



# Cam Everlands News

We believe, achieve and celebrate

## Spring has sprung!



Dear parents and carers,

And just like that, we're half way through the school year! Another 7 weeks have rushed by in a blur and we're beginning to see the days get longer and first green shoots — sure signs that spring is on the way.

As usual, it has been a busy few weeks in school. We started way back in January with an INSET day for staff training. The morning saw all of the staff undertake basic first aid training and the afternoon saw all teachers receiving additional training into how to deliver our phonics program effectively.

Whilst the staff have been busy learning, so have the children! Across the school, the new curriculum introduced this year has been engaging the children in learning about history, geography, design and technology, art, PE and lots more. There are more specific highlights later in the newsletter and you can always find out what your child is learning from the class pages on the school website: ([www.cameverlands.org.uk/class-pages](http://www.cameverlands.org.uk/class-pages)).

As part of a national program to encourage focusing on being positive, we have shared letters with Teynham Primary School, in Kent. Each class received letters from their peers in Teynham and all replied. We were very impressed with the care and thought that the children put in to their replies and we hope to hear from the children in Teynham again soon.

This week, the children have had a wellbeing day which is based on the theme of 'Making Connections'. They had a day of exciting wellbeing activities which were planned by the teachers as well as some hot chocolate (very welcome on a chilly Wednesday at the end of term!)

There are, as usual, a wide range of clubs running this term which the children love to take part in. A huge thanks goes to the staff members who give their time to run these clubs and allow children the opportunity to indulge their passions.

It has been an action-packed first half of the year and there are plenty more events planned for the remainder of the school year as we move from winter, through spring and into summer. We hope you all have a great half term break and look forward to seeing you on the 27th February.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Dominic Knill

Headteacher

## Elgar Society Music Award



Music is a subject which Cam Everlands prides itself on, led by our very own musician Mrs Butler. Children throughout the school receive an excellent musical experience and the quality of the teaching and learning was recognised by the Elgar Society.

Out of 70 schools across Gloucestershire, we were awarded 3rd place for our music education with particular praise being given for the children's performing and the diversity of composers and compositions the children get to experience.

A huge well done to all of the staff and children, but especially to Mrs Butler who is our Music subject leader and epicentre of all good things musical at Cam Everlands.

### Term 3, February 2023

#### Diary dates

27/2/23	Term 4 starts
3/3/23	World Book Day
29/3/23	Parents evening
30/3/23	Parents evening
8/5/23	Coronation Bank Holiday
9/5/23	Y6 SATs begin
12/5/23	Y6 SATs end
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 3:

**92.7%**

Year to date:

**93.2%**

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

### Reminder!

We are celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 3rd March**. Children are being asked to wear 'comfy clothes' (pyjamas and dressing gown or joggers and hoodies etc.).



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## Attendance

Our attendance this term improved slightly from last term but is still not where we would like it to be. There have been a few winter bugs circulating which means that our **attendance has dropped to 92.7%** for the term and brought our total for the school year down to **93.2%**. Hopefully, the new year will see an improvement so that we can bring our figures closer to **our target of 95%**.

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.

If you are uncertain whether you should send your child in or not, please have a look at the NHS advice on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### 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.

## Sickness — 48 hour rule



Whilst we love seeing our pupils every day and encourage their attendance in school, please can you remember that, if they have been sick or suffered from diarrhea, they must not return to school before 48 hours since the final episode has passed. This is taken from national guidelines and is in place to minimize the risk that any contagious illnesses should have passed by then. Ultimately, the rule is in place to prevent the spreading of infections to the other members of the class and wider school community so please can you ensure that you are not bringing children back too soon. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## Defibrillator

We are very pleased to announce that we are one of the first schools in the country to benefit from a government scheme to ensure that all schools have a defibrillator on site. It arrived with us at the end of January and it will live in the entrance hall so that it is accessible throughout the school day and also for anyone who is renting the hall. We have registered the device on the national database for defibrillators so that anyone in the local community who needs one knows that it is here. Unfortunately, we are not able to affix it to the outside of the school and offer it to the community all of the time due to the fact that our site is secured at night.

When staff undertook their first aid training during the January INSET, they were all taught how to use a defibrillator. We sincerely hope that we never have to use it but it is reassuring to know that we have one on site should it be needed.

## Healthy schools and snacks



We aspire to be accredited as a healthy school and we work hard to educate the children about how to eat healthily and have a healthy lifestyle. Part of this is making sure that the children have healthy lunchboxes and healthy snacks at break time. Please can we remind parents that snacks should be healthy and not chocolate or crisps. Thank you.



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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.

## Cross Country



The photos above show our amazing cross country runners who competed in the final event of the year, held at KLB School in Wotton-under-Edge.

We had a lot of great results with 2 of our children having stand-out results. Millie S got 4th place in the Junior Girls race and Kai B came 1st in the Junior Boys race — amazing results for both.

In the overall standings taken from results from the 3 races, we had 3 children who finished in the top 10 of their category. Millie S and Liah P came 7th and 8th respectively in the Junior Girls and Kai B came 6th in the Junior Boys.

These individual results meant that Cam Everlands won the Junior Girls category overall and came second in the Junior Boys category—the best results Cam Everlands has had for many years and very positive looking forward to next year. Well done to all of the children who have represented the school in cross country this year. We're proud of you all!

