

Cann Hall Primary School

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Executive Headteacher:

Ross Silcock

Head of School:

Wendy Byrne



Friday 12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 5 & 6 Reading Mornings

Thank you to those parents and carers of our Year 5 & Year 6 children, who came into read this week. Once again, it was so nice to see you in school sharing reading with your child. After the Christmas break, we will send out further information about the arrangements for the EYFS, Year 1 and year 2 reading afternoons.



Reading at Cann Hall

We want every child to develop a love of reading and make great progress. To help with this, we use a colour-coded system to make sure children are listened to regularly.



- Children working at Age-Related Expectations (ARE) will read regularly during group sessions, so you may not always see these recorded in their reading diaries.
- Children who are not yet at ARE will have extra one-to-one reading time with an adult and these sessions will be recorded in their diaries.

This approach ensures that every child gets the support they need to become confident, fluent readers.

Please see the end of the newsletter for information about the **FREE Winter Reading Challenge**.

KS2 Church Service



Unfortunately, our annual KS2 walk to the church for our Christmas service was cancelled due to the bad weather. Luckily Mrs Ward was able to come to us instead and we still had our service in the hall, singing carols and other festive songs. Thank you to those parents and carers who volunteered to walk with us. We will plan for another visit to St John's at Easter time.



KS1 Christmas Assembly

Miss Ward also came back into school on Wednesday afternoon to lead the KS1 Christmas service too.



PTA Pop Up Shop Reminder

A reminder that the PTA are running 'Elfridges' again this year on **Monday 15th December** with gifts ranging from **£1 to £5**. If you would like your child to visit the shop to purchase some gifts, please send them into school with any money in a **named, sealed envelope**.



Christmas Lunches Reminder



Christmas Lunch for children in **EYFS, Y1 and Y2** will be on **Tuesday 16th December**. Christmas Lunch for children in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** will be on **Wednesday 17th December**. Christmas lunches can be pre-ordered, as usual, via your My Child at School (MCAS) App.

Important! Please note ... There will be **no hot meal options for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 on Tuesday 16th December** so children in these year groups, will need to bring their own packed lunch on this day. If your child is entitled to free school meals and you would like the school to provide a cold packed dinner on this day, the form to order this is available at the school office.

Likewise, there will be **no hot meal options for the children in EYFS, Y1 or Y2 on Wednesday 17th December**. All children in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to free school meals, as part of the universal offer. If you would like the school to provide a cold lunch, on Wednesday 17th December, you can order this via the My Child at School app. The options will be either a cheese or ham packed lunch. Or If you prefer, they can bring their own packed lunch on this day.

Thank you to the **PTA** for supplying the Christmas crackers!



Attendance

As you know we, regularly monitor attendance and of late we have noticed that Friday seems to be one of the worst days for attendance. With that in mind please use the following links for guidance on a range of illnesses to ensure that your child is in school, when they are well enough.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

[Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – The Education Hub](#)

[Preventing and controlling infections - GOV.UK](#)

[Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK](#)

Term Time Holidays:

We have had lots of applications to take children out of school for holidays, recently. We are not permitted to authorise term time holidays, as this time out of school really does have a negative impact on your child's learning.

Lost Learning due to Low Attendance:



If you have taken your child out of school for a holiday, please make sure that for the rest of the year they attend school every day, when they are well enough to do so. This way they will not miss any more of their learning and have lots to catch up on.

Trespassers on School Grounds

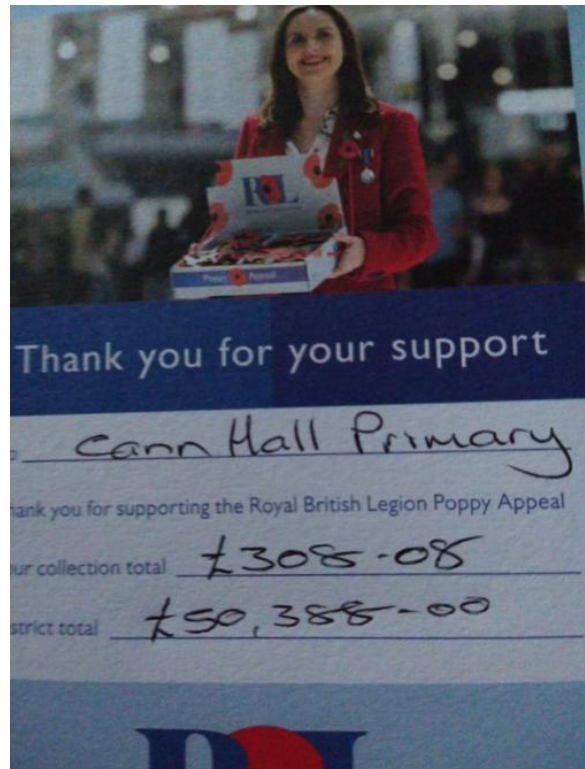


Please remember, if you do live on the boundary of the school, or regularly walk past the school of an evening and see anything suspicious please do call the police. They are already aware and are carrying out regular checks. Thank you.

