



Diary Dates:

12/9/17	ESA Meeting 7pm
19/9/17	Y6 Church Trail
18/9/17	Action Plan Meeting for Parents 6pm
20/9/17	Filmmaker Club x 10 3:20pm-4:20pm
21/9/17	Y5 Parents Meeting 4-5:30pm
25/9/17	International Language Day
25-29/9/17	Y6 Shropshire
28/9/17	SATs Presentation to Y6 Parents 5pm
28/9/17	Y7 Parents' Meeting post SATS 6pm
23-27/10/17	Half term
30/10/17	Autumn Term 2
1/12/17	Occasional Day
19/12/17	End of Autumn Term 2:30pm finish
3/1/18	Spring Term

Welcome to our new term. We are looking forward to supporting and challenging your child to progress. Last year we worked with the Governing Body to develop our vision. This is the core essence of what we are about. It is what gets us up on those wet and dreary winter mornings!

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

Term Dates

We have made the decision to support the community by making sure that we mirror Freman College term dates, so that as a parent you are only managing one set of holidays in a school year.

Academic Year 2017 - 2018	
Inset Days	4 th September 2017
Autumn Term 1	5 th September 2017 – 20 th October 2017
Half Term	23 rd October 2017 – 27 th October 2017
Autumn Term 2	30 th October 2017 – 19 th December 2017
Occasional Day	1 st December 2017
Spring Term 1	3 rd January 2018 – 9 th February 2018
Spring Half Term	12 th February 2018 – 16 th February 2018
Spring Term 2	19 th February 2018 – 29 th March 2018
Easter Holidays	30 th March 2018 – 13 th April 2018
Summer Term 1	16 th April 2018 - 25 th May 2018
Public Holiday	7 th May 2018
Summer Half Term	28 th May 2018 - 1 st June 2018
Summer Term 2	4 th June 2018 – 20 th July 2018
Inset Days	25 th June 2018

How will we communicate with you?

We are really clear that a successful flourishing student is one that has school, home and student working and communicating well together. We would like to stress from the outset, that no problem is too small. If you have a concern please contact us, we really are here to help! Your points of contact are the tutor, the Head of Year, the Senior Team and the Head. To contact us you can pop in and we will do our best to see you, or you can telephone or email.

One of the most effective ways of communicating is via the Record of Achievement, alternatively you can email Heads of Year on the following:

Year 5 - Hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 6 - Hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 7 - Hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Year 8 - Hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Alternatively you can contact the school office and we will endeavour to phone you back within 24 hours.

However, if we do not respond, please nudge us as we do try to adhere to this policy.

Please ensure you sign Page 3 and Page 4 of your child's ROA as soon as possible – thank you

What curriculum change is there this year?

As we continue to work closely with Freman College, they have agreed to support our teaching and learning by taking the Year 8 classes for German. This means that the majority of Year 8 students will be walking to Freman College once a week to complete their lesson and returning back either at the beginning of break or at lunchtime. In the first instance my Leadership Team, Learning Support Assistants or the Admin team will be escorting the students. However, as they grow in confidence we envisage them making this walk independently. We will safeguard this with a register both on entering Freman College and on their return. Some students have been selected to take part in alternative interventions rather than attend Freman College, you will be notified separately to discuss and confirm this decision.

Japanese

We regret to inform you that the school is currently unable to fund Japanese lessons. We will be providing a certificate of learning for all students who completed Japanese to validate their learning. We recommend they keep this in their CV folder as evidence for future references. However, if you are interested in maintaining private Japanese lessons, please contact the school office.

ICT this year for Year 7 and Year 8 will be taught in pull out days and through cross-curricular subject provision. For example in Geography this half term students will be learning about Geographical Information Systems and using their knowledge to explore and research the area of Grenfell. They will be completing GIS maps.

Collective Worship and our Church of England status.

Our Christian Value this half term is *'thankfulness'* and how we make sure we take the time to consider what we have and what we should be grateful for. Collective Worship will be celebrating the Harvest Festival. In RE and through the Church of England student box, we will be asking for donations for harvest boxes for the senior citizens in our community. Students will have the opportunity to provide a food that they are thankful for and provides them with hope and nourishment. We very much appreciate your support in helping to make those boxes a real gift.

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Homework Policy

Attached is our Homework Policy for KS2 & KS3. This can also be found on Pages 220 & 221 of the Record of Achievement.

Year 5 and 6 (KS2) will be given two sets of homework a week in Maths and English and an MFL homework once a week. Alongside this we ask that you make sure that they spend a minimum of 20 minutes, five nights a week reading. We will be publishing a reading guide to help you as this reading needs to be active: this means that you have conversations and ask questions to make sure that they are engaging with and understanding the text. The second homework in maths is a challenge homework. This is decided by the student and teacher and is dependent on the learning in the week that your child found most difficult. They are asked to re-do this learning or explore the problem in greater depth in order to secure the knowledge.

