

Edwards Hall Primary School

Newsletter week ending 25.9.26



Well done to Grace B in Beatrix Potter class who received this week's Headteacher's award



The following children were awarded Star of the Week:

0D Jemison	- Niamh R-L and Eric O
0M Anning	- Mia G and Reuben C
1E Attenborough	- Louie B and Aurora R
1T Potter	- Cameron C and Raven D
2B Queen Victoria	- Finley I and Holly K
2F Bridges	- Jordan B and Walter L
3G Boudicca	- Connor H and Misha L
3K Zephaniah	- Jessica S and Cherrie V
4J Carter	- Raphael S and Tom P
4J Rashford	- William B and Leela C
5R Darwin	- Ellie F and Aaron C-M
5D Mandela	- Amelie H and Hudson S-C
6B Obama	- Violet C-S and Holden G
6R Shakespeare	- Ethan M and Dottie P



The winners of the attendance trophy this week are **Howard Carter class** who **achieved 100%** attendance week commencing 14th September.



AUTUMN SPECIAL DINNER

Inspired by The Gruffalo

Thursday 1st October

KS2 meals £2.70 • Pay via Arbor

Gruffalo's Roasted Fox

(roasted chicken or veggie goujons served with optional BBQ sauce)

served with

Scrambled Snake

(curly twist fries)

Mouse Loves Nuts

(baked beans or carrots and peas)

Owl's Delicious Cupcake



or

Gruffalo Granny's Apple Oat Crumble

with custard

Also available

Ham baguette
Jacket potato

Granny's Cafe

We hope lots of children will join us next Thursday for a special lunch.

Where applicable, please ensure your child has sufficient funds on their Arbor account to enjoy this Autumn term treat.

Our special lunch falls on school Census day. The data collected on this day, including the number of pupils receiving Universal Free School Meals, significantly impacts the funding we receive and securing the maximum funding is vital in helping maintain our catering services. For each child that receives a school meal on Census day, the school is allocated nearly £480 for the year to support our meal program.

To help us secure this essential funding, we kindly ask that all infant children take advantage of a free school meal on Thursday 1st October. If your child is hesitant about trying a school meal, you're welcome to send them with a packed lunch as a backup, which they can eat if they prefer it.

Many thanks for your continued support.

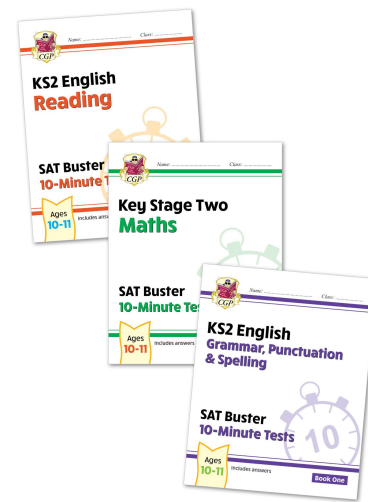
Year 6 SATs Revision Guides



A reminder, you may order SATs revision guides on Arbor until **THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER**. We will collate the orders and place one bulk order before half-term. There is a considerable saving to parents when ordering via the school compared to buying online independently (see below).

	You Pay	RRP
English SATS Question Book	£4	£6.75
English SATS Question Book: Stretch	£4	£6.75
Maths SATS Question Book	£4	£6.75
Maths SATS Question Book: Stretch	£4	£6.75
Maths SATS Buster: Arithmetic (inc Answer Book)	£4	£7.25
Maths & English SATS Buster 10min Tests	£8.00	£15.80

Mrs Baloch and Miss Rogers will be able to advise (when they are back from Hilltop) which books are the most suitable for your child if you are unsure. Please email year6@edwardshall.lihtrust.uk.



Donations Please



Beatrix Potter class are setting up role play areas in their classroom.

Do you have any unwanted items they could use in their garden centre cafe, perhaps some plastic food or a play kettle to 'make cups of tea'.

The theme will change from time to time so if you have anything you think would be suitable for a vet or doctors set up, these would be very helpful too.

Please bring donations to the office or hand to Miss Taylor-Prior at the end of the school day.

Thank you in advance.



Year 2



This week, Year 2 took a trip back in time as we explored entertainment at Southend Seafront!



We compared what children enjoyed in the past with the exciting attractions and activities we can enjoy today. It was fantastic to see the children being imaginative through role play!



Good Luck Quinn!



This weekend, Quinn in year 5 and her Mum, will be taking part in the London Bridges Wellness Walk raising awareness and funds for Diabetes UK.

Quinn was diagnosed with Diabetes earlier this year and has taken the diagnosis in her stride. She has shown great resilience and is now fundraising to help others.

If you would like to make a donation and support a worthy cause, please click on the logo below. Quinn and her family appreciate your support.

DiABETES UK
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

Contacting Teachers



A reminder of the routes to contact your child's teacher:

- If you have a question or need to check in, please email the year group email (eg year1@edwardshall.lihtrust.uk).
- If your child has an appointment and is being collected/dropped off during the school day, please call or email the school office (info@edwardshall.lihtrust.uk). Remember, the office will need to know your child's lunch option if they are coming into school late.
- If you need to inform teachers of something which may affect your child that day, please call or email the school office (info@edwardshall.lihtrust.uk). The office team will be able to pass your message to the class teacher.

