



Diary Dates

2/11/20	New entry and exit times Year 5 – 8:55am – 2:40pm Year 6 – 9:00am – 2:45pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm
26/10/20	Half Term
30/10/20	Parentmail Update re Monday 2/11/20
2/11/20	Students return to school
2/11/20	School Meals online ordering
2/11/20	MAT Consultation deadline
4/12/20	Occasional Day
4/01/21	Inset Day
5/01/21	Spring Term begins

What if my child tests positive with Covid-19 during half term?

We have created a new email address to help you alert us swiftly if your child tests positive during this half term. The email address is listed here, on our Facebook page and on the front page of our website.

Covid-19 : covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What is Hertfordshire County advice over half term?

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of COVID-19
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

If your child receives a positive test please let us know asap via covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. This email account will be checked during half term. If a positive case of Covid-19 occurs and requires your child to self-isolate to protect the community, we will Parentmail you. On **Saturday 31/10/20** we will update you as to whether school is staffed and safe for students to return. However, as things change so quickly, please make sure that by Monday after half term, you have a clear plan in the event we contact you to collect your child. We are hoping this will not be necessary but we need to be as prepared as possible.

If you have made the decision that your child needs to self-isolate. Please use the same COVID email to alert us. Please state the reason, ie they have developed symptoms and or they know of a positive case that they have been in close contact with during the half term.

For any other Absence? Our usual message is to be followed:

As we currently operate staggered start times to ensure that we comply with Covid-19 regulations, our attendance procedure has been amended. As the new process is more complex and inevitably takes longer to administer, it is more important than ever that if your child cannot attend school that you inform us via our dedicated attendance email address every morning:

attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. Please use this form of communication, as our other email account is not routinely checked first thing in the morning.

What if my child was with a child that has tested positive during half term? They will need to self-isolate, just like if they were in the same classroom and at school and you will need to inform us using the direct email: covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What if my child was with a child who was next to a case?

This is called the second jump. At the moment Public Health are looking at the case and who was around them in the class, not who the non Covid-19 students around the positive case were next to. It is one jump or connection not two, that leads to self-isolation.

What other changes are there to do with Covid-19?

Please note last night County HCC notified us that teachers from Essex in Tier 2 will have to wear masks in corridors. I am asking teachers that rather than singling out individuals we will all wear masks in corridors. Can you prepare your child that teachers will be wearing masks after term. Their morning wellbeing session will explain all the changes that will take place on the first day of the new half term.

Don't forget warm clothing and a spare pair of slippers, shoes or outdoor boots to support the fact that they register on the field before the start of the day. Waiting in cramped corridors is much more of a risk. Please help us to protect our floors! They will also need warm coats, hats, gloves etc as windows will remain open for ventilation.

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If I have a welfare or behaviour enquiry who do I ring? Telephone Options – Option 3

We now have an additional telephone option on our telephone system to direct you to either Mrs Heywood or Mrs Marler who are the team that support student welfare in school. If you have a query about a card, a concern about a student's wellbeing, or wish to know about a Resolve, this team would be your first port of call., Mrs Marler can support you with a query If you are a PP or SEND parent as she now works within this team. Can we remind you please avoid ringing for first yellow cards, your child will know why they received it, so wait to ask them when they get home. If they don't then you can email the HOY to find out on

hoy5@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

hoy6@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

hoy7@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

hoy8@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

What are the AM sessions in the morning about and how are they helping my child?

We have been following the guidance from the Education Psychologists in how to help us all grow from this experience. Your child has covered the following areas with us: sense of safety, control, connectedness, calm and this week hope. We thought you might like to see a reflection of hope from a Year 6 student.

A message of hope - "Some people are only focusing on the negative and they don't realise that we are making history! We kids will be telling our story of living through the pandemic, to our children and grandchildren for many years to come!" by Evie Co, 6A.

How are you looking after my child's wellbeing during this difficult time?

Well-being will continue as a theme to support your child to manage their worries and concerns as the pandemic changes around us. We are incredibly proud of your children and how you have helped them to remain resilient and calm. We hope that we are contributing. Do not hesitate to contact us if there is a concern.

Our collective worship value moves from Compassion which we take forward and hold dear as a school in these difficult times and we move onto Hope.

When will I know if my child is making progress?

As discussed last week in the Newsletter, we plan to complete a new assessment with students in November to provide you with their first data set and an opportunity to communicate with the team involved, in a staggered approach from email exchange to a telephone conversation. This will follow the format used for the Year 5 'meet and greet' and will be available for all year groups.

MAT Consultation – deadline 2/11/20

I apologise for the delay in the getting the video link to you, this will be posted on the website today. If you have any questions or comments please email:

m.matthews@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

by 2/11/20. We will then respond to all of these in the space of 10 days. <https://youtu.be/GcCujkOPqkI>

What homework will my child be receiving next half term?

