



Diary Dates

	New entry and exit times Year 5 – 9:00am – 2:45pm Year 6 – 8:55am – 2:40pm Year 7 – 8:50am – 2:35pm Year 8 – 8:45am – 2:30pm
4/12/20	Occasional Day –School closed
11/12/20	Christmas Jumper Day/Whacky hair day
14/12/20	Year 5 & Year 6 Christingle
18/12/20	End of Term - 1:20pm finish

What happens if my child or a family member tests positive for Covid-19?

If your child or family member tests positive or has symptoms, please inform us using the Covid-19 contact email:

covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Will be closing early for Christmas in order to help staff and students shield for the festivities?

County and the National Government are clear the expectation is that schools stay open until their planned published closure date on 18th December. While we agree with many of you that an early closure would support families to prepare for Christmas, we are currently a Local Authority school and required to follow their advice. Please can we ask that parents continue to support our community by ensuring that your child has a mask to wear at school and that anyone collecting a child or visiting the school also wear a mask. We would all like to spend time with our families at Christmas and this can only help support us to stay safe and well. Thank you for your compassion, we know this is difficult

We would also like to remind you in accordance with Government guidelines, it is compulsory for all students 12 years and above, to wear a face covering [unless exempt] in an enclosed space where social distancing isn't possible and you come into contact with people outside your household or support bubble. Please help us to keep our community as safe as possible.

How are Buntingford Town Council, Freman College and the bus companies helping to improve safety at the end of the school day?

We are pleased to confirm that from Monday 7/12/20 the bus companies have agreed to park at Freman College at the end of the day and make it safer for students to exit school. We ask that parents refrain from parking in the bus layby to allow students to cross the road safely.

The police will continue to keep this area free. The bus children will continue to congregate at the end of the day in their year group classroom, then escorted to Freman by the bus duty teacher. Students will arrive at Freman prior to the 3pm release, which will allow the teachers to continue to supervise students onto their bus and check they are wearing masks.

Reminder – A number of students are coming to school without water bottles, please help to remind them they need to stay hydrated. Drinking water is available at all year group designated water stations.

School meals: If your child is absent, please remember to cancel their school meal online via SchoolGrid by 8:55am, otherwise you will be charged.

What are the consequences of not completing home learning?

Your child will not be shouted at or given a card if they do not complete their home learning. Teachers will demonstrate that the incentive to complete home learning lies in its value to allow children to become better and more independent learners. We encourage you to support this at home.

Curriculum Matters!

Last week saw teachers working together as department teams to check and complete curriculum maps and put into words the extraordinary journey we have been on this year with lockdown, distance learning and then returning to a COVID-19 safe school. These updates will soon be on our website where you will be able to see how we have identified the damage done and our plans for each year group in returning them to their learning.

Many departments have had opportunity to dig deep into their subjects and explored what we call **Concept Thresholds** (the vocabulary, skills and knowledge needed for students to make progress). These are the fundamentals that need to be remembered.

Interestingly, whilst we were hard at work 211 of our students dipped into the enrichment work we set. Despite one student messaging: “Wow! 10 hours work?” we think many of them enjoyed their virtual visits to the National Gallery and into space.

What is happening in the build up to Christmas?

Each year group and every tutor group has been challenged to raise enough funds [£40] for a Christmas hamper for the food bank. The

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students and staff in each year group team have chosen their activity which is located in the calendar. Attached to the newsletter is the events calendar that we will be following for the rest of the term. Please take time to look at it so you are aware of what is happening when.

KS2 Christingle

As part of the Christingle service, every child needs an orange. This year we are asking if parents can provide their child with an orange for the service. As a school we are providing the rest of the materials to make a Christingle. To get them prepped for the service itself, please could these be brought in on Friday 11th December. There will be a box in the hall where they can be left. This gives us the right amount of time for them to be quarantined before being used on Monday 14th December. If you are happy to donate more than one, that would be great!

Are students able to post Christmas cards at school?

The Year 8 Leaders will be running a post card service on the Monday 7th & 13th December and Tuesday 8th & 15th December. Cards will then be delivered to students on Friday 18th December. This is following Covid advice from County

End of term Christmas Service

We will be carry out in-house Christmas service at the end of the term, but as part of the day we will take a Christmas walk, we are praying for a little snow!

A delivery service Christmas dinner will be offered to students which will be available during the last week of term – further details to follow.

A Christmas pantomime – we have ordered in the nearest live stream pantomime from Colchester for our students in the last week of term.

How are Year 8 fundraising for the community?

During the next couple of weeks, students from each class, will be working in the hall with Mrs Booth to make fabric face coverings. Their aim is to make 30 available to each Year 8 class. The cost of a face covering will be £3 each, available to purchase within the school community on Friday 11th December.

Paper Chains

Your child will bring home 10 paper chains, which we hope they will sell to family and friends at a cost of 50p per chain, so if they sell all 10,

they should have £5 to bring into school. On the back of the paper chain your child needs to write their name and the name of the person donating 50p. Example below.

All chains [both sold and unsold] should be returned with the money by Thursday 10th December. Anybody wishing to purchase more

Inside the paper chain	
Name of year 8 student	Name of person donating 50p

chains should see Mr Galanides, who will be able to provide more. On Friday 11th December all Year 8 students will put their chains together and the student with the longest chain in each class will win a class prize.

We understand that this year has been a difficult one and many of our families may be on very tight budgets. However, if your child would still like to take part with the sponsored paper chains, please could you ask them to speak to a member of the Year 8 teaching team. We really appreciate your support during these challenging times. We are very proud of our students who are keen to support our community at this special time of year. This demonstrates our Christian Values of *compassion, humility, friendship, hope, creation and thankfulness*.

Home Learning

We have had several questions coming in about home learning. We hope to answer some of these below:

What is the purpose of home learning currently? To build your child's independence so that they leave us able to work independently, to build their resilience towards tackling the things they found difficult (challenge homework) not the easy stuff! Currently many subjects are using the SMHW as a means of supporting students to improve their confidence and memory, which was damaged by COVID. So you will see a more extensive use of resources to learn and then memory tests and quizzes to support their learning currently.

How will teachers support your child to get it right? Teachers will guide students to catch up with their home learning with a reminder via SMHW and in some cases, will give them time to discuss and compare their progress in homework during lessons or, allow an extension of the deadline and award merits for super work. Where we have identified students struggling with home learning, we are running home learning clubs. We also have dedicated support

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for identified students in our Pupil Power area with Mrs Arnold and Mrs Marler. Parents or students having trouble accessing SMHW please contact Mrs Heywood on r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk for help or advice.

Where are we using supply teachers for absence?

Mr McCarthy's Year 5 PE and Maths classes will be taught by supply staff until the end of term. We have employed an experienced KS2 teacher [Year 5 and Year 6] to cover his teaching. All lessons will be planned by Mr McCarthy. He should return to teach to his normal classes after Christmas.

We are currently reviewing our snow procedures and we will update you as soon as possible

The Golden Broom Award - This is our fun award for the class that has helped our Cleaning Team, by making sure, their room is tidiest!

Best kept classroom		Non-Uniform Day
KS2	5C	7/12/20
KS3	7D	7/12/20

Jo Gant
Headteacher
Advent Calendar

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