The Poppy Appeal

Thank you so much for all your support for this year's Poppy Appeal.

Your donations raised a total of **£308.08**



No NUTS please!



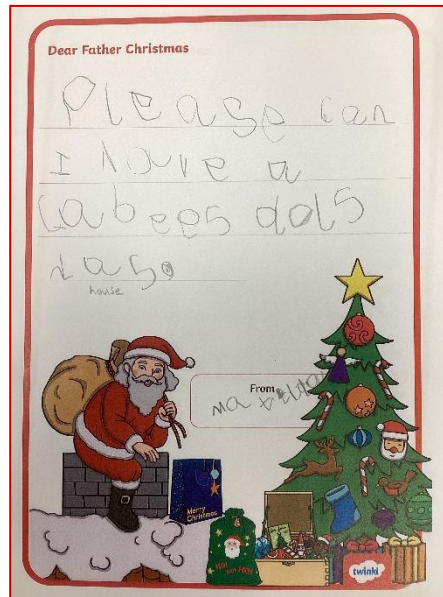
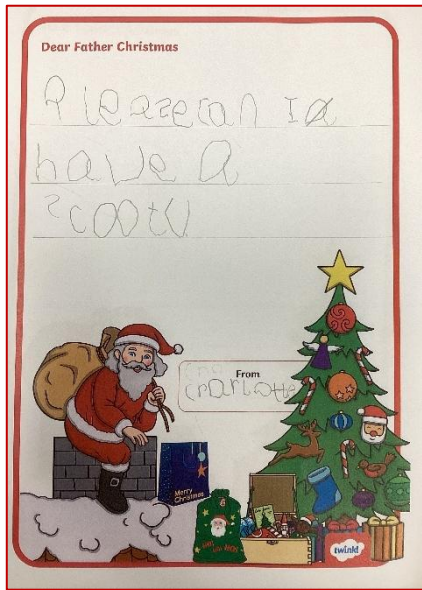
We have several children and adults in our school, who have a severe nut allergy. Please help us keep everyone safe by ensuring that your child's packed lunch does not have food items that contains any type of nut.

Thank you!

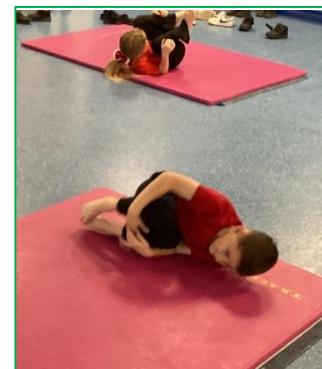
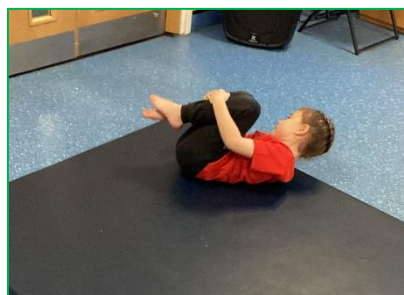
Learning Updates

RB have been busy using their phonics to help them write letters to Father Christmas this week,

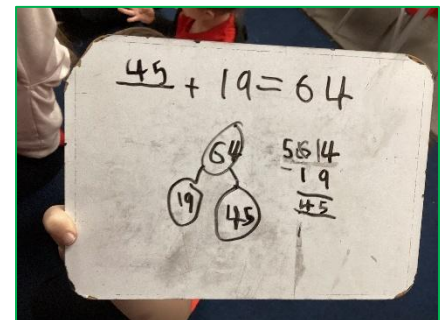
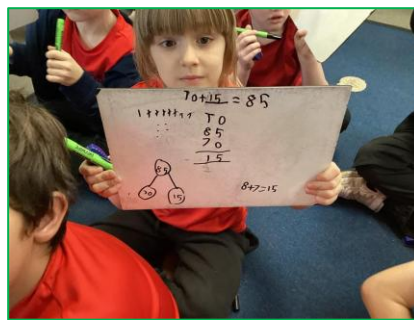
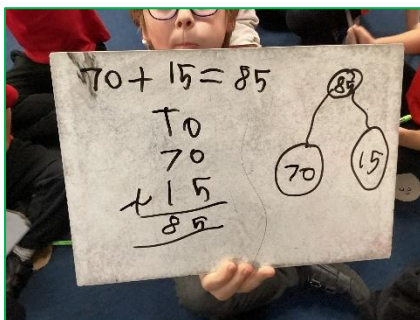
The teachers have been really impressed with the children's phonological knowledge and how well they have done in their recent phonics check!