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Students also have a two weekly timetable which is attached and this identifies which subjects are set each week from the foundation. Each foundation subject occurs once every two weeks.

Please track their homework against this timetable and let the Tutor or Head of Year know if you have any concerns.

Enrichment and Extra Curricular Visits

Next week's calendar will publish our enrichment activities for this term. If your child has signed up to Filmmakers Club, the first session starts on 20/9/17.

Uniform

Thank you to parents who have helped to improve the students' uniform and remove trainers, leggings and jeans from the community. Students looked exceptionally smart on their first day. However, for the very small minority who continue to ignore the uniform regulations, we will contact you to discuss the matter further.

Restorative Justice and Behaviour.

This year our School Improvement Plan is focusing on providing every opportunity for student leadership and rewards. Rewards come as merits and you will see these in their ROAs. Rewards will also be given as certificates, celebrating our 15 different values within the school.

Behaviour Policy

Poor behaviour will follow our Behaviour Policy which is on our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. In the first instance students will be given a warning - first yellow - which the tutor manages on the day, second yellow is recorded, the Head of Year will contact you

and manage the consequence, and finally a red - an immediate removal from the classroom and parents will be made aware immediately. In all second yellow and red cases, students, when calm, will be asked to own their mistake and to repair the damage, with a restorative justice meeting and plan of action or way forward.

Our expectations for behaviour are high: we know our students have the capacity to be wonderful. This term in particular, we are focusing on what it means to be an active listener.

Governors and the ESA.

The Governing Body is now actively recruiting for Parent Governors, if you are interested in becoming a School Governor, please contact the school office for more details.

Edwinstree School Association meets next Tuesday 12/9/17 at 7pm to begin a programme of events and support to help raise funds for the school. We are looking to improve both outdoor break, indoor break and lunch facilities including seating areas and a climbing wall. We also want to raise funding for a significant upgrade of our ICT student suite over the next year. If you have time on your hands and would be keen to volunteer email esa@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office.

Volunteers.

We have a number of opportunities for volunteers to support in class, in the library and our reading programme. If you can spare an hour or two a week on a regular basis, please contact the school office on 01763-271446. Grandparents are very welcome too! To comply with our safety regulations, we will take you through a short training programme. Our volunteers last year made a difference.

Year 5 News

Well done to Year 5 who have settled really well. Please make sure from this week onwards, your child reads for those 20 minutes, five times a week. This week students have been escorted to lessons to help them find their way around school and they are now becoming familiar with their surroundings.

During a meeting with the new Year 5s, I asked them what surprised them about Edwinstree. One young man explained, "The older students and how they want to play with us and are really nice to us." This was lovely to hear and is indicative of the majority of our school community.

Y5 Parents are invited to meet the staff on Thursday 21/9/17 over tea and biscuits from 4pm.

Year 6 News

Shropshire is fast approaching. This educational visit is designed to provide fun and fulfilment prior to the drive towards the SATs. Please make sure that you are supporting your child's learning and ensure they are reading five times a week for 20 minutes and you are using the Reading Detective and question them about it. Please give them every opportunity to practice their

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times tables, read the non-digital clock and money calculations.

We will support Year 6 parents this term by offering an opportunity to come into school to hear how we build toward the SATs and how parents can help at home.

Year 7 News

Year 7 have made a positive start. You should now see homework from the foundation subjects, please make sure you are aware of which week each subject homework is set. Please make sure that you are supporting your child's learning and ensure they are reading five times a week for 20 minutes.

Year 8 News

Congratulation to this year group for setting a fantastic example in Collective Worship. Although nervous about starting Year 8 and in their new classes, they have settled well. Please make sure you have read their homework timetable and are aware of when and how each child will receive their foundation homework. Maths and English is set each week. Please keep them reading for 20 minutes, five nights a week, this is paramount to their learning.

Absent from School

On the first day of your child's illness please remember to notify the school office your child is absent. We also require a written absent note when your child returns to school; this is a legal requirement.

School Office Opening Hours

The school office is open from 8:30am-4pm daily

School Meals

5th -29th September – 19 days

(1st day of term Tuesday 5th September)

2nd – 20th October – 15 days

Total meal charges for half term 34 days @ £2.45 = £83.30

Wednesday and Friday only – 14 days @ £2.45 = £34.30

Friday only – 7 days @ £2.45 = £17.15

Forecast letters will be sent home today.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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