



Diary Dates

7/9/20	School starts for all students entry times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:30pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:25pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:20pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:15pm
14/10/20	Flu Immunisation Y5/Y6/Y7
26/10/20	Half Term
2/11/20	Students return to school
4/12/20	Occasional Day
4/01/21	Inset Day
5/01/21	Spring Term begins

How safe is our social distancing at the start and end of the day?

Thank you for all your support in socially distancing children at the start and end of the school day. This has really helped decrease congestion outside the school. We have one request from the Manager at Nevetts NHS below:

Please ask parents not to use our car park, it is for staff only. We have regular hospital referrals and ambulances need to gain access to transfer patients. The Sainsbury's car park is free before 9am and after 3pm, please support our community.

Will my child be waiting outside in the rain for the start of school?

Yes, please wherever possible adhere to the start times as teachers will be there to collect students from outside but not before, rain or shine. Please also remind your child to wear a jumper as the weather changes, classroom windows will continue to remain open.

How is attendance operating under COVID?

Attendance - What if my child is ill?

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 to report your child absent, or you may leave a telephone message. Please do not use any other apps such as School Gateway or Parentmail. Whatever ill health, we need to know, and particularly if it is one of the 3 symptoms of COVID [high temperature, continuous cough and or loss of taste and/or smell]. If this is the case you must seek a test. This year the emphasis is on staying safe and well and not about chasing you to get your child into school

I really think my child has got a cold and I am struggling to book a test what do I do?

We are so sorry, but we are not trained professionals and are required to follow the guidance, if your child has one of the three symptoms they should self-isolate and you should seek that test. [NHS UK website](https://www.nhs.uk)

When my child is having to self-isolate but is well, is work available?

Yes, will use the SMHW app to provide classwork for students at home. However, please be aware that teachers do not have capacity to create the detailed work we provided in lockdown. We will explain what to do with the work that mirrors what was set in the lesson. For some subjects we may also refer you to the Oak Academy. Bear with us as we are planning lessons in school and just trialling this new system. We will be using the 'classwork' sections in the app which is coloured in **RED**.

What about if I decide to pick my child up and they don't take the bus? Do you register these children?

We are registering bus children, so please let our Attendance team know so we can alert the duty teacher.

What are the key messages for bus children?

Please ensure that you equip your child with a mask for their bus journey.

Message from HCC re public transport for school transport – duplicate services

With the need for social distancing on buses, both the council and commercial operators are running duplicate services on busy school routes. These routes are closed routes for students only. Where a school duplicate bus service is provided, it may be operated by a different company and may run up to five minutes earlier than the scheduled service; it is clearly marked as a duplicate / school only service. Whilst social distancing is required when travelling on local bus services for the general public and students, it is not required on a duplicate service exclusively for students. It is however mandatory for young people to wear a face covering (unless exempt) on the duplicate buses as well as general bus services. You can find plan your journey and find latest timetables at:

<https://www.intalink.org.uk/plan-your-journey>
To find out which services will be running a duplicate bus service visit:

<https://www.intalink.org.uk/duplicateschoolservices>

What are the key messages for learning at the school as we re-engage?

Should I be using SMHW for my child's homework now?

Yes please. This is a brilliant app that provides you and your child with all your homework. We will also provide hard copy, but if you currently can't get on the app, please contact Mrs R Heywood via email: r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk for help and advice. This is the most COVID safe way of setting work and returning it. However, all teachers will provide hard copy for students that need it. Please remember the app can be used on a computer, laptop, Ipad and mobile phone.

Will homework increase from the CORE subjects?

After half term, we will be reintroducing foundation subjects to the homework load for KS3 students. We will be publishing a new timetable at the start of next

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half term, but if you are on the SMHW app this will automatically guide you as to what is being set.

What are the AM sessions about in school? Why is my child talking about ‘stress buckets and fight and flight’?

As part of our School Improvement Plan to support the wellbeing of your child, all students will be working through a programme based on the theory of the Hertfordshire Educational Psychologist around, how to return to school and grow from our experiences, which will take place at the start of the day. They have looked at developing a sense of safety and exploring how to gain a sense of control back. This week we have been talking to students about ‘stress buckets’, anxiety and how trauma can affect the brain and strategies they can use to help – WOOPS. The school will post the activities on the classroom section of the SMHW app in order to support families who would like to explore together what we are covering.

Does my child have a reading book?

Please make sure that your child has the space and time to read for 20 minutes as a minimum 5 times a week. You can read alongside them if you wish and do ask them questions about what they are reading. The reading detectives will be posted on line to support you to do this. Students have now all been given a reading book. This will be either a core text which they are studying in English lessons, and/or a book selected from the school library. It is essential that they have their core text in school with them, as their English lessons require them daily. Students are also asked to read within other subject lessons as part of our school objectives to re-engage learning and encourage students' reading.

What are we noticing about children learning currently?

Understandably, many children are feeling less confident about their learning and have a “worry” about having missed out. We are continually reassuring them that they are ok and we are explaining how the curriculum is helping them to catch up, and how we are taking account of their time out of school. We are currently reviewing their first writing and reading across the curriculum, to ascertain what work needs to be done for each individual, across all subjects. In maths we are building their confidence in number, place value and manipulation of number first – building their confidence and arithmetic skills first. Being in one classroom with only two lessons a day is a strain for them, and for those students used to all the subjects across the curriculum (Year 6,7 and 8) they are desperately missing the full middle school curriculum. We are looking to this address after half term as we review the timetable, timings of the day and class lists. We will inform you and the students well in advance if any changes are going to be made. Wherever possible, this will not involve any changes to their core teachers.

Music Lessons

Instrumental and vocal lessons for **existing and new applications** are now being managed by our school’s music provider: Hertfordshire Music Service. If you haven’t applied for lessons already, all the information you need to book is available at <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline>

Singing & Violin lessons will be on a Monday, Guitar & Woodwind a Thursday and Friday will be Brass and Drums.

We have attached a flyer with further details.

Office Opening Hours

Mon 8:30am – 3:30pm

Tue 8:30am – 3:30pm

Wed 8:30am – 3:00pm

Thu 8:30am – 3:30pm

Fri 8:30am – 3:30pm

Telephone: 01763-271446 or Email:

admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Menu for students entitled to Free School Meals

Mon	Tuna Baguette/Cheese Baguette
Tue	Chicken Mayo Salad Wrap/Cheese Salad Wrap
Wed	Ham/Cheese Panini or Cheese/Tomato Panini
Thu	Ham Roll/Veggie Burger
Fri	Pork Sausage Puff/ Cheese/Tomato Puff

Jo Gant

Headteacher

Letter HCC Public Health

Herts Music

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