



Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

Term 4, 2024/25

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy and eventful term, I am pleased to reflect on the wide range of enriching experiences and achievements that have characterised our school community over recent weeks.

Our commitment to broadening pupils' cultural understanding was exemplified through our Hindu experience day, which provided an invaluable opportunity for pupils to deepen their comprehension of Hindu traditions and practises. Similarly, our Eco Council's participation in the Silk Wood Community Planting Project at Westonbirt Arboretum demonstrates our ongoing dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

World Book Day saw our school transform into a vibrant tableau of literary characters, as pupils and staff alike embraced the joy of reading through their creative costumes. This celebration of literature was further enhanced by a visit from author Iszi Lawrence, who captivated our Junior classes and their peers from Cam Hopton Primary as part of the Stroud Book Festival on Tour.

Our school's engagement with STEM subjects was highlighted during British Science Week, when 'Prof' from Fun Science enthralled our pupils with captivating demonstrations. Additionally, our Reception class's exploration of the woodland at Redwood underscores our belief in the importance of experiential learning across all age groups.

The arts have flourished this term, with our Year 3 and 4 pupils delivering an outstanding performance of 'Bee Musical' to their families. Their courage and talent in both acting and singing were truly commendable. Furthermore, our school's commitment to music education was evident as Year 3 and 4 pupils performed at Cheltenham Town Hall, showcasing the progress made through our newly introduced ensemble music tuition.

In the realm of physical education, our Year 3 and 4 tag rugby squad represented the school admirably at the district tag rugby festival, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork.

Our recent Ofsted inspection, while the report is yet to be published, is anticipated to reflect the exceptional nature of our school and community here at Cam Everlands. As I have said in previous communications, everyone did the school proud and the inspector absolutely loved the children!

Moving forward, we are going to put fewer photos on the newsletter. In order for you to be able to see what the children have been up to, we will be putting the images into the 'Gallery' section under the 'Children' tab of our school website. Please do take a look.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for your continued support and engagement in our school community. The achievements and experiences of this term serve as a testament to the collaborative efforts of our pupils, staff, and families.

With best wishes,

Dominic Knill

Headteacher



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Attendance

Attendance across the school for Term 4 was 93.0%.

This equates to 475 days of missed learning across the school. Whilst 211 of these days were lost to illness, 264 days were lost for other reasons.

Attendance for the school year to date is 93.7% meaning 1802 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 5 key dates

Monday 28th April	Term 5 begins Y4 and 5 cricket coaching
Monday 5th May	Bank holiday
Monday 12th May	Year 6 SATs week begins Y4 and 5 cricket coaching
Monday 19th May	Y4 and 5 cricket coaching
Wednesday 21st May	Reception class trip to Pizza Express
Friday 23rd May	End of term 5

Save the Date!

Everfest—our amazing summer fair organised by the School Association — is being held on **Friday 20th June**.

Don't miss it!