

Edwinstree Middle School

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 26/6/20

Diary Dates

29/6/20	Students of Keyworkers
30/6/20	Year 5 return for 1 day
1/7/20	Year 6 return Weds/Thurs
13-16/7/20	Y6 Residential visit to Norfolk - TBC
17/7/20	End of Term 1:20pm finish
2/9/20	Inset Day – Staff Training
3/9/20	Y5 Induction – Day 1
4/9/20	Y5 Induction – Day 2
7/9/20	Autumn Term begins for all students

When do Year 5 return and what is the timetable for next week?

Year 5 students return to school on Tuesday 30/6/20, unless they are part of the Keyworker groups 9 (Year 5), 10 and 11 (Year 7 and 8) who continue with their normal timetable.

If you are a Year 5 Parent, please make sure that you have read the Parentmail and know your child's start time and finish time, please don't deviate from them. Also take the time to show your child the video and presentation attached, so that they are prepared for social distancing. There is also a small video clip from Mr Rowlands on our Facebook page, which tours the school to give them an idea of what the school is like.

https://www.facebook.com/1640079286113130/posts/3058800940907617/

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle, a packed lunch if they don't have school dinners and their mobile phone if they wish to. Students are responsible for keeping their mobile phone safe, as currently we are unable to store them. They should be switched off and placed at the front of their desk, to use at break and lunch time. Students do not need to wear school uniform. We are really looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 back into school to continue their learning.

What about Year 6?

Thank you to the generous Parents in Year 6 who have accepted the reduction in school hours for their children, in order to support the return to school for our youngest students. This has been a true act of generosity, which we very much appreciate. We look forward to seeing your child on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

Have you risk assessed this change? Yes and this will be available on our website.

Will we be reducing the social distancing to 1 metre before the end of the term?

No – I have already alerted you to the fact that our desks in many areas are not two metres apart, and we have observed, while students have been really vigilant, they tend to walk naturally and integrate at just over a metre. We fear that if we were to shrink the gap, the distance would reduce even further. We are also keen to train Year 5 in the 2 metre distance, just in case we were to find ourselves in a second lockdown situation.

So are we any clearer what will happen in September and how are we preparing?

We are currently timetabling a "normal" timetable that we will operate when the lockdown is over and we are advised we can return to normal. We have made the decision to move students up a year in the same classes, in order to minimise the anxiety of return and limit the continual change they are we are currently experiencing.

Will we be able to operate a normal timetable at 1m distancing?

No - We would need to continue to offer in school and out of school support for students. Reducing to one metre makes very little difference to the number of desks in the classroom. Please continue to have a back-up plan for distance learning online (out of school) for September.

Will we know before the end of term what is happening in September? I am sadly

concluding that this is highly unlikely as to the Covid-19 situation changes swiftly and 6 weeks is a long time in the Covid story. I will make sure I communicate any update to you, despite the holidays. We do know that the staff return earlier than planned on the 2nd September for a staff meeting, in order to support the new Year 5 Induction Days. In the meantime, we are preparing the timetable for when we are able to operate as normal!

How did the Live COWO go?

We are getting there but...unfortunately no music played and many of you could not see the Powerpoint, so thank you for bearing with us! The Powerpoint and video links are now on available on our website if you want to hear the music that Mrs Gant had intended to play. Thanks for logging on and bearing with us!

Brave Trust Fullness Day

This term we were hoping to hold a Fullness Day in aid of The Brave Trust. Rachael Went, our

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school worker, supports us by co-leading the student COWO planning group, as well as leading whole school Collective Worships: you may have seen some of her virtual ones this term. She will also help us prepare for our SIAMS Inspection that is due to take place next year. The Fullness Day was going to give students the opportunity to experience different prayer stations set up in the school hall and to find some quiet contemplative space in an otherwise normal busy school day. As we can't do this, instead we will be sending home prayer station ideas for students to have a go at in their own time at home. This will come via SMHW and hard copy. It would be great if they felt able to send a picture of what they had created (as a comment reply on SMHW) but no pressure if they don't want to. We will then create a display of the pictures we receive and attempt to hold the Fullness Day at another time next year!

Student Distance Learning Survey

In order to help us to better understand your experiences of Distance Learning, we would like students to complete this short survey. You can access the survey via this link, on SMHW or via Parentmail. The results will be viewed by your teachers to help them to understand where you are at on your learning journey ready for your return (or your transition to Freman) and to help us to see how our resources are being accessed. Thank you for taking the time to give us this valuable feedback.

The survey link is:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.a spx?id=BTrlzduqZ0r9r2eTDmg8N4KZPyIJzVBvs-O4LLefXxURjMxQzhCWTZDVjVVMzQ2M0hZOUt NRDJUTS4u

Please note: When you try to submit your survey it fails to work, please keep using the Back Button on the survey (NOT on the browser) to go right to the start of the survey to ensure all questions have been answered. You will then need to go forward again to the end and this time you should be able to submit. We have discovered that there is a bug in the survey software and it sometimes forgets your earlier answers.

Please be aware that this survey is intended for students and not parents!

Reminder: During hot weather, please make sure your child has sun cream protection, a sun hat and plenty of water to keep them hydrated.

Norfolk 2020 Cancellation and Refunds

Now we have made the decision to cancel the Year 6 visit to Manor Adventure, we are in a position to refund the cost of the visit, less the deposit that was already paid to the travel company. To recover the deposit of £50.00 per student, we need to make a claim on our insurance, which will take longer. Please email Mrs Grainger direct on n.grainger@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with 'Norfolk 2020' in the subject box, confirming the name of the payee on the reimbursement cheque that will be sent to you from the school. We hope to arrange a visit for the students next year and are looking at alternative venues.

How to submit work on 'Show my Homework' SMHW

It has come to our attention that some students are not submitting work through SMHW as they are uncertain of how to do so. Attached is a step by step guide on how to submit work that you might find useful. Please let us know if you experience any problems.

Parent mail Emails

A few parents have reported they are not receiving our Parentmail emails. If you find the **email** in your **spam/junk** folder, please change your account settings to mark **ParentMail** as a safe sender. Please also add info@parentmail.co.uk to your contact address book to avoid missing out on important information.

Can you let us know what your ICT services are like at home?

Thank you to all Parents who have submitted information regarding broadband and electronic devices at home via the **Survey Monkey** link in Friday's Newsletter. If you have not yet taken the survey, please can we encourage you to take part asap

To complete survey please highlight and click here

Any information provided will be held in confidence and will only be used for the purpose of this survey. Thank you for your co-operation

How can I download books for free? How can it help my child who is finding reading still very difficult and needs support to understand meaning or generate fluency?

The free app is called BorrowBox https://www.borrowbox.com/ It has audio books to listen to of most of the books we are reading in class. All you need to sign up is a local library membership. This is a really helpful tool for supporting our weakest readers who may want to follow the words as they hear the story,

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or who just need to hear fluency in a reader. However this is a great resource for all readers.

KS3 Technology Distance Learning

The focus of KS3 Technology distance learning will be changing from Monday 27^{th} June. Students will be changing from Resistant Materials to weekly Food and Nutrition. This will be a three week mini project until the end of term. It is expected that the students complete the 2 theory tasks and the practical task (in the final week) will remain optional.

Jo Gant Headteacher SMHW info Map of designated areas Powerpoint