



# Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

## Building towards Christmas

Dear Parents and carers,

As we return to school after the half-term break, the signs that autumn and winter are on the way are evident when we look at the trees — the leaves which were previously green have begun to turn a wide array of yellows, oranges and reds. With these seasonal changes come the change in clocks too. I hope that you all enjoyed the extra hour in bed and that your children and pets got the memo too!

Last term was a very busy one here at Cam Everlands Primary.

We welcomed our new reception cohort to the school in September along with all of our returning pupils, all excited but with some trepidation as to what their new class has in store for them this year. In school, we have a new curriculum which we are using and the feedback from the children has been very positive so far.

As part of our ongoing efforts to bring the learning to life through trips and activities, we've already had trips to Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre (Years 1&2) and Stonehenge (Year 3) as well as having a drama day which brought the Shang Dynasty to life (Year 5). This term, we have had the M & M theatre group in performing Aladdin and Year 6 venturing off to PGL Liddington for their residential. There is always plenty going on to keep us busy!

We've also held our first parent's evening of the year which was well attended. We adopted a 'hybrid' model for this meeting — one evening of face-to-face meetings and one evening of online meetings. In the next couple of weeks, I will be sending out a questionnaire to see how people felt it worked and if we need to change the format for our next meetings in March. Please do respond as the more replies we get means a more reflective picture of what you want.

Looking to the future, we held our first open morning for parents whose child/ren will be starting school in September 2023. After putting up with me sharing information about our fantastic school, the parents were shown around by some of the Year 6 pupils. They all did a fabulous job and we were very proud of them all.

This term is part of the build-up to Christmas and all of the activities that are part of the festive season. The dates are found in the diary dates bar to the side of this page and also down below.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Dominic Knill

Headteacher

## Christmas Events

Christmas is only a matter of weeks away and we are busy planning our Christmas events. So that you don't miss anything, the dates of the events are below:

- 8th December EYFS Nativity @ 2.00pm in the school hall
- 9th December Christmas Jumper Day  
School Association Christmas Fair
- 13th December KS2 Carols on the Playground @2.00pm
- 14th December Y1/2 Nativity @2.00pm in school hall
- 16th December Home-clothes day (including Christmas jumper) and buffet lunch in class

### Term 2, November 2022

#### Diary dates

- 31/10/22 Y6 Residential departs
- 4/11/22 Y6 Residential returns
- 16/11/22 School Association disco
- 18/11/22 Children in Need  
Open Morning
- 24/11/22 Home-clothes day
- 25/11/22 INSET day
- 8/12/22 EYFS Nativity
- 9/12/22 Christmas Jumper Day  
Christmas Fayre
- 13/12/22 Carols on the Playground (KS2)
- 14/12/22 Year 1&2 Nativity
- 16/12/22 Home-clothes day  
End of term 2
- 3/1/23 INSET day
- 4/1/23 Term 3 starts
- 29/3/23 Parents evening
- 30/3/23 Parents evening
- 8/5/23 Y6 SATs week begins
- 8/6/23 Sports day (KS2 am, KS1 pm)

#### 2022/23 Term dates

- Term 1 6/9/22 - 21/10/22
- Term 2 31/10/22 - 16/12/22
- Term 3 4/1/23 - 17/2/23
- Term 4 27/2/23 - 31/3/23
- Term 5 17/4/23 - 26/5/23
- Term 6 5/6/23 - 21/7/23

#### INSET staff training days (school closed to children)

- INSET 1 5/9/22
- INSET 2 25/11/22
- INSET 3 3/1/23
- INSET 4 24/7/23
- INSET 5 25/7/23

### Attendance

Overall attendance term 1:

**95.1%**

"Good" attendance is 95% or above (source: DfE).

### Reminder!

Please ensure that you are reading regularly at home with your child—we recommend 5 times each week. It is the single most important thing you can do to support their learning across all subject areas. Speak to your class teacher if you have any questions around this.



