



Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

Term 3, 2023/24

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. It has been another busy and productive term here at Cam Everlands Primary School. Our Year 3 pupils embarked on an exciting educational trip to the mosque in Gloucester which provided our children with a valuable opportunity to learn about different cultures and religions, fostering a sense of understanding and respect within our diverse community.

In addition to their cultural exploration, Year 3 also participated in a workshop at Skillzone, where they learned important strategies to keep themselves safe in various real-life scenarios. We are proud of their attentiveness and engagement during this session, and we are confident that they now possess the knowledge and skills to navigate potential risks with confidence.

Our cross country team has once again made us incredibly proud, securing an impressive 2nd place overall in the recent local competition. Not only did they achieve this outstanding result, but many of our pupils also received individual awards for their exceptional efforts and determination. Congratulations to all the team members for their hard work and commitment; more details can be found on page 4.

As part of our ongoing commitment to school improvement, we are proud to continue our collaboration with our local schools. By working together as a hub, we can share best practices, resources, and expertise to ensure the highest quality education for all our pupils.

Our dedicated staff members have been actively engaged in professional development, with recent staff meetings focusing on improving teaching through a deeper understanding of the cognitive science around how children learn. By exploring different strategies and pedagogical approaches, we aim to provide the best possible education for each and every pupil.

Speaking of which, please mark your calendars for our upcoming parents' evenings. These will be held on **Wednesday 21st February**, where we will have face-to-face meetings, and **Thursday 22nd February**, where we will offer virtual/online meetings. This is a valuable opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress, ask questions, and gain a deeper insight into their learning journey.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we can ensure a bright and successful future for each and every pupil.

Warm regards,

Dominic Knill

Headteacher

Diary dates

2023-24 key dates

9.2.24	Mid-year reports to parents
10.2.24	Half term holiday
19.2.24	INSET
20.2.24	Children return to school
21.2.24	Parents' evening
22.2.24	Parents' evening
20.3.24	Y3&4 Performance (1.30pm)
8.5.24	Class photos
6.6.24	Sports day
10.7.24	Year 6 Production (TBC)

2023/24 term dates

Term 1	5.9.23 — 26.10.23
Term 2	6.11.23 — 21.12.23
Term 3	8.1.24 — 9.2.24
Term 4	20.2.24 — 22.3.24
Term 5	8.4.24 — 24.5.24
Term 6	3.6.24 — 19.7.24

2023/24 INSET staff training days

4.9.23	INSET 1
27.10.23	INSET 2
22.12.23	INSET 3
19.2.24	INSET 4
22.7.24	INSET 5

Attendance

Overall attendance term 3

90.8%

Year to date:

93.0%

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

Reminder!

We have an INSET day on Monday 19th February so children will return to school on Tuesday 20th.



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Goodbye, Mrs Wingent!

It is with a very heavy heart that we will be saying 'farewell!' to Mrs Wingent, our School Business Manager, at the end of February.

Since joining the Cam Everlands team in November 2015, Sharon has managed the school's finance with great skill and diligence. Although her role means that she is someone who works mainly 'behind the scenes', it is to her eternal credit that our finances are in a good position where many schools have fallen into a deficit. She has worked with 3 headteachers who have all benefitted greatly from her sage advice when making financial decisions and has helped all of us to have a better understanding of the strange ways of accounting!

The processes in the office have been moved further towards the digital age and we are now a cashless school. These efficiencies have made it easier to manage the payments which are incoming to the school every day as well as paying our bills.

Although it may not be evident, it is Sharon's fastidious organisation which has meant that the fabric of the school is still in excellent condition. She has a great rota which means that every classroom, corridor and shared space is kept in tip-top condition for our pupils, even if the flat roof has been her nemesis!

Sharon has chosen to retire in order to spend more time with her parents and jet-setting around the globe supporting her hockey-playing husband and we all wish her the health and happiness to enjoy every single second.

Sharon will be greatly missed by everyone who works here at Cam Everlands and she leaves big shoes to fill.

Year 6 buddies

An area which we are actively looking to develop is giving children the opportunity to have positions of responsibility. The first of these is the re-introduction of Year 6 buddies for our Reception class.

At the start of Term 3, our Year 6 children were carefully paired up with a buddy in Reception. The aim is that our eldest (and most responsible) pupils will help our newest school members to feel part of the Cam Everlands community more quickly and to know that they have someone older than them who can play with them, do activities with and show them the ropes.

