

Cann Hall Primary School

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Ross Silcock

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Wendy Byrne



Friday 9th January 2026

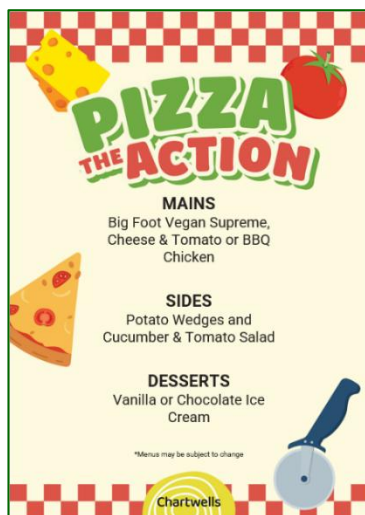
Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back for the first half of the Spring term!

Y2 Reading morning reminder

Don't forget that next week, if you have a child in Year 2, you are invited to come into their classroom from 2.55pm until 3:10pm, each day, so you can listen to your child read or share a book together. We will open **Gate 5 (Bright Close) just before 2.55pm** so you can make your way to the classrooms. Even if you can only make one day, it would be lovely to see you!

Census day



Here's another reminder of our special Census Day menu for **Thursday 15th January**.

As always, the more children that order a meal on this day, the more funding the school is allocated, by the government. Please help us to be able to support your child to the best of our ability by ordering a school meal on **Thursday 15th January**.

All of the children in EYFS and KS1 are entitled to a free meal so please still need to order in the usual way. You can always send your child into school with a packed lunch too on this day, so if you order a school meal and they try it but to not like it, they will still have their backup packed lunch – they could even just try the tasty dessert!

Thank you so much for supporting the school, by ordering your child a school lunch on this day.

The Attendance Mountain



As it is the beginning of a new time, we thought it would be a good idea to share the Attendance Mountain with you again. This poster demonstrates how your child's attendance can impact on the amount of learning they are missing, across a year. For example, even if your child's attendance is 90% that is still 19 whole days absent in the school year, and 95 hours of learning lost.

We know that children learn best when they are here, settled, and with their friends so if you are struggling with your child's attendance, please do come in and speak to us so we can see if there is any support we can offer.

Our overall school attendance this week was 94.9%.

Well done to Year One and Year Three, whose attendance was 96%.

If your child, is unable to attend school for any reason, please make sure you let us know, by contacting the school on the morning of each day of their absence.

Gate opening and closing timings reminder

A reminder that gates open in the morning at 8:30am and close at 8:40am. In the afternoons, the gates open at 3:10pm and close at 3:20pm. Please try and be prompt so children arrive in school and are collected on time. If you are struggling with this, please speak to the class teacher.



School Uniform Reminder

Please ensure your child is coming into school each day in the correct uniform. School staff will be giving the children gentle reminders, if the expectation for uniform is not being followed. If you are struggling with any aspect of your child's school uniform, please do

Speak to your child's class teacher, who can then refer you to either our SENDCo or pastoral lead.

Uniform requirements

- Red gingham dresses
- School grey skirts/trousers/pinafore dresses of appropriate length, no leggings
- Red polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirts/cardigans (no hoodies)
- White socks/grey tights
- School grey or black trousers (short or long)
- Red polo shirts
- Navy sweatshirts
- Black/grey socks
- No 'skins' to be worn underneath school uniform
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The Cann Hall Primary School PTA sell pre-loved uniform, and subsidised uniform can be bought from our provider for families entitled to Pupil premium Grants.

For further information, please see our uniform guidance, including for PE, on our website [Cann Hall Primary School - Uniform](#)

Suitable Snack Reminder

We have noticed that a few children have been given snacks to eat at break time that are not on the agreed list below.

Please support us in keeping all the children safe by ensuring that your child is only given snacks from the agreed list so that we can keep those children in our school with serious food intolerances/allergies safe.



Please also send your child in to school every day with a bottle of water or sugar free squash, in a refillable bottle (no glass bottles please).