Teachers are not available to speak to parents in person in the morning as they are welcoming children to class and settling them into lessons.



We aim to provide a snapshot of online safety advice for parents and carers which we hope you find useful.

Click [here](#) to access the Essex Police online safety website which has some helpful links on how to make the settings on devices secure.



ESSEX
POLICE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt it soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation, if young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could possibly hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour - but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance - and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots - and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2027?



Come and find out why
Edwards Hall is such a great
choice for your child's
education

- Meet the teachers and leaders
- See our beautiful grounds and spacious, well-equipped classrooms
- Find out more about our ambitious curriculum
- Learn about how we ensure children make excellent progress
- Experience the warm welcome that all children receive at Edwards Hall

'Pupils love being part of Edwards Hall Primary School.'

'Teachers have considerable subject expertise. They bring the curriculum alive for pupils, who relish every learning opportunity.' - Ofsted 2025

Mon 5th October
9.15am

Weds 7th October
1.45pm
5.30pm

Weds 4th November
9.15am
1.45pm

Scan the QR code to
book your place or call
01702 524470



www.edwardshallprimary.co.uk

Please note, the
tours on Monday 5th
October at 9.15am
and Wednesday 7th
October at 5.30pm
are FULL.

Please use the QR
code or click [here](#) to
book your place on a
tour.

Dates From the Diary

The full school calendar can be found on our [website](#) for your reference.



Mon 28th September- Fri
2nd October

**Year 6 Residential Trip to Hilltop
(arrive at 8.30am, children to hall, parents to KS2 playground)**

Tue 29th September

Year 4 Swimming Lessons (pm)

Fri 2nd October

EHSA Welcome Meeting (2.00-3.00pm) meet at the office, all welcome.

Mon 5th October

Open Day for New Intake 2027 (9.15am)

Tue 6th October

EYFS Introduction to RWI Phonics and Reading for parents (9.00am)

Tue 6th October

Year 4 Swimming Lessons (pm)

Wed 7th October

Harvest Assemblies KS1 & KS2 - children only

Wed 7th October

Open Day for New Intake 2027 (1.45pm & 5.30pm)

Fri 9th October

Year 5&6 Girls' Football at Len Forge by invitation (all day)

Lunch Menu



We will be on week **TWO** of our lunch menu next week with some changes due to the special lunch on Thursday.

WEEK TWO	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Pepperoni Pizza/Cheese & Tomato Pizza Potato Wedges Sweetcorn	Chicken Pastry Bake/Quorn Pastry Bake Crispy Square Potatoes Carrots	Pork/ Vegetarian Sausages Mashed Potato Baked Beans or Peas	Gruffalos Roasted Fox (roasted chicken or veggie goujons with optional BBQ sauce)	Fish Fingers/Quorn Fish Fingers Chips Peas
	Or Jacket Potato topped with either: Tuna Cheese Baked Beans	Or Jacket Potato topped with either: Tuna Cheese Baked Beans	Or Jacket Potato topped with either: Tuna Cheese Baked Beans	Scrambled Snakes (curly twist fries)	Or Jacket Potato topped with either: Tuna Cheese Baked Beans
	Or Cheese Half Baquette	Or Ham Half Baquette	Or Cheese Half Baquette	Mouse Love Nuts (baked beans or carrots and peas)	Or Cheese Half Baquette
	Chocolate Angel Delight or Fresh Fruit	Golden Syrup Flapjack or Fresh Fruit	Jelly and Ice Cream or Fresh Fruit	Owl's Delicious Cupcake or Gruffalo Granny's Apple Oat Crumble with custard	Iced Sponge or Fresh Fruit
					

Please remember, payment for school meals (where applicable) should be made in advance via **Arbor**.

The three week menu can be viewed on the [school website](#).

Free SEND Coffee Morning @Megacentre

with parenting support sessions



Thursday 8th October 2026
10 - 11:30am

With Steve Challen - Q&A
Free to attend and
no need to book

for more info contact
families@megacentrerayleigh.co.uk

BEHIND RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH
78 EASTWOOD ROAD RAYLEIGH SS6 7JP



OCTOBER HALF TERM

Tennis Camp

Wed 21st & Thurs 22nd Oct

Wed 28th & Thurs 29th Oct

9.00am-1.30pm

Same price earlier start time

Price

£20 Members

£25 Non Members

10% discount for
multi day or siblings

For kids aged 3-18
(Split groups)

All equipment provided
by Thorpe Bay Lawn
Tennis Club

Payment Details:

Account name - Thorpe
Bay Lawn Tennis Club
Limited

Sort Code - 30-92-53

Account no - 27496268

Ref - Childs name

Please bring drinks and
snacks



For more information or to book contact:
Matt Bell 07786238586 or mattwgbell@aol.com

Monkey Bizness

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!

SPOOKY FUN FOR EVERYONE!

JOIN MARVIN!
29TH OCTOBER
5.30PM - 7.30PM
30TH OCTOBER
5.30PM - 7.30PM

£12.50
PER CHILD
£2.50
PER ADULT

- MINI DISCO & DANCING**
- FANCY DRESS COMPETITION**
- SPOOKY CRAFTS**
- GAMES & PRIZES**

FUN GAMES TREATS MEMORIES

WWW.MONKEY-BIZNESS.CO.UK