2C have been practising their rolls. Here, you can see them doing barrel rolls and straight rolls. We also had a chance to have a go at a forward roll, with the support of an adult. Mrs Covey was very impressed with them this week!



They have also been completing some impressive maths! Solving missing number problems and representing the answers in different ways.



6L have been working on speed, stamina and agility in their PE lessons this half term. They have also been learning about Ancient Greece and really enjoyed our lessons about Greek myths and the various gods and goddesses.



Celebration certificates

This week's certificates awarded in our celebration assembly went to the following role models:

Year 1: Albie & Louis
Year 4: Lincoln & Reggie

Year 2: Mia-Pearl & Brody
Year 5: Ivy & Ella

Year 3: Sienna & Luna
Year 6: Amaris & Stanley



Upcoming dates for your diary

- 15.12.25: PTA Christmas Pop Up Shop
- 16.12.25: EYFS and KS1 Christmas dinner
- 17.12.25: KS2 Christmas dinner
- 18.12.25: KS1 Nativity Performance Year 1 @9.15am and Year 2 @10.30am
- 18.12.25: EYFS Christmas fun time afternoon @1:45
- 19.12.25: Christmas jumper day, parties and last day of term (**school closes at 2.10pm**)
- 05.01.26: INSET day
- 06.01.26: Return to school**
- 15.01.26: statutory national closing date for Reception intake applications

At the end of this letter, you will also find information about free parent webinars to support your child with their mental health and wellbeing, Winter Warmers from CVST, Essex ActivAte HAF Winter Holiday Programme, Clacton RNLI and Colchester United Community Foundation Programme.

From the whole Cann Hall team, we hope you have a great weekend.

Kindest regards



Wendy Byrne

Essex ActivAte HAF Winter Holiday Programme



To further support families during the festive break, Essex ActivAte are offering exciting holiday clubs and free spaces for eligible children and teens across Essex and Thurrock! From incredible family experiences to memorable activities, young people will enjoy making friendships and learning new skills, helping to give parents' and carers' respite and further work opportunities during the holidays.

HolidayActivities voucher codes have been emailed/text to eligible families, to book and secure free spaces for children and teens. Book early to guarantee a spot and make this winter unforgettable with Essex ActivAte!

[Take a look at our poster to help you find and use your HolidayActivities voucher code.](#)

[Families can also see our club information page and view what's on this winter holidays.](#)

WINTER WARMERS

Do you have:

- COPD / Asthma or a Respiratory condition?
- Hypertension?
- Mental Health Issues?

Or are you:

- At risk or have had Falls?
- Living in poor housing conditions?

Helping residents stay warm and well this winter

Visit one of our events for...

- Free winter warmth items
- Signposting to other services
- Info on Food Banks & Soup Kitchens
- Flu & covid Jabs available
- Energy support & advice
- Warm Hub Guide
- Free smoke alarms

01255 425692

Resilience@cvstending.org.uk



FIND US AT...

Weeley Village Hall Old Clacton Road, Weeley CO16 9LW	Thursday 11th December 10.00am - 12.00noon
St Osyth Village Hall Clacton Road CO16 8PE	Friday 12th December 10.00am - 11.00am
Park Pavillion Barrack Lane, Harwich CO12 3NS	Monday 15th December 10.00am - 12.00noon
YMCA Brightlinsea 55 High Street CO7 0AQ	Friday 19th December 10.00am - 12.00noon

If you cannot make it to one of our events, please call us on 01255 425692, or Email Resilience@cvstending.org.uk



Community Voluntary Services Tending - Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England, 535167, Registered Charity No. 1106377
Imperial House, 20-22 Rosemary Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 1NZ. Tel: 01255 425692 Email: admin@cvstending.org.uk Web: www.cvstending.org.uk

FREE PARENT WEBINARS

for supporting your secondary aged child with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team
@set_camhs_nhs

SIGN-UP HERE



Do you want help supporting your child? We offer a variety of online workshops to help you to support your child.