Please see below the acceptable healthy snacks, which have been agreed on as a school:

- plain biscuits, for example, rich tea, digestives
- breadsticks
- fruit (fresh or dried)
- vegetable or salad sticks
- plain rice cakes
- plain crackers

Don't forget that all the children in **EYFS – Y2** receive a weekly delivery of fresh fruit or vegetables, which they are offered at snack time, each day.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

We kindly ask for your support in helping your child continue their learning outside of school. Please try to:

- **Read regularly** with your child to build confidence and enjoyment in reading, remembering to sign the reading diary.
- **Practise phonics** (EYFS – Year 2) to strengthen their understanding of sounds and spelling.
- **Use TT Rockstars** to practise times tables and improve speed and accuracy.

Your involvement makes a huge difference in your child's progress. Thank you for working with us to support your child's learning journey!

Learning

4HH have been exploring different maps in geography. They discussed what the maps might be used for and then identified some symbols on them. They also talked about what might happen if there were no maps and they all decided that they would get lost!



Celebration certificates

Certificates awarded in our celebration assembly went to the following role models:



Year 1: Harry & River

Year 2: Cali & Hugo

Year 3: Elliot & Devon

Year 4: Jude & Regan

Year 5: Joshua & Cooper

Year 6: Sonnie & Stanley

Congratulations



On Sunday 4th January Erin in Year 4 attended the London Aquatics Centre in Stratford from 7:30 until 17:30. A very long day! She has been competing for her swimming club (Clacton Sharks) and racing against swimmers from around the country and was in 4 races in total, which were as follows:

100m backstroke - 2nd and a silver medal
50m freestyle - 10th
50m breaststroke - 4th
50m backstroke - 6th

Each of these races were against other children her age.

She will be returning to swim in a relay team for the Essex County Championships on the 17th January!

Well done on such a great achievement!



More swimming news



Brave Spencer not only braved the freezing cold for a Christmas swim, but he made it into the gazette! He went in with his big cousin, auntie and uncle. Well done Spencer!



Ballet Achievement

Amelia in 3RW has recently achieved a High Merit in her Primary Ballet exam, receiving a badge and certificate from the Royal Academy of Dance. Her friends had lots of questions to ask about this, and she was keen to share her amazing achievement!

Amelia said, "I was a little bit nervous at first, but I am so proud of myself and so are my family." We are all so proud of you to Amelia – what an achievement.



Pathways to the demountable classrooms

For health and safety reasons, please only use the paths, when walking to and from the demountable classrooms or towards the gate on the field. We have had many children and even a couple of parents, slipping and falling over in the mud. The last thing we want is anyone to get hurt. Thank you!

We have asked the children too about only using the pathways, as our lovely cleaners are currently having to spend so much time cleaning the carpets each night.

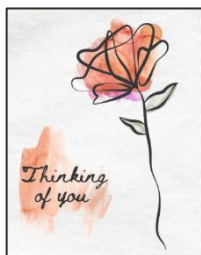


Do you have a child starting school in September 2026?



The **closing date for applications is 15th January 2026**. Please ensure you have applied by this date, otherwise you will be given a school which may not be one of your preferences or close to your home. If you need any support or advice, please feel free to pop into the school office.

Thinking of a former pupil and their family



Over the Christmas period, one of our former pupils, Lexi Brown has been very unwell. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Lexi and her family during this difficult time.

If you would like to offer support, here is the link to their JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nicola-taylor?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=WA

Thank you for keeping them in your thoughts.

Additional Information

At the end of this letter, you will also find information about the Winter Reading Challenge



Upcoming dates for your diary

- 12.01.26: Year 3 Swimming Lessons commence
- 12.01.26: Year 2 Reading Afternoon Week
- 12.01.26: Year 5 Bike Ability(actual days and times tbc)
- 14.01.26 EYFS and Year 5 Road safety workshops
- 15.01.26: Statutory national closing date for Reception intake applications
- 15.01.26: CENSUS Day
- 19.01.26: Year 5 Bike Ability(actual days and times tbc)
- 19.01.26: Year 1 Reading Afternoon Week
- 20.01.26: EYFS Height, Weight and Eye Checks
- 21.01.26: Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

26.01.26: EYFS Reading Afternoon Week
27.01.26: EYFS and Year 1 Dental Screening
06.02.26: NSPCC Number Day
09.02.26: Children's Mental Health Week
10.02.26: Safer Internet Day
13.02.26: Sickle Cell Awareness Day
13.02.26: Break up for Half Term

It has been lovely to welcome you all back this week. From everyone here, have a great weekend.

Kindest regards



Wendy Byrne

 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


Essex County Council

THE
COMPASS
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

A charitable trust
company number: 10360957

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