



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

It was sadly only a matter of time before we received our first confirmed positive case of Covid-19. A large body of thanks go the following:

- The Parent of the Year 6 student, for alerting us so swiftly of a positive test. Please remember to notify us if a child/family member is testing and of the results.
- The Administration Team, who following advice from Public Health England, facilitated phone calls to all parents in the class bubble, informing them of the need to collect their child, as they would need to self-isolate (the class). The advice was to only send a letter, but we felt that as a parent, you needed to hear a voice explain what was happening.
- The Parents of the Year 6 class, for agreeing not to post on social media, and avoid the office being inundated with phone calls. We were able to concentrate on helping the class and teachers concerned to exit safely to self-isolate. This restraint allowed us to tell those students in school calmly, at the end of the day.
- The staff, for operating vigilance at break and lunch times, which meant we did not have to lockdown a year group, only a class bubble.
- The teacher who took the isolating class out for PE until their parents arrived.

When you hear about a positive Covid-19 test, what do you have to do?

As a school we have to seek advice from the LA Advisory team and Public Health England. They question us about the logistics of the school and take us through our Risk Assessment. They make the decision on what we need to do, based on how the school is organised and how many students are mixing class bubbles.

What does it mean for a child in the class with the positive test?

The students have to self-isolate for 14 days. Following the guidance on the letter which was sent to you on Wednesday 7/10/20 as to exactly what this involves, the class will not be returning until the 21/10/20. Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does

not develop symptoms within the 14 day self-isolation period.

What does it mean for the teachers of that class?

Teachers also have to self-isolate in the same way.

What do the self-isolating children do?

We have contacted parents to make sure that if their child is well, they can access 'Show my Homework'. All the teachers will now post distance learning in the Classwork section of this app. Students showing no signs of ill health will be expected to complete this work.

What about the rest of the community?

We remain operating in our COVID school, continuing to be extra vigilant and would ask the same of you and your child. We work hard to keep a calm and productive atmosphere in school, where well-being is at its centre. Can we remind you that you are really helping us by adhering to the rule of 6 at home, to help minimise the spread? We know this is difficult and we appreciate all your efforts.

What did we learn from our first case?

We learnt that it is best to move the class outside and run a PE lesson, while we wait for parents to collect. This helps manage their anxiety and stress. We learnt that Public Health England need to know the actions and movements of the child and the school in the previous 48 hours. We know that they will ask about after school activities and clubs, including buses and that where students are involved, the number who may have to self-isolate increases. We learnt that the advice is about students who have been in direct contact with the child, not about the next step – ie if you were near the positive case then you self-isolate, but not if you were near a child who was near the positive case.

What were the children worried about when they were told they needed to self-isolate?

One of my saddest moments of COVID in school, was watching the shock and anger that students felt at self-isolating. This involves missing school again, missing their friends and a real fear of what this would mean for their SATS tests. Please forgive me, but I cannot believe that in this time of stress, your children are worrying about tests that they have to sit, when we know they have already had such disrupted learning and that this is likely to continue.

Why were more classes not sent home?

Due to the timetable and the staff manning breaks and lunch times, we were able to limit lockdown to a class bubble. If we had students in year groups at break and lunch time, we would have been at risk of a larger lockdown.

What do we need from you as parents?

To try to trust us, we will alert you as soon as we are given advice on what to do. In the event of a positive case, we will contact you in order of safety, from those having to self-isolate first, to those that are asked to continue in school last. We will make sure that you

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are updated on any more cases asap. Please note, at the end of the day, we would like to move parents on at the gate, so please use the email system to gain your information and ask questions, we promise to get back to you. Posting inaccurate information on social media only causes more anxiety, so we thank you again for supporting our request.

How do I prepare for the possibility of my child having to self-isolate?

I am not saying this is going to happen in other classes, but please be prepared by making sure:

- School has a contact number that we can ring and someone will answer.
- You have someone able to collect your child if requested.
- Your child has access to SMHW so that if they self-isolate, they don't fall behind with their learning. Any problems contact: r.heywood@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk
- You have a family plan for who would stay at home while your child was self-isolating.

Do you let the local schools know of a Positive Covid test at Edwinstree? Yes we do.

Free School Meal Orders - SchoolGrid

All orders for free school meal packed lunches will need to be placed using SchoolGrid from Monday 12th October, teachers will no longer be asking pupils during registration. If you haven't yet set up your account you will be sent a link today – **please note this link is only valid for 24 hours**. Please sign up within the 24 hour period, even if your child currently has a packed lunch, as this will enable you to order lunches in the future.

Year 8 Reminder: Secondary & Upper School Admissions 2021

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of **Saturday 31st October 2020**. But we would recommend that parents complete it by Friday 23rd October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline.

www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

Road Safety

A concerned ex-parent contacted us on Tuesday, regarding a near-miss for what, potentially, could have been a nasty traffic accident involving a large group of Edwinstree students and two vehicles and their passengers. At school we have reminded students how to safely cross a road. Please could you discuss road safety with your child at home? This particular incident was caused when students tried to rush across a crossing before the traffic lights changed. Thank you.

Please can you check your child is not bringing deodorant in school?

We now have a student in school who is highly allergic, especially to perfume. We would like to remind you that aerosol deodorants are not permitted in school, however a roll on or stick deodorant is acceptable.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

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