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## Attendance

I wrote about the importance of attendance in my last newsletter and it will be an ongoing theme. This is because the average attendance percentage across the school last year was 92.7%. For reference, the expectation from the government is that attendance should be at least 95%.

**In term 1, our school-wide attendance was 95.1%** which is a promising start. However, the percentage was almost 100% in the first week and dropped every week thereafter! As we come into cold / flu / covid season, we expect more absences due to illness so it is vital that children attend if they're not ill.

Attendance in school is so important as it means the children are present for as many lessons as possible. Absence has a negative impact on children's learning but can also impact their mental health. Worries can be brought on because of missed lessons, or missed friends. Typically, the more absence, the higher the levels of worry.

### Top attendance tips

1. Get routines in place! Try and ensure that your weekday routine is in place and allows for a calm start to the day
2. Get everything ready the night before. This way, there is no panic and stress because shoes or book bags can't be found
3. If your child is feeling under the weather, send them in. If they don't perk up during the day, we can always contact you. Equally, if they are absent for the morning but improve by lunchtime, send them in for the afternoon.
4. Try to book doctors and dentist appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. If it has to be during the day, please send them in before or after. It is very unlikely that an entire day is needed for an appointment.
5. Speak to us. If you are having issues getting your child into school, get in touch. We have a lot of experience in supporting parents to improve attendance. Mrs Latuzska is fantastic at giving advice on these matters!

## Children in Need — 18th November

Friday 18th November is the date for the BBC's Children in Need day and this year the theme is 'Spot-tacular'.

To mark the event, we are asking children to come in wearing something either spotty or yellow. We also ask that they bring a donation of £1 which will be collected and sent off to support the Children in Need charities.

## School Association Disco and home-clothes day

Our amazing School Association are busy planning activities behind the scenes. The disco is going to be on **Wednesday 16th November**.

- Reception and Key Stage 1 will be held between 4.00 and 5.00pm.
- Key Stage 2 will run between 5.15 and 6.15pm.

On **Thursday 24th November**, we are holding a home-clothes day. We ask that children bring in something which can be used on the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair which will be held after school on December 9th.

## Parking

Please can I remind you to park courteously when dropping off and collecting your child(ren) from school?

Whilst I appreciate that there is limited parking close to the school, it is not acceptable for local residents to have access to their driveways blocked by parents collecting from school. We have had complaints that residents have missed hospital appointments due to being unable to get off their driveways and also being subject to unpleasant language when challenged. As a school and as part of our local community, we cannot condone this behaviour from our parents.



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## Housekeeping

### Contact details

If you have recently changed your mobile phone number or email address (or any other contact details), please can you ensure that our admin team know. It is vital for the safeguarding of the children that we have **at least two current contact numbers**. Thank you.

### Labelling

By the nature of school uniform all looking the same, it is essential that all clothing is clearly labelled. Should items then be 'misplaced', they are much more likely to be reunited with their owners.

### Earrings

If your child has earrings, please make sure that they can either remove them for PE or have micropore tape with which to cover them. This is to prevent them from potentially being torn out during PE lessons.

### Out of school achievers

Should your child do something amazing out of school, please let us know. Our celebration assemblies are on a Friday afternoon and it is a joy to be able to share what great things our children have been up to outside of school. You can either send the information (and any photos) to Mr Knill directly or their class teacher. Email addresses are available on the 'Teaching Team' section of the school website.

### Club attendance

When signing up for clubs, we feel that a commitment is being made for the child to attend the club. Should they not be able to attend a session, please can you let the person running the club know in advance. If your child no longer wants to attend, please let us know as many clubs have waiting lists and we can offer their place to someone else.

## Gallery



M & M Theatre Company performed Aladdin to the children. It was a loud and exciting production enjoyed by all.



Year 3 had a fantastic (if long) day visiting the magnificent Stonehenge as part of their Stone Age themed learning. Not only did they learn a huge amount, but they represented our school brilliantly. Well done Year 3!