If you are KS3 all the foundation subjects your child is being taught will now be setting homework weekly and posted on SMHW. The new timetables show when homework will be set, marked by an Asterisk. KS2 will receive Core homework and there is a separate letter explaining and addition Maths are introducing on Friday.

What are the new timing of the school day? Where can I find my child's timetable?

As you are aware, we are making slight changes to the timetable after half term. These can be found on the front page of our website www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk The new timetable gives you information about how lunchtimes will operate, as well as when homework will be set in a particular subject.

Why were two Year 7 classes asked not to attend school for a day?

Towards the middle of this week, there were too many staff that needed to be covered. Supply teachers are required to cover five and half hours of learning without a break from the class, this is exceptionally tough, as normally they would only be required to be with a class for an hour. We are, therefore, using known and secure supply teachers to staff our school. On Wednesday the agencies confirmed that they did not have recommended staff and may not be able to find staff we have used previously. At this point, and with the support from Governors, I made the decision that students would be better at home, online learning than with supply staff in school. We hope this will be a very rare case, but we are having to make judgements about when students become at risk due to too many supply in the school, particularly where staff and students are unfamiliar. Please note, when a Covid-19 reason keeps your child at home in isolation, at the request of the DfE this is recorded as a separate absence on our system. It is recognised that we have no control over this type of absence.

Student Voice

We started off the year with just a maths book and another exercise book, which students keep in their equipment bags. Students have told us that they miss seeing their learning journey unfold so we have decided to re-introduce a book for each subject. Unfortunately this doesn't mean we can mark everything but will still need to assess and give feedback on key pieces only (completed on paper). Government guidance states that we must quarantine paper for 48 hours, mark and give feedback, then return to students after another 48 hours – this keeps everyone safe. We have introduced many other ways to assess their learning as we go, including home learning quizzes, using mini-whiteboards to share instant responses and using classroom tech like visualizers. We've all enjoyed using these assessment methods.

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Can I order a school meal for my child after half term and will it be a hot meal or a packed lunch option?

Working in partnership with HCL and SchoolGrid, from Monday 2nd November 2020 we will be opening up school meals to the whole school, with a selection of hot and cold meal options. We will also be moving over to an online ordering system, the system will help children get the meals they want by allowing them to view menus and order meals from home. Your child should have brought home a letter yesterday with further information. A copy of the letter, which includes the menu, is attached.

Key Stage 2 Maths: Times Tables Rockstars

We are pleased to inform you that Edwinstree has subscribed to Times Table Rock Stars for our KS2 classes. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging online programme designed to help students master the times tables. When it comes to these, speed and accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. The games are cleverly designed to challenge your child with the facts that they are struggling to master – repetition is key. The children should have been handed a letter at school with their individual login details so please check bags. For children not at school, this will be posted out to you. There is also a post on SMHW for all Year 5 and 6 children with more information on game play and details of a half term online Battle of the Bands. If you are having problems setting up TT Rock Stars, please comment on the SMHW post and Mrs Tungatt will endeavour to help you. Key Stage 2 Maths Team.

Remembrance Day

This year we are unable to sell poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion. However, this year, we continue to wish to remember and not forget those brave men and women that gave their lives for our freedom. Edwinstree Middle School would like to ensure that none of us forget the sacrifices that they made for us. Please follow the link below to the Royal British Legion and see some of the wonderful activities and resources that they have provided for us. We will also be decorating the classrooms with poppies and would love to see some poppies displayed in your windows at home – every poppy counts.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance>

Miss Bustard has created a presentation that is already on Show My Homework that you can also have a look at and complete some of the activities.

I would also suggest that you take them time to visit the war memorial in your town or village and give thanks to the soldier that are remembered there.

Miss Bustard will post some of our displays on the school website and on Facebook and we would love to see some of what you do at home.

Let's try to do something really spectacular! Lest we forget. Thank you for your continued support. Miss Bustard.

Food Technology

It has been a great start to the new year. Students have been busy learning about the importance of a balanced diet and have cooked some spectacular dishes. The number of students cooking at home has been astounding and we thank you for all of your support in allowing them to do this (especially when we are all very busy and under immense pressure at the moment). We do hope that you have enjoyed the meals they have cooked for you, we have certainly enjoyed the food pictures and reading all about their cooking experiences. To celebrate some of their achievements, Mrs Van Wyk and I have been busy sending out certificates to students that have shown outstanding effort and progress this term. We have sent out a staggering 80 certificates. Well done KS3 and long may this continue! After half-term the students will be moving onto Graphic Products. They will be creating an interactive children's book with a focus on moving mechanisms, pop-ups and tactile surfaces. If you have any of these books at home, please do encourage your son//daughter to have a look at them over half-term. Mrs Booth Head of Technology

What should they be doing over the holidays?

A Covid-19 school is a difficult place to be, where children are asked not to be children. Our students have coped admirably and therefore, need a rest, but please keep their reading going, 5 times a week. They are really looking forward to spending time with you and we wish you a happy and safe half term.

Jo Gant

Headteacher

School meals information

Message from East Herts Community

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