

Cann Hall Primary School

Constable Avenue, Clacton, Essex CO16 8DA

Tel: 01255 420603

Email: chcontact@compassps.uk

Website: www.cannhall.compassps.uk

Executive Headteacher:

Ross Silcock

Headteacher:

Wendy Byrne



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Y2 Reading afternoon

Thank you to those of you, who have made it into school for Year 2's reading afternoons. The children have loved having you in school with them and we hope this will encourage an even better love of books and reading.



Don't forget that next week, if you have a child in **Year 1**, 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!

Well done to Y6 with the SATs practice this week

This week, the Year 6 children have completed another practice SATs week. All their hard work and commitment, so far, has had such a positive impact on their confidence and their performance in these assessments. Everyone is so proud of how they approached the tests, this week. Thank you to all the adults, also, who have been supporting them and helping them to prepare for the official tests in May.



Census day

Thank you so much for your support in ordering your child a school dinner on our census day. It was great to see so many children trying the dinners and enjoying them, our dinners numbers were the highest they have ever been!



EYFS and KS1 are entitled to a school meal every day so if they would like to try a meal on a particular day, just choose it on MCAS and you can always send in a backup packed lunch.

Over the next few weeks, to give the children the opportunity to try the different meal options on our menus we are going to give them the opportunity to try some small food samples, at lunchtime. We hope this will help the children get a taste of what's on offer, without the pressure of eating a full meal, and may support them in choosing a school meal in future.

If there is a particular reason why your child will not choose a school meal and you would like them to, please come and speak to us and we will try to do anything we can to support.

Could your child be eligible for free school meals?

A reminder that if you think you could be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), especially if your circumstances have changed, come in and speak to someone in the office who can help with the quick application process.

You could qualify for FSM if you receive one or more of the following benefits:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you are *not* receiving Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of **£16,190 or less**)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for four weeks after stopping qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit**, provided household earned income is **below £7,400 per year after tax** (not including benefits) — this remains the rule **until September 2026**

FSM Entitles a Primary School Pupil to:

1. A Free, Nutritious School Lunch Every Day

Any child who qualifies for *benefits-related* Free School Meals receives **one free hot school lunch each school day**, funded by the local authority or government. This is the core entitlement.

2. Universal Infant Free School Meals (Infants Only)

For **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**, all children automatically receive free school meals regardless of income. This is called **Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)**.

3. Transitional Protections

Once a child becomes eligible for FSM under the benefits criteria, **they continue to receive FSM even if family income rises**, until at least the end of the 2025/26 school year (or the end of their phase of education). This protects families from losing support unnecessarily.

4. Eligibility for Additional Support (Indirect)

While not a direct FSM entitlement, being registered for FSM usually unlocks wider support, such as:

- Reduced or subsidised educational trips
- Help with uniform
- Access to funded enrichment activities
- Academic support linked to Pupil Premium funding

Where parents/carers can find information about the school

There are lots of places you can access information about the school, including:

 Our website [Cann Hall Primary School - Parents](#)

 Our Facebook page: [Cann Hall Primary School | Facebook](#)

The weekly newsletter

Afterschool clubs for next term

Information about afterschool clubs for next half term will be coming out soon.



A special thank you to those parents and carers, who have volunteered to run an after-school club for us. This is helping us to offer an even wider range of activities to the children. If this is something that you think you would like to do, please do come and speak to us.



The Attendance Update

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 95% - that's fantastic!
Well done to Year Three – 96.8% and Year One – 96%
and to 3RW for a fantastic individual attendance of 97.7%.

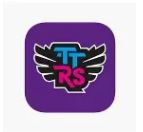
If your child, is unable to attend school for any reason, please make sure you let us know, by contacting the school on the morning of every day of their absence.

