



NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 9/11/2018

Diary Dates:

12/11/18	Y7/Y8 Lea House Swim Session
13.11.18	NO ART CLUB
13/11/18	6H Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm
20/11/18	Sounds of French for Y7/Y8 Parents 7pm – 8pm
22/11/18	Year 5 Influenza (Flu) Immunisation
22/11/18	Ayesha Hazarika visits Y7/Y8
26/11/18	7C & 7R Parents' Evening 3:30pm-7:30pm
28/11/18	7F & 7S Parents' Evening 3:30pm-7:30pm
30/11/18	Image Musical Theatre KS2
30/11/18	Light of Love Service at 6pm
3/12/18	Christmas Decorations afternoon
7/12/18	Occasional day – School closed
12/12/18	Joint Concert at Edwinstree 7pm
14/12/18	Y5/Y6 Charity Disco
14/12/18	Christmas Jumper Day
17/12/18	Deadline for OAP Christmas Boxes of Joy
20/12/18	Big Christmas Knit
21/12/18	Service at St Mary's Church Aspenden
21/12/18	End of term 2:30pm finish
7/1/19	Spring Term
4/2/19	Young Voices at the O2
13/5/19	SATS Week for Year 6

Dates for the diary

Do take time to look through the dates on the calendar. Advent is a busy season and we don't want you to miss out.

What is happening in Collective Worship?

We have continued with the theme of Creation this month – we are currently exploring the 'WOW' in the fact that we have a great and diverse world. This has supported us to cover and remind students that diversity is a plus and we have considered racism and this week homophobia. Next week is the national anti-bullying week and we will use our Wednesday COWO to explore this topic and what to do if this is occurring in the school or at home. Our Monday COWO will honour Remembrance Day. Don't forget if you need cheering up Hymns on Friday from 2:45pm is well worth a visit, particularly in the Advent lead up!

Child Protection Update

As part of our Child Protection training the Designated Senior Team for CP took part in Hertfordshire training this week. The training focused on the growing Child Protection risk from the internet. In particular, they highlighted apps and games that allowed anyone to access your child and communicate with them. They could not recommend more highly the use of 'Privacy settings' in all APPs and Games. Grooming is on

the increase and there have been over 11,000 reported cases nationally this year, based on adults accessing children through an internet app and or game.

Websites to support and inform you on how to protect your child are:

[NSPCC online safety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents/keep_safe/online_safety/) and

the://www.screenlimit.net/ which shows you how to limit screen time with your child. Please make sure if your child is using 'Snapchat' that the GHOST in settings is turned off as this allows anyone to track their whereabouts. GDPR regulations introduced in April have increased the age limit of 'Whatsapp' users from 13 years to 16 years, please follow link for more information. <https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Can we advise you check what your child has access to on their mobile phone?

We are sourcing a company to train our staff and students on the latest Internet Safety Guidelines and to also offer a parent information session on how to keep your child safe online. We may well look to fund this with a non-uniform day of £2 in the new year. Further details to follow

Homework and books.

Please make sure all the books we sent home for the half term book share have been returned to school. Homework starts in earnest again this week

Poppy Display at Edwinstree

Edwinstree Middle School took part in the SAA's 'Paint a Poppy Challenge' in partnership with the Royal British Legion, to commemorate 100 years since Armistice Day. Students, staff and parents were encouraged to paint and donate a poppy in order to create a display in the school hall. We hope you will be able to join us for the Remembrance Service on Sunday.



Year 5/Year 6 Image Musical Theatre

We are delighted to welcome the Image Musical Theatre back to Edwinstree for a performance of Pinocchio on Friday 30/11/18. To enable us to finance this educational event we require a

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voluntary contribution of £2 to cover part of the cost.

Year 5 Parents

This week, with the school's support, one of our Year 5 students informed their classmates of the following: *"For some time I have felt like a boy and I would now like to be treated as a boy"*. The tutor group have been incredibly supportive.

Parents Evening for 6J – due to illness two teachers were unable to make the Monday session please can we remind you to email the school office admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk if you would like a phone consultation regarding your child's progress.

Year 7

Y7 Parents' Evening appointments for core subjects (maths, English and Science) are coming soon. You will be able to make an appointment to meet your child's maths and English teachers together. Your child's science teacher will be available for drop-in sessions. It is helpful if your child can also attend the meeting to share in the discussion about their learning. Feedback from both parents and from staff about the new arrangements for parent and child consultation appointments has been overwhelmingly positive. 7C and 7R - Monday 26th November
7F and 7S - Wednesday 28th November.
You will be notified by parentmail once the online booking system is open. There are enough appointments for one appointment per family. Letters will be out next week inviting students to a Humanities educational visit to the London Museum, please look out for these dates.

Year 8

Please congratulate your child, a number of Year 5 parents have commented how kind and friendly the Year 8s have been towards their children.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school please email our dedicated attendance email address by 8:45am: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. We ask that parents support the school in helping children reach their full potential by ensuring that your child's attendance is above the minimum expected level of 96%. Research shows that there is a direct link between attendance and attainment. This research is supported by our own data analysis. The table below shows the percentage of Edwinstree children who achieved the National Pass mark during their SATs in 2018 compared to our minimum expected attendance level:

Attendance	Maths	GPS	Reading
Below 96% Attendance	40% Achieved National Pass mark	66% Achieved National Pass mark	66% Achieved National Pass mark
Above 96% Attendance	68% Achieved National Pass mark	83% Achieved National Pass mark	83% Achieved National Pass mark

We will continue to monitor attendance and employ the strategies used last year including rewarding good attendance, supporting parents, and working with the Attendance Officer.

Break-time Snack Price Increase Reminder

HCL introduced the break time snacks at a trial price of 50p, following a change to the school day timings. However, HCL have been selling at a loss and the price increase was introduced due to rising costs. This decision was made by the Catering Company over which the school has no control, as previously mentioned in the Parents' Newsletter on 21/9/18.

Be Bright Be Seen'

'Be Bright Be Seen' is an important message for all students and the whole school community, especially as now the nights are drawing in. The Active and Safer Travel Team are keen to promote this as a key part of the road safety and active travel programme, especially over the autumn and winter months. As the days are getting shorter, now is a good time to remind everyone of the importance of wearing bright and reflective clothing when out and about, to make them more visible to traffic. Please note that it is fluorescent for daytime and reflective for night time.

Visitor

On November 22nd Ayesha Hazarika will be coming into Edwinstree to talk to our Year 7 and Year 8 students. Ayesha was a member of the panel for BBC 'Any Questions' when it was broadcast from the school last year. She will be talking about what inspired her to work in politics, in comedy and her work with women and girls. It is a real privilege to have such an amazing role model come to our school to inspire our students.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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