonderful section at the front that suggest different verses of the bible to read when going through different difficult situations in life.

Year 8

Normandy is fast approaching. Please make sure that you have made any last minute preparations and purchases including Euros for the children to spend. The exchange rate on the ferry is not very good, so it would be wise to buy the money in advance. Have a talk with your child about looking after their money and budgeting for the trip. Make sure they have a secure purse to keep their money safe. It is advisable to check next week's weather forecast so you have a good idea of what to pack. Please remember to keep all electronic devices such as phones and tablets at home. We wish to support your child to have fun and enjoy time away from social media. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school or, after hours contact the hotel, **Bon Sejour La Plage on 0033231242060**

Medication - It is very important that all student medication is handed in to the office asap, so we can ensure the medical folder is updated for the visit.

Please note all Normandy students will be expected to be in school on Friday 29/3/19 by 11:15am for Period 3 lesson. Thank you for your support in getting your child to us on that day!

What happens to those Y8 students not attending Normandy?

We are clear that the expectation is that they attend school as normal. The few Y8 students not attending the visit will take on a support role working with Y5 & Y6 for the week. Last year, our Year 8 students fed back how much they enjoyed this opportunity to get to know and support the younger year groups. The students' self-esteem and self-worth were boosted by this process. They will also have an opportunity to cover the key learning taking place in Normandy.

Jo Gant
Headteacher
Parking Letter

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