



# Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

Term 2, 2024/25

Dear parents and carers,

The Christmas holidays have finally arrived at the end of a long and busy term here at Cam Everlands. As usual, we have tried to find as many different ways to enrich the experiences of our children with the aim that they both maintain their enthusiasm for learning and also doing things which they can remember for years to come.



An example of this is the number of different music-themed events. The children have been lucky to see two virtuoso performers come in and demonstrate both the piano and the flute whilst our Year 5 and 6s have been learning the ukulele and viola respectively for 10 weeks, culminating in performances to their families. All who attended will no doubt agree that the children did phenomenally well. Next term, our Year 2s, 3s and 4s will begin their music journeys.

All children took part in a week of activities as part of the national Anti-Bullying week. Our Year 5s received training as Anti-Bullying Champions and worked alongside their peers in other classes to share the key messages. Fingers crossed you have been able to pair up the odd socks which were worn throughout the week!

Another whole-school activity was based on the NSPCC's 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' program. An assembly was followed up with classroom activities which helped the children to understand the importance of sharing their concerns and worries. In our own assemblies, we always encourage the children to think of at least one trusted adult in school who they feel comfortable talking to. By regularly discussing how to keep safe with the children, and through ongoing training with staff, we aim to keep safeguarding at the top of our agenda.

To mark Remembrance Day, our Key Stage 2 children walked to the war memorial in Cam and met with the children from Cam Hopton Primary. Reverend Fiona then held a short service of remembrance which gave the children an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by others.

The Christmas season has seen many amazing events held. The infants entertained the audiences thoroughly in their two performances of Baaarmy Bethlehem; our juniors showcased the excellent singing at Cam Everlands in the sing-a-long and the School Association worked tirelessly to organise and hold the annual Christmas Fare. The Fare was a great event and it was wonderful to see the school community gathering together. Thank you to all who helped organise and run the event.

All of these have put us in the festive mood so, on behalf of the children and staff of Cam Everlands, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Dominic Knill

Headteacher

## Reminder!

Monday 6th January is an INSET day. Pupils return on Tuesday 7th January.



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## School Website

Over the summer, we launched our new school website. Whilst we are still adding content in some areas, we hope that you will take a moment to visit it. We are trying to provide regular news updates to highlight what is going on at the school and we are adding lots of photos in the gallery which can be found under the 'Children's' tab. We've added images from the Y6 PGL residential and the Infant Nativity in recent weeks.

Each class has a dedicated page which has information such as who are the adults in the class, which day PE is held on and details about the curriculum for that class.

You will also be able to find key dates on our calendar, copies of previous newsletters and other key information and policies.

## School Development Priorities

As a school, we are always looking to improve what we do, be that based around the teaching and learning, curriculum or wider offer to our families.

This year, our School Development Plan has 5 elements which are our main foci:

1. To close the attainment gap in reading, writing and maths for our Pupil Premium children
2. To improve the levels of attainment for all pupils in writing
3. To improve the measurement and impact of interventions
4. To increase the number of children leaving KS1 having passed the Phonics Screener
5. To ensure that the Cam Everlands curriculum is fully embedded and assessments are being carried out for foundation subjects.

These areas are the focus of most of our staff meetings and professional development with the aim of improving the quality of our teaching.

Whilst these are our main priorities, we are also developing our play provision, looking for opportunities to give the children additional responsibilities, strategies to allow the children to become more responsible for their own learning, opportunities for additional clubs and many more!

To support this, please ensure that you read with your child regularly and discuss what they've learnt at school each day.

## Review Day

One of the tools which we use to evaluate how we are doing is to employ an independent School Improvement Partner. We had a review day whereby she comes and observes teaching, speaks to children and also looks at their books.

Overall, it was very positive and she commented on the great learning behaviours of the children, the high levels of engagement and the high quality of teaching. She also commended us for our high levels of inclusion. It was a very positive day for everyone.



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## Attendance

Attendance across the school for Term 2 was 91.7%.

This equates to 530 days of missed learning across the school. Whilst 344 of these days were lost to illness, 186 days were lost for other reasons.

Attendance for the school year to date is 93.9% meaning 872 days of learning have been missed since September.

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 3 key dates

Monday 6th January	INSET day
Tuesday 7th January	Term 3 begins
Friday 10th January	Schoolbeat Police visit to Year 6 (Online safety)
Monday 13th January	Young Minds Matter assembly—What is wellbeing?
Saturday 18th January	Cross Country event 4 @ Dursley Rugby Club
Wednesday 22nd January	Cultural Maths morning
	Girls Football skills festival
Thursday 30th January	Y3 trip to Gloucester mosque, Robinswood Hill and Skillzone (TBC)
	EYFS and Y6 walk to Baptist Church
Tuesday 4th February	Maths in the Real World morning
Thursday 6th February	Swimming Gala
Tuesday 11th February	Dogs Trust Assembly and workshops
Wednesday 12th February	Dogs Trust Assembly and workshops
Friday 14th February	Mid-year reports out
	End of term