Although it is very much in the early days, we are looking for more opportunities for the children to spend time together so that they can continue to build bonds and friendships which we hope will last beyond their time here at Cam Everlands.

Play Leaders

Another way of giving children more opportunities to have responsibilities, we have been actively recruiting members from Year 5 and Year 6 to become our first cohort of 'Play Leaders'.

These pupils will work alongside our lunchtime staff to set up and lead games and activities for our other children to join during their lunch hour. They will be given training to help them organise the resources they'll need as well as tips in how to manage the other children.

We have had some volunteers already working with the infants on their playground and it has been very successful so it is great that we can add to these numbers after half term.



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Attendance

Attendance continues to be a concern for us. The Department for Education states that 'good' attendance is **95%** or above. Across the school, our attendance for the year is **93.0%**.

More worryingly, we have **25.0% of our pupils who are classified as 'persistently absent'** (attendance below 90%). This means that, on average, 7 pupils in every class are missing at least half a day of school each and every week. Over the year, this will equate to at least 19 days of missed learning (or approximately 114 hours of lost learning time).

Whilst children will get ill from time to time, please do think very carefully about keeping your children at home if they have minor ailments. Equally, whilst we are sympathetic about the cost of holidays during school holidays, please try and minimise time taken off for this reason.

If you are struggling to get your child(ren) into school, please do come and have a talk with either Mrs Latuszka or Mr Knill. We want to work together to support you in getting your child into school as often as possible.



Nits!

Once again, we have had a number of sightings of these unwelcome creepy crawlies in the some of our classrooms. Whilst they are always going to be a threat in primary schools, they can be eradicated if they are correctly treated. Please can you check your children's hair and treat if necessary. Thank you.

Parking

I have received more emails and phone calls from local residents who are frustrated that they cannot get onto or off their driveways due to inconsiderate parking at drop-off and pick-up.

Whilst I am sympathetic to the lack of space, please can you ensure that you are parking considerately at all times.

Wraparound care—Everlanders

We see our wraparound care as a service for our families and endeavour to be as flexible as possible in terms of bookings and accepting children at late notice. We have recently had a much greater volume of last-minute bookings which creates a lot of additional admin and impacts on staffing.

If you use this service, please do try and give us as much notice as possible by booking in a timely manner.



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Cross Country team



Our amazing cross-country team have shown real grit and perseverance this year in the district cross country events. Those who have supported our runner faithfully spoke of bitter winds and extreme cold but the children haven't complained. Instead, they have got their heads down and supported each other to an amazing second place in the large schools competition.

Every single person who represented the school did so incredibly well and we are proud of each and every one of them.

Special mention must go to Millie S and Kai B who have both been invited to run in the county championships following their performances over the series of races.

A final couple of thank you's go to Mr Payne who has organised our children incredibly well and to the staff and parents who have supported the team with enthusiasm throughout. Thank you and well done everyone!

Swimming team

On the penultimate day of term, our intrepid junior swimming team headed off in the rain to the Pulse swimming pool for the district gala.

Some excellent individual performances combined to give Cam Everlands the winning score and means we have retained the shield for another year.

Well done to the whole team — we are proud of you.



World Book Day 7th March 2024

For World Book Day this year, we are relaunching our Extremely Reading competition (details sent via email on 8th Feb). We will also be having the popular book fair in school so get saving!



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Gallery



Our Reception class have had a busy term. They have been making aliens using air-dry clay, designing and making cuddle pets, finding out why it is so important to brush their teeth and also beginning their writing journey by writing sentences!



In Year 3, the children have been learning how to use stop-frame animations.

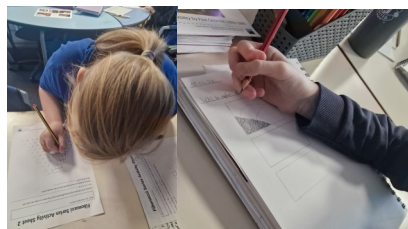
Year 3 also had a great day in Gloucester. In the morning they visited the mosque and then, following a quick stop at Robinswood Hill for lunch, learnt how to keep safe at Skillzone.



Year 5 have been using iPads to support their maths learning this term as well as studying Ordnance Survey maps and finding out all about apiculture (beekeeping) with an fascinating talk by Ellie F who dressed up in the full bee-keepers equipment.



Year 2 have been creating art inspired by Yayoi Kusama.



The pupils of Year 4 have had a varied term from investigating the Fibonacci Sequence in maths to learning about mountain landscapes.