After receiving new guidance, please be aware that we will now be carrying out home visits, if a child has been absent for three days.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Your support at home makes a huge difference to your child's progress and confidence in learning. Here are some simple ways you can help:

- **Reading:** Spend time reading together at least 3 times a week and recording this in the diary so we can see who is reading. Talk about the story, ask questions, and encourage your child to share their thoughts.
- **Times Tables:** Practice regularly in short bursts. TT Rockstars and other quick games or apps can make learning fun and engaging.
- **Phonics:** Help your child sound out words and notice letter patterns. Listening to them read aloud is a great way to reinforce phonics skills as well as supporting with any additional support materials sent home. Don't forget that you can access our phonics programme, Little Wandle letters and sounds, for support materials. [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)
- Phonics play is a good website to play games to help apply their skills. [PhonicsPlay](#)
- **Maths:** Involve your child in everyday maths, such as counting how many stairs, selecting the correct money when shopping and weighing ingredients when cooking. Staff have also made some video clips to demonstrate how we teach the different operations in school, so that you can support in the same way, which can be found on our website. (I couldn't actually find these to get the link??? Any ideas?!) 



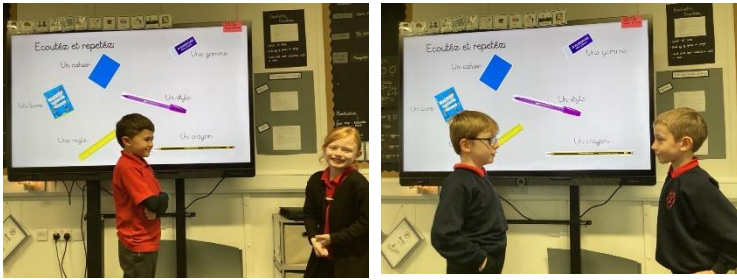
Little and often is the key! Your encouragement and interest show your child that learning is important and enjoyable.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every child succeed.

Learning

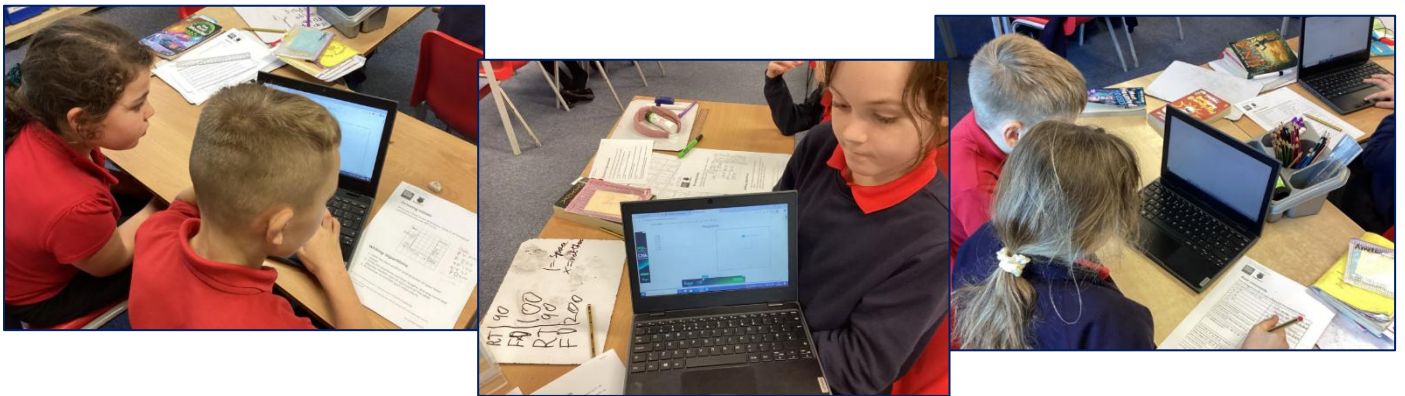
In maths this week, **2C** have been counting the faces, edges and vertices on 3D shapes.





This week, in **3RW**, we have been learning how to say the items of our school bag in French. We have listened carefully to how each word is pronounced and even started to describe these items using colours!

4HH have been exploring 'turtle academy' in computing. They were using codes to create an algorithm which when they typed it into the program it produced a letter of the alphabet. They found that some letters were trickier than others and so also used their debugging skills to ensure their instructions were precise and accurate.



