



Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

Term 3, 2024/25

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term, I am pleased to share with you the numerous activities and achievements that have continued to enrich the experiences of our children.

Our pupils have been engaged in a diverse range of experiences, broadening their horizons and deepening their understanding of the world around them. Year 3 had the privilege of welcoming the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, who provided invaluable insights into local ecology and conservation efforts. Additionally, we were fortunate to host Rob from Severn Trent Water, who fascinated our pupils with intriguing facts about the water we consume daily, emphasising the importance of this vital resource.

In our ongoing commitment to pupil safety and well-being, we invited the Dog's Trust to conduct an assembly and individual class workshops for every class. These sessions were instrumental in educating our children about responsible behaviour around dogs, equipping them with essential knowledge for their safety.

Our whole-class ensemble music tuition programme continues to flourish, with Year 2 pupils embarking on their violin journey, Year 3 exploring the cornet, and Year 4 mastering the ukulele. This initiative not only fosters musical aptitude but also promotes teamwork and discipline.

I am particularly proud to report on the exemplary conduct of our EYFS class during their educational visit to St George's Church. Reverend Fiona was notably impressed by both their impeccable behaviour and the insightful questions they posed, demonstrating their engagement with the topic of baptism.

This term has also seen our new School Council and Eco Council representatives elected by their classmates. Many children wrote and presented speeches to their classes and, whilst there could only be 2 winners from each class, all children who stood deserve our respect and admiration. Mme Brunet will work with both councils to ensure the pupils voices are heard when decisions are made by our Senior Leadership Team.

Our pupils have also excelled in various sporting endeavours. The cross-country teams performed admirably, 4 trophies being won by the team. More details can be found overleaf.

The girls' football team represented our school with distinction at a tournament held at Rednock. Their exceptional sportsmanship and positive attitudes were particularly commended, alongside their impressive display of skill and determination. Thank you to Miss Green for both coaching them and accompanying them to the tournament.

Furthermore, our Year 5 and 6 swimming team competed admirably at the district swimming gala, securing numerous high placements in individual races. Their performance reflects the hard work and commitment they have invested in their training.

As we look ahead to term 4, I would like to remind you that there will be an INSET day on Monday, 24th February, with pupils returning to school on Tuesday, 25th February.

In conclusion, I extend my gratitude to our pupils, staff, and parents for their continued support and enthusiasm, which collectively contribute to the vibrant and successful learning environment we nurture at Cam Everlands Primary School. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term holiday.

With best wishes,

Dominic Knill

Headteacher



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Cross Country Champions!

Cam Everlands have a long and storied history in the district cross country events which are held at Dursley Rugby Club.

This year, our elite runners competed with tenacity, grit and huge determination to finish with no less than 4 trophies. Our Junior boys (Years 3 and 4) did amazingly well to win their category whilst the junior girls team nearly matched them by coming a brilliant 2nd in theirs. The overall team also won the 'large schools' shield as well as the shield for overall victory — a great haul which reflected the grit, determination and tenacity of the runners all of whom should be proud of their efforts.

Following the series of races, both Millie S (Y6) and Annabelle W (Y5) have been selected to represent Dursley District in the county competition in March. We look forward to hearing how they get on.

A huge thank you must go to Mr Payne for coaching the team so well in his early-morning club — his continued commitment to sport at Cam Everlands is inspiring.

Both Mr Payne and Mrs Beasley, along with a hardy band of parents, must also be thanked for supporting the children at each of the events, cheering the team on in all weathers on four Saturday mornings. Without them, participation in such events wouldn't be possible.

Improving our play - introducing OPAL

Did you know that children only spend more time learning English and maths than they do outside at play and lunchtimes. The children spend over 6 hours per week playing and this time is a precious resource which can be used to develop a number of skills (creativity, co-operation, negotiation, turn-taking) all whilst having fun.



Over the past 3 years, we have invested heavily in developing our play provision from replacing the trim trail to buying lots of 'loose parts' to play with and purchasing a container to store it in. We have also introduced 'Pupil Play Leaders' who work with Miss Edwards (our actual Play Leader) to set up activities and engage children in a wide range of games.

When on the playground at lunchtimes, it is brilliant to see how the children are playing a much wider range of games and investing themselves in the serious business of play!

To further improve this aspect of the school, we have decided to join OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). OPAL is "is an award-winning, mentor supported school improvement programme that addresses all the areas that schools must plan for if they want to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities".

Some of the benefits include improved behaviour, fewer accidents, fewer conflicts, improved self-regulation, higher levels of physical activity, improved mental well-being, better social and emotional development and better risk identification.

We are really looking forward to this journey and know the children will love the improved provision. Find out more at www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk



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Attendance

Attendance across the school for Term 3 was 92.7%.

This equates to 407 days of missed learning across the school. Whilst 211 of these days were lost to illness, 196 days were lost for other reasons.

Attendance for the school year to date is 93.4% meaning 1344 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 2024-25

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 4 key dates

Monday 24th February	INSET day
Tuesday 25th February	Term 4 begins Maths in the real world morning Parents' consultation evening (all years)
Wednesday 26th February	Young Voices (Birmingham) Parents' consultation evening (Years Reception to Year 4)
Wednesday 5th March	Parents' consultation evening (Years 5 and 6)
Thursday 6th March	Eco Council trip to Westonbirt Hindu day
Friday 7th March	World Book Day Book Fair
Wednesday 12th March	Science Fun assembly and workshops Y5/6 tag rugby tournament
Thursday 13th March	M&M Theatre Productions — Treasure Island
Wednesday 19th March	Y3/4 tag rugby tournament
Thursday 20th March	Stroud Book Festival on Tour @ Cam Everlands
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day
Thursday 27th March	Reception class trip to Redwood
Wednesday 9th April	Year 3/4 performance
Friday 11th April	End of term 4