Coming up in December, we have:

Understanding Autism
1st December 10am

This workshop is designed to provide advice & support to parents of children in secondary school who would like to know more about autism. Parents will be given practical ways of tuning into your child's behaviour.

Understanding Low Mood
17th December 7pm

Learn how low mood develops in teens, its cycle and discover ways to support your child.



FREE PARENT WEBINARS

supporting your primary aged child with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team
@set_camhs_nhs

SIGN-UP & FIND OUT MORE



Do you need help supporting your child? We offer a variety of online workshops.

Coming up in December, we have:

Positive Parenting; Supporting Your Child with Challenging Behaviour
10th December 7pm

A workshop to help parents understand what might be causing challenging behaviours and tools and strategies to manage them effectively.

This workshop will help parents understand what might be causing these behaviours and tools and strategies to manage them effectively.

Understanding Anxiety & Emotion Based School Avoidance in Primary School
2nd December 10am

Helping primary school parents to understand anxiety, Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and learn practical tools to boost children's confidence and wellbeing.



THE COMPASS
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

A charitable trust
company number: 10360957

Chief Executive Officer: John Camp OBE

Registered address: C/o Alderwood Primary School, Rainham Close, Eltham, London SE9 2JB

Essex County Council
Libraries

**10 January
to 22 February
2026**

Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk



Upcoming Events!

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's [Winter Reading Challenge](#) at your local library!

What is the Winter Reading Challenge?
The Winter Reading Challenge is a fun activity put together by Essex Library Service for children aged 0-12. It encourages children and families to keep reading over the winter and to visit their local library.

Children are invited to complete 6 challenges from a list of 12 reading and creative activities, and it's **FREE** to take part. Their mission is to help some friendly animals that work in different professions across Essex!

How can my child take part?
Visit your [local library](#) to sign up. Your child will:


- Receive their Challenge sheet
- Choose 6 challenges to complete (from a list of 12)
- Earn a sticker for each challenge they complete
- When they've complete 6 challenges they will receive a certificate and they will be able to enter our prize draw – with the chance to win bigger prizes such as Kindles, book tokens and toys

When?
The challenge starts on Saturday 10 January and runs through to the end of the February half term on 22 February. Unsure where your closest library is? Use the Essex Library Service [website](#) to check.

Head to your local library this winter and sign up! You can find out more about the challenge on the [library website](#) and if you have any questions, please ask staff in the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes
Essex Library Service



Lifeboats
Clacton on Sea



Come and see Father Christmas
SUNDAY 7th December 2025
Starts 12 noon and **Santa** to arrive 1pm

Tea & Coffee - Biscuit Decorating - Raffle
Norwegian Baker and RNLI Shop



Dear Parents & Guardians,

We're thrilled to announce that our Xmas Holiday Camps are now open for bookings! Register today using the links below 📍

What does a Colchester United Community Foundation Camp Look Like? ✅

- Activities within a safe and fun environment
- Book for as little as just £3.16
- High Quality Facilities
- Gifts & Prizes to Be won
- Tailored Football Sessions ff Different Topics
- Small Sided Games & Tournaments Each Day
- Opportunities for CUFC 1st Team Player Appearances
- Opportunities for CUFC Mascot Eddie The Eagle Appearances

Where are camps held?

📍 **SHRUB END - (Mon 22nd December, Tuesday 23rd December, Friday 2nd January 9.30am-4.30pm) + Early Drop Off Available**

- Football Camp (School Years 1-6) [Click Here](#)
- Goalkeeper Camp (School Years 1-6) – [Click Here](#)
- Train Like a Pro Camp (School Years 7-11) – [Click Here](#)

📍 **ALL SAINTS PRIMARY, MALDON (Mon 22nd December, Tuesday 23rd December, Friday 2nd January 9.30am-3pm) + Early Drop Off Available**

- Football Camp (School Years Y1–6): [Click Here](#)

All camps can be found below - Full Week & Individual days are available to book

www.abler.io/shop/colchesterunited/xmas

Regards,
Colchester United Community Foundation

Main [+44 \(0\)1206 755160](tel:+441206755160)

Email cucf@colchesterunited.net



Shrub End Community & Sports Centre, Boadicea Way, Colchester, CO2 9BG

www.cu-fc.com/cucf colchester-united-cf.class4kids.co.uk