## School Association

On Friday 10th February, the Cam Everlands School Association held a Quiz Night at the Dursley Community Centre. A fantastic time was had by all on a really well-organised and fun evening. The school staff team emerged victorious (FIX!) and around £250 was raised, all of which will be spent on the pupils at the school. Thank you to the School Association members who organised and ran the event and all who attended.

On March 13th, the School Association are holding their Annual General Meeting. This will involve reviewing this year's activities, updates on the financial accounts and re/election of committee members and trustees. Details of how to join the Teams meeting are on an email sent on 10th February.



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## Governing Body

All schools have a governing body which oversees the strategic running of the school and is accountable to the local authority. It is there to ensure that decisions made about the running of the school are in the best interests of the school and are financially viable.

The government document "Maintained School Governance—structures and role descriptors" states that the governing body has 3 core functions:

- 1) Ensuring the clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction
- 2) Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- 3) Overseeing the financial performance of the school, making sure that its money is well spent.

The governing body meet 6 times each year, on a Monday or Tuesday between 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

If you know anyone from the local community who has skills which could be used to benefit the school and who would be willing to join the governing body, then please put them in touch with the school or Mr Knill. We are especially looking for people who have a financial background.

## Termly highlights

### Year 5



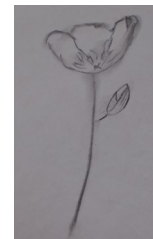
This term, year 5 designed, created and made their own soup which was totally delicious.



We took part in a Road to RIAT with Smallpiece Trust who organised a full day of designing, creating and testing rockets. We have also been invited to take part in an aircraft design competition so wish us luck!



Helen Hyde began a Young Enterprise topic with us on our "Sow, Grow and Farm" topic - the idea being to grow produce, add value to it, present it to the Dragons, sell them and make a profit for a good cause.



The author and artist John Parsons visited Year 5 this term. He talked about his writing and art and then signed the children's artwork, an example of which is above.

### Year 2



As part of their Design and Technology topic "Remarkable Recipes", the children in Year 2 learned how to wash their hands properly, what it means to have a balanced diet and then prepared a vegetable casserole. The children also learned how to wash up the equipment they had used to ensure everything was hygienic.



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## Termly highlights continued...

### Year 6



Year 6 have been really busy this term. They've been designing and building bridges in Design and Technology (see images above), spent a day learning about the Titanic — including finding out the fate of some of the passengers — shared time reading with Year 1 and also marvelling at James' Frozen Kingdom Antarctica cake.

### Year 4



Year 4 have been investigating Ordnance Survey maps and have had great fun learning about 4- and 6-figure grid references.



In PE, the focus for Year 4 has been on gymnastics. The children have been using the apparatus and also making bridges.



Science lessons for Year 4 have focussed on learning about the differences and similarities between solids, liquids and gases.

### Year 1



Year 1 have been very excited to use the apparatus in PE this term. They have thought carefully about how to move around it safely whilst making a range of shapes and movements. They've also had a great time in Forest School. Not only have they loved being among nature, they've also been engrossed in building a stable den which was both stable and waterproof. They also made fire! A particular treat was being able to read with the children from Year 6, enjoying a story which they had chosen.

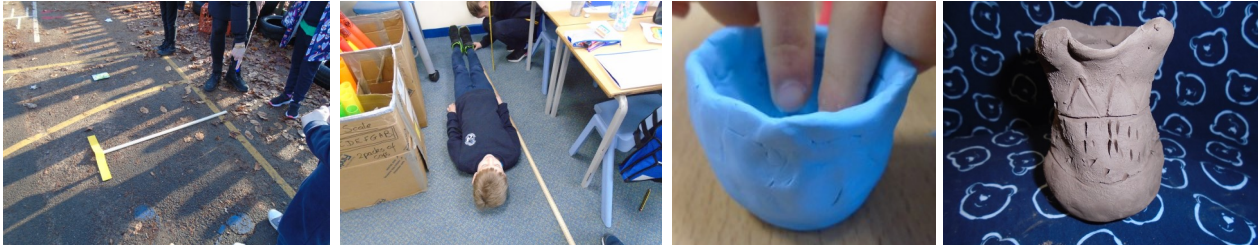


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## Termly highlights continued...

### Year 3



The focus in maths for Year 3 this term has been measurement. The children have had a great time turning the abstract concept into the use of practical apparatus. They have measured objects, towers, jumps and each other, choosing the most appropriate unit from mm, cm and m.

Through their history topic "Through the Ages", the children have been learning about the influence of the Bell Beaker culture. They have been designing and making beakers, first using plasticine and then using clay.

### Year Reception



Our youngest learners have been incredibly busy learning a multitude of things this term. In maths, they have been exploring the composition of numbers which will help to underpin their learning in future. They've also been bringing stories to life using shadows. In an effort to help our local bird population, the Reception class have been making bird feeders. Finally, inspired by 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', the children have been learning how to make porridge. A fantastically varied term of learning for all of the children.

### Forest School Club



The Forest School Club, with our Forest School Leader Mr Kinsley, have had a great term doing activities in all weathers. They've been learning about the outside world, how to look after nature and also how to light fires safely.