



**Diary Dates**

8/5/20	Bank Holiday VE Day School closed
11-15/5/20	SATS - cancelled
22/5/20	School breaks for half term - 3:20pm
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](mailto:Buntingford.foodbank@gmail.com)

**Focus: Assessment Reporting and Data**

**Will you be assessing my child this term and if so how?**

English (all key stages) and Geography (key stages 3) are currently trialling assessments. We are looking to investigate the following:

- How much learning is taking place at home?
- How this learning compares to in school?
- Is progress being made?
- Who is currently not making progress and what support can we provide?

What we have discovered this week, is that the majority of students are working hard, working independently and attempting to complete the assessments using our guidance. They are making progress, but their learning is at a slower pace than in the classroom. However, we are not seeing a movement backwards, they continue to move forward when they use the guides to learning and the resources provided. At the same time we can see an increase in their navigation and use of ICT in support of their learning. Their independence is increasing and this really bodes well for the future, in particular the Year 8.

**What happens if they can't complete a piece of work or assessment?**

**We are clear as a school that we will merit and praise those children completing work,** rather than chase and hound those who are not. **For all sorts of reasons students and parents are finding different stages of the Lockdown difficult and therefore, we only want to encourage students.** We keep detailed records of who completes assessments and who is accessing the learning in electronic or hard copy format. This will give us a really good idea of

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who will require extra support when we return. Please only do what you can do and DON'T Feel GUILTY your children are loved and cared for and this is most important.

**How will the school complete the annual requirement to report on students' progress?**

Following the National Guidance and advice from County, we are clear that no SATs reporting will take place this year. This allows us to report on student progress and attainment across all year groups, using our normal assessment system to report on their learning as Working Towards, AT standard or Above.

Just before Easter and the lockdown, we collected data for our second term, which was moderated by staff and our Subject Leads. We will report this data, basing our summary statements on a student's progress on the Easter data. We are currently evaluating the data set and staff will begin the process of annual reports early, and are waiting to implement significant change, depending on the Government's expectations, but we are planning for a release in June.

**Does this mean any learning they do now is invalid and meaningless?** *Absolutely not,* we continue to collect data to assess achievement and progress this term, but this will be used for internal purposes, and in particular to support 'catch-up' programmes.

**Do we have any more information about what is happening for schools and the release of the lockdown?**

We do not know yet, we are waiting for more information from the Government. This week we measured the classrooms, hall and external spaces like corridors to ascertain how many students we could fit into these spaces within the social distancing rules. It looks like 9 students in each classroom. This would reduce our capacity to house all students in the school and potentially reduce us to year groups at a time.

Watching our 30 plus students now in school, social distancing is hardest for all of us to manage, especially at lunch time and we are currently brainstorming how we can deal with this issue. When we know more, we promise to let you know!

### **Have you seen the VE Day celebration pack from history?**

I hope you will get an opportunity to celebrate VE Day to mark 75 years of the end of WW2, either at home with your family or outside in the street with your neighbours. While we want everyone to have fun, please make sure you follow all social distancing rules and keep within your home boundaries, staying safe and secure. Don't forget to take some photos. I know you have heard it before but...stay safe, protect the NHS and save lives.

### **A message from Year 5 tutor and Lead for Science in Year 5 currently Mrs Barrett Please discuss this with your child:**

*Year 5 have been working really hard on their Earth and Space learning for Science and I have loved seeing your quiz results and helping with comments. It has definitely helped the days pass more quickly. I have compiled the learning for week 4 and 5 of distance learning (including videos) so you can continue with your excellent learning. As I am about to go into hospital for routine surgery on Tuesday 12th May, Miss Ealet will take over looking after Year 5 Science for me. She will be setting the next learning and responding to comments. I will be back with you, through both distance learning and physically in school, as soon as I am well enough. 5SBT, if you need a chat remember that any of the teachers will be happy to talk to you - I know Mr McCarthy put out a message saying exactly that this week. I look forward to hearing all about your fabulous learning.*

### **A message from Music**

We are sorry we set the wrong date on 'Show my Homework, so this week's work will be released on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. You will only get one week's work, not two so don't panic!

### **How can we begin to prepare for next September?**

New Year 5 in September 2020 will receive a letter outlining the strategy to transition to Edwinstree. The Rib Valley Heads meet next week to discuss transition, and the Head at Freman College and myself meet again next week to discuss how we also support our Year 8. As part of the planning for transition we have made two decisions to support our Year 5, whether or not County Transition Day goes ahead in July. Only Year 5 students will attend on first day of term on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. We have also decided that to help ease the burden on tight budgets, we want to make the uniform as affordable as possible, so for the first

term our uniform will consist of the following items which can be purchased from any supermarket:

- Navy blue V neck jumper
- White polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers or skirt.
- Black shoes that cover the feet to avoid hazardous substances damaging the feet in workshop and science
- Black shorts for PE
- White polo shirt for PE (in addition to the one for the school day)
- Black tracksuit bottoms
- Black or grey hoodie for outside sporting activities
- Trainers - inexpensive brands
- Football boots for football and hockey (both boys and girls)
- Mouth guard

We also believe that students have had enough upheaval and therefore, to reduce the worry students will naturally have about returning to school, tutor classes will remain as they currently stand for next year.

If you have any ideas about how we can support your child when they return to school please email admin at [admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

Stay safe and remember to be kind to each other  
**Jo Gant**  
**Headteacher**

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