

The generic questions asked by Parents this week

<p>Are mobile phones a good idea in school? How are you making sure that students are safe? Will my child be penalised if they do not have one?</p>	<p>We do not want to bump you into having to buy a mobile phone and would support any parent that is making a choice that the responsibility is too great. However we had agreed with Parents two years ago that mobile phones supported many children travelling by bus or walking home in the dark winter months. Until COVID-19, students were able to bring phones in, they were stored in a class tray and collected at the end of the day. With the outset of COVID-19 sharing and touching other student's phones became a source of potentially transmitting the virus.</p> <p>At the same time, students working at home were able to contact their friends via social media at home. The phone became their main source of contact with their important friendship group. Students in school were missing out, so we listened to students and allowed phones in school. Those students in school almost all used their phone well for the term and the teachers began to use this as additional resource in the classroom. The students particularly appreciated using it at break and lunch, it was a means to contact other students who were not in their class bubble. We made the decision to allow phone use in school, particularly during break and lunch time.</p>
<p>How are we supporting your child to stay safe online?</p>	<p>During PSHE, students will have advice on mobile phone and online safety. Year 5 who don't have PSHE till next half term are completing this work in their AM slots in classes. Students have been issued with a guest password during these sessions, which covers most of our school site but not all. This password allows them to safely access the internet.</p> <p>Where students are not able to access the internet and use their own data, we are monitoring usage and will warn them that if we see poor usage, the individual phone will be taken away for the day, and or if too many students we will move to phones remaining in their school issued equipment bags.</p> <p>We are monitoring the situation closely. Please see our accompanying Mobile Phone Agreement. Students will not be penalised or disadvantaged in their learning if they do not have one, all resources will be provided as hard copy, just like last term.</p>
<p>Why can students not bring books home?</p>	<p>The Government guidance asks us to limit wherever possible, the transfer of resources from school to home. The water bottle, packed lunch and mobile phone are items that your child and only your child uses and touches. In class, as well as individual equipment, students are issued with two books, a maths book and a general book. This is where their day to day working goes. Where students have an assessment and or a key piece of work, they are issued with paper and this will come home with them to complete. It will then be returned and after 3 days, collected by the member of staff and marked. This will be stored in a separate folder.</p>
<p>Will they have an English book to go home?</p>	<p>Over the next two weeks students will be issued with a book for school reading and a book for home reading. Any book for home reading can be brought in and exchanged once finished.</p>
<p>Will you go outside whatever the weather?</p>	<p>We are all safer outside than in. If we have a significant downpour no, but please wrap them up warm and dry so that they are able to cope with more outside activity than they might be used to.</p>

Why is Edwinstree on a lesser and different timetable?	<p>Each school will make its own choice based on the guidelines published by the Government and the needs of the community in the school. Our temporary timetable was created having spent a considerable amount of time analysing what was best for the school. We believe that while this does not meet the full curriculum for students this half term, (the Government guidance gave us permission to do this) it does provide the safest option for COVID-19. As COVID-19 has not gone away Option 3 provides the best solution for Edwinstree in terms of social distancing for both students and staff.</p> <p>Please note that we will continue to review the situation and hope if COVID-19 stays at bay, move to a timetable to support as full a curriculum as possible.</p>
Can you improve the toilet situation?	<p>We are currently operation a unisex system for toilets. This is to ensure that year groups 'bubbles' are isolated to designated toilets. We are continuing to allow all students to visit the toilet during lesson time to minimise the need to queue. We will be talking to Year 7 & Year 8 with regard to sanitary bins and what they are for so the boys are fully informed.</p>