6A-B have been introduced to Djembe Drumming. They have learnt how to create high notes and low notes. Keeping the pulse and rhythm has proved to be a bit tricky at the moment - we keep speeding up! We even provided a soundtrack for the stampede scene in Lion King!



Displays

Once again, staff have been working hard to display children's learning in some great displays in their classrooms. Here are just a few.



Here is a photo of the new display of the children's work in **4HH**. They did two pieces of writing based on Roman texts (Escape from Pompeii and Thieves of Ostia). There are also some examples of their final art pieces which were of a Roman landscape in the style of L.S Lowry.

EYFS have displayed their writing and owl collages after reading the text Owl Babies, learning about nocturnal animals and their owl visit.



Bikeability



Year 5 children have been taking part in Bikeability this week. Starting on the KS2 playground. On the second day of each course, the children progress onto using the local roads around Cann Hall to safely navigate junctions under supervision. The children who participated in the first Bikeability course at the beginning of this week all passed with flying colours and were elated. Great work! The last Bikeability course is next week!

Swimming



Year 3 children started their swimming lessons this week and have loved their time in the pool! Swimming is not only a fantastic way to stay active but it is also an essential life skill. Learning to swim and practicing safe self-rescue techniques are especially important for our children, as we live so close to the coast.

These sessions will help build confidence in the water, learn to progress towards swimming the required 25 meters and ensure that every child understands how to stay safe around rivers, lakes, and the sea. Thank you for supporting this valuable part of their education.

Celebration certificates

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

Year 1: Thomas & Hannah Year 2: Eugene & Molly Year 3: Bobby & Albie
Year 4: Mason & Milo Year 5: Evie & Louie Year 6: The whole Year Group



Sporting Achievements



vs St Clare's
Final Score 0-0

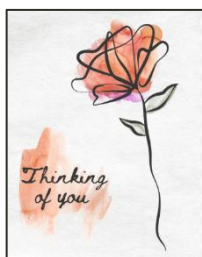
BOYS

In our third game of the season, we had a similar story to our first...an opposition goalkeeper who just would not allow anything to get past him!!

Despite our best efforts and excellent football at times, the ball wouldn't go in!

A special mention to Joey who covered the goalkeeper absence and performed brilliantly – thank you very much Joey!

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.

Here is a reminder of how you can offer support, if you are able to do so:
https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nicola-taylor?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=WA

Thank you.

Additional Information

At the end of this letter, you will also find information about Under 9's Rugby and the Winter Reading Challenge

Upcoming dates for your diary

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

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Kindest regards

Wendy Byrne




U9'S RUGBY

- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED - JUST ENTHUSIASM!
- LEARN NEW SKILLS: COORDINATION, TEAMWORK, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING.
- SAFE, STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT WITH FULLY QUALIFIED, DBS-CHECKED COACHES AND FIRST AIDERS.

-SCHOOL YEAR 4
-TRAINING WEDNESDAY FROM 6PM- 7PM &
-SUNDAY 9AM - 10AM



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT COACH JAKE ON- 07973 322554

📌 CALLING ALL YEAR 4 BOYS & GIRLS! 🍌

Join the CLACTON RUFC Under 9s Rugby Family!

Looking for a new, exciting activity for the new year? Rugby is the perfect way to build confidence, make lifelong friends, and stay active.


No experience needed - just enthusiasm!

Learn new skills: coordination, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Safe, structured environment with fully qualified, DBS-checked coaches and first aiders.


Enjoy a **FULL MONTH FREE** in January! See if rugby is for you with no commitment!

 **Where: Clacton Rugby Club, Valley Road, CO15 6NA**


 **Training: WED 6-7PM & SUN 9-10AM**

Simply turn up or contact us for details!


 [**clactonmyrugby@gmail.com**](mailto:clactonmyrugby@gmail.com)

 **Jake Hughes - 07973 322 554**

Come and give it a try – the first few sessions are free!


**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

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

