



Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
NEWSLETTER for PARENTS & CARERS
Week Ending: 15/5/20

Diary Dates

22/5/20	School breaks for half term – 3:20pm
25/5/20	Bank Holiday
25-29/5/20	Half Term
26/6/20	Inset Day
13-16/7/20	Y6 Residential visit to Norfolk - TBC
17/7/20	End of Term 1:20pm finish
7/9/20	Start of term for New Year 5 ONLY
8/9/20	Start of Term – Y6,Y7,Y8

Reminder – Buntingford and villages Foodbank

Please visit their Facebook page or email: Buntingford.foodbank@gmail.com

Thank you for all the hard you are putting in at home. Our records, conversations and reports show that you are really striving hard to support your children and keep them learning. We would like to remind you that the health and wellbeing of both you and your child SHOULD always come first, and the work second.

If like many of us, you are finding you are riding a roller coaster of emotions, when either you or your child struggle with negative days, please look after yourselves first. Guilt does nobody any good. If you are working, please continue to follow the advice and complete Maths first, English second and Science next. All other lessons are a bonus!

If your child has not looked at the advice coming from Mr Galanides through his PSHE sessions and or his notice board for wellbeing, we would strongly recommend you guide your child to find the section. There are some beautiful activities for boys and girls that will help support their wellbeing, the feedback from students and parents has been really positive. Attached is an example from a Year 5 student who has been using the noticing technique to help stay calm and well.

Please remember to support your child to stay safe online

This is paramount, in particular please remind them about not allowing unknown people into their chats or games. Staying safe is communicating with the group of friends they know.

<https://ceop.police.uk>

Will there be holiday provision for students of keyworkers and vulnerable children?

A Parentmail was sent to those parents who have children currently attending school, to find out if they need provision during half term. It would be much appreciated if you could meet the Monday deadline with your reply to admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk Thank you

The focus of this week's Newsletter:

What are our plans for 1st June? Who will be coming back if the Government gives the green light?

Below is the Government advice for Parents based on the announcement that was made last Sunday that Reception, Nursery and Year 6 should return to school from 1st June. Please click on the link below for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Since Sunday night, we have been looking at models to bring the students back into school and ensure the following:

Our first consideration is that we are Middle School, therefore, we do not fit the national picture, is it right for Year 6 to return followed by Year 5 as the Government plans to get as many primary students back to school in July. After deep thought we have concluded that we agree, and will plan for Year 6 to return in June, and potentially Year 5 at a later date or nationally agreed time. (Possibly July, but this is subject to change).

If you are a Parent of a Year 6 student, we would like to know if your child will be returning to school when Year 6 provision begins, in order that we can plan ahead. You will receive a separate email to respond with either a **Yes/ No / Don't Know**. However, if you should change your mind at a later date it will not be a problem. Please be aware if you feel the risk remains too great, the Government has advised us that no fines will be issued for absences at this moment in time.

Why have we made this decision?

In looking at the upper years and tracking their SMHW use, we can see a marked distinction in the ability of our students in Year 8 and partially in Year 7, to work independently at home. In fact, we are amazingly proud of our KS3 students and the support from Parents and Carers. We believe it is our Year 5 and Year 6, who find independence the hardest, and therefore, suffer the most from distance learning.

We now have a wave of Parents returning to work, and while no Parent would feel comfortable leaving their child at home to study, it is the Year 5 and Year 6 students that worry us the most, especially if they are home alone with no child care arrangements.

Year 8 Parents might question 'Why is Year 6 returning to transition but not Year 8?' My reasoning for this is not to diminish the change that will take place for Year 8, but to acknowledge that Edwinstree students begin an early transition when they first join Year 8. Students regularly visit Freman College

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for German and PE, so they are familiar with its settings, layout and some staff. They have a head start on other students transitioning to Freman in September.

What will this return look like?

We are currently in the process of modelling what the school will look like following Government advice. We are carefully considering how to provide the best education for those in school as well as those at home, while upholding the guidance from the Government on safe practices. More information next week.

What about students of keyworkers currently attending school, are they able to continue?

Students of keyworkers who have been attending school since the lockdown have an automatic place. However, if you are a keyworker whose child was eligible to attend school during lockdown, but declined the initial offer, please contact the school via email: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk at the start of next week so they we are able to plan carefully and consider the provision needed alongside the Year 6 schooling.

What about vulnerable children who are currently attending school, are they able to continue?

If your child has an EHCP provision, is a Looked After Child, or your family has involvement with the Social Services, we will protect their place in school. We will consider any other vulnerable students and let you know as soon as possible, but at present, we cannot confirm that their place is guaranteed.

Will school transport be available?

The bus companies are awaiting Government advice on procedures relating to safe bus travel and we hope to provide you with this information as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT Immunisation Information

Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the remainder of the immunisation schedule in schools is now paused until July 2020, the end of this academic year. A catch up programme for all students who missed their immunisations during the temporary suspension will be arranged to run alongside the immunisation schedule for the next academic year commencing in September 2020. If you would like further information, Please contact the Immunisation Team on 01727 732062.

Normandy 2020 Refunds

While we wait for our Insurance Company to settle the claim for the 2020 Year 8 Normandy visit, we would like to prepare our systems to avoid any further delay in getting your refund to you. Please email n.grainger@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk with 'Normandy' in the subject box, confirming the name of the payee you would like on the reimbursement cheque that will be sent to you from the school.

Music Lessons

Please respond to the Parentmail regarding music lessons and let us know whether your child will, or will not continue with their music tuition from September 2020. If you have signed up for online lessons this must be continued in September, unless the required notice period is given.

Email n.grainger@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

Government Food Vouchers

Further vouchers were ordered last week to take you up to the end of May, however, due to a back log at Edenred; the voucher issuing company, we are unable to say when you will receive them. Please contact the school office if you need help or support. A huge thank you to Buntingford Town Council, who funded a donation to the Co-operative supermarket to provide food parcels for our families in need.

Thank you for the amazing effort everyone is making to support Edwinstree students to continue to learn. Our prayers are with you all at this time.

Stay safe and remember to be kind to each other

Jo Gant Headteacher

Enc Powerpoint

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