

# Cann Hall Primary School

Constable Avenue, Clacton, Essex CO16 8DA

Tel: 01255 420603

Email: [chcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:chcontact@compassps.uk)

Website: [www.cannhall.compassps.uk](http://www.cannhall.compassps.uk)

**Executive Headteacher:**

Ross Silcock

**Headteacher:**

Wendy Byrne



Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## Y1 Reading afternoon

A huge thank you to all the **Year 1** parents and carers who joined us for our Reading Afternoons this week. Across the week, we had over 170 parent and/or carers coming into the classrooms. It was wonderful to see so many of you sharing stories, exploring books and enjoying reading time together with your children. Your support will help to nurture a love of reading.

Thank you for taking the time to be part of these special moments - we look forward to welcoming **EYFS parents** next week from **2.55pm until 3:10pm**, each day, so you can listen to your child read or share a book together. We will open the EYFS gate just before 2.55pm. Even if you can only make one day, it would be lovely to see you!



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

## **Reminder: Green Tree Award Activities – We Need Your Help!**

You should have received a letter to inform you that our School Council is working towards the Woodland Trust's Silver *Green Tree Award*. To support this, children are taking part in two exciting activities:



- **Design a Tree Champion:** Your child will have brought home a design sheet to create their own woodland protector. Class shortlists will be judged by the School Council and Mrs Byrne, with a special nature-themed prize for the winner. If you haven't received this and would like one, please speak to the class teacher.
- **Share Your Woodland Words and Images:** We'd love to see your photos, drawings, nature art, poems, or writing inspired by woodland adventures. Physical entries can be given to class teachers, and digital submissions emailed to Mr Giles at [agiles@compassps.uk](mailto:agiles@compassps.uk).

Please send all entries by **Monday 13th April 2026**. Thank you for supporting our journey to Silver!

## **School Meals**



Over the next few weeks, so the children can sample the different meal options on our menus we are going to give them the opportunity to try some 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. This week the samples on offer were pizza, chocolate brownie, meat balls, lemon cookies, Quorn dippers and ice cream.

Please talk to your child about whether they have sampled anything new and encourage them to try our school meals, by selecting from our menus and ordering via your MCAS app.

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. We might even be able to invite you to come in a try our meals, with your child, if you think that would help. **Remember every child in EYFS, Year One and Year Two are entitled to a free meal every day. This could be saving you lots of money on packed lunches.**

## **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 a speak to someone in the office who can help with the quick application process.

## **Pancake day dessert!**



**On Shrove Tuesday (10th February)** to celebrate Pancake Day, children having a school dinner will be able to enjoy a pancake, covered in either lemon and sugar or chocolate spread, for dessert instead of the usual raspberry jelly.

## **Chickenpox vaccinations**

The NHS has started to rollout chickenpox vaccinations to young children. They will be offered as part of the existing MMR vaccination at 12 months and 18 months. The NHS is also planning a catch-up programme for older children up to the age of six. GP surgeries will contact families to let them know when they are due their vaccinations. The government says the new vaccine will mean children miss fewer days in nursery or school.

## **The Attendance Update**

Another fantastic week for attendance this week!  
**Our overall attendance remained at 95%**

**Well done to Year Three – 96.8% and Year One – 96.1%**

### **Individual Class Celebrations**

1Y - 96.4%  
2C - 96.9%

and to 3RW who have increased even further to 97.8%.

Thank you for your support, 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.

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 for safeguarding purposes, we will now be carrying out home visits, if a child has been absent for three days.**

## Bikeability



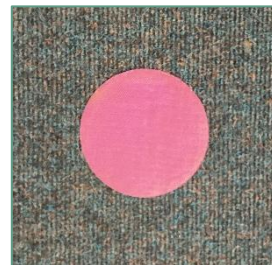
**Year 5** children have continued taking part in Bike Ability this week. They started on the KS2 playground, progressing onto using the local roads around Cann Hall to safely navigate junctions under supervision.



