



# Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

**Term 1, 2024/25**

Dear parents and carers,

As we conclude another eventful term at Cam Everlands Primary School, I am pleased to share with you the numerous accomplishments and activities that have enriched our pupils' experiences.

The start of the term was marked by the enthusiastic return of our pupils, their spirits high and ready for the challenges ahead. This positive energy has been evident throughout the term, showing in their commendable work ethic, determination to improve, and resilience.

Our commitment to fostering leadership skills and environmental awareness has been reinforced through the election of new School Council and Eco Council representatives. These pupils, chosen by their peers, will play a crucial role in representing pupil opinions and promoting sustainability initiatives within our school community.

In our ongoing effort to provide a well-rounded education, we have introduced specialist music tuition across the school, beginning with our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Over the course of 10 weeks, they will be developing their musical abilities, with Year 5 learning the ukulele and Year 6 the viola.

Cultural enrichment has been a key focus this term. All pupils were treated to a captivating performance of Cinderella by the M&M Theatre group. Additionally, a select group of pupils, accompanied by Mrs. Beasley, visited Westonbirt Arboretum where they engaged in a unique photographic experience using pinhole cameras.

Our commitment to experiential learning was further exemplified by the educational visits undertaken by Years 1, 2, and 6 to Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre. These excursions provided invaluable opportunities for our pupils to explore and learn about animals and their habitats in a real-world context.

On the sporting front, our cross-country team has demonstrated exceptional performance in the first event of the year. We are proud of all of our runners, with special congratulations to Stanley B for his outstanding victory.

Finally, I am delighted to report that our attendance for the term stands at 95.4%, surpassing the government's targets and marking our highest termly figure in at least three years.

As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I am confident that our pupils will continue to thrive, supported by the dedication of our staff and the invaluable partnership with our parent community.

On behalf of the school, may I wish you all a happy and restful half term holiday.

Dominic Knill

Headteacher

## **Reminder!**

Monday 4th November is an INSET day so pupils return on Tuesday 5th November



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## Attendance

Good attendance at school is vital for any child — if they're not in the classroom they are missing learning.

**Last year 2253 days of learning were lost at Cam Everlands due to absence, an average of 12.5 days for each child.**

Therefore, it is key that everyone is sending their children to school every day during term time when they are able to. Of course children get ill, and if they are physically sick, we expect them to stay off school for 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading.

We will not be authorising any holiday requests during term time. Whilst we are sympathetic to the difficulties in paying for holidays during the weeks we are on holiday, it does not qualify as being 'exceptional circumstances'. Therefore, all holiday requests will be shown as being 'unauthorised'.

### What if my child's attendance is low?

Our preference in managing attendance is to support you to improve it.

If a child's attendance is **below 90%**, they are classified as being '**persistently absent**'. There are many reasons why a child may miss school some of which are valid and are classified as 'authorised' absences. Examples include illness and medical appointments. You will not be fined for these absences but we do encourage all medical appointments to be made outside of school hours wherever possible.

When a child's absence is 'persistent' (below 90%), we will contact you to see how we can support you to improve it. We have lots of experience in supporting families and will always look to talk about how we can help remove barriers.

Should the attendance not improve following this support, we will ask you to attend an Attendance Improvement Meeting (AIM) where formalised actions and targets will be agreed with the intention of improving attendance.

If the attendance does not improve at this point, we will issue a '**Notice to Improve**' and if the situation still doesn't improve, a **Fixed Penalty Notice** will be levied. We would prefer not to do this, but it is your legal responsibility to ensure your child attends school regularly.

### What is the impact of persistent absence on the academic success of pupils?

Last year, **37%** of children who were 'persistently absent' were on track in reading, writing and maths.

For those who had attendance over 95%, this climbs to **69%**



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## Key dates

### Term dates

Term 1: 2nd September to 25th October

Term 2: 4th November to 20th December

Term 3: 6th January to 14th February

Term 4: 24th February to 11th April

Term 5: 28th April to 23rd May

Term 6: 2nd June to 21st July

### Inset days

Monday 2nd September

Monday 4th November

Monday 6th January

Monday 24th February

Monday 21st July

### Term 2 key dates

Monday 4th November	INSET day
	Y6 leave for PGL residential (1.30pm)
Monday 11th November	Start of Anti-Bullying week
Tuesday 12th November	Odd socks day
Friday 15th November	Open Morning for prospective parents (9.30am)
Saturday 16th November	Cross country event #2
Friday 29th November	Y5 ukulele performance to parents (2.30pm)
Monday 2nd December	Girl's district football
Thursday 5th December	Boy's district football
Friday 6th December	Y6 viola performance to parents (2.30pm)
Saturday 7th December	Cross country event #3
Wednesday 11th December	Infant Nativity performance (9.30am)
Wednesday 18th December	KS2 Christmas Sing-a-long (2.00pm)
Friday 20th December	Children's Christmas buffet lunch
	End of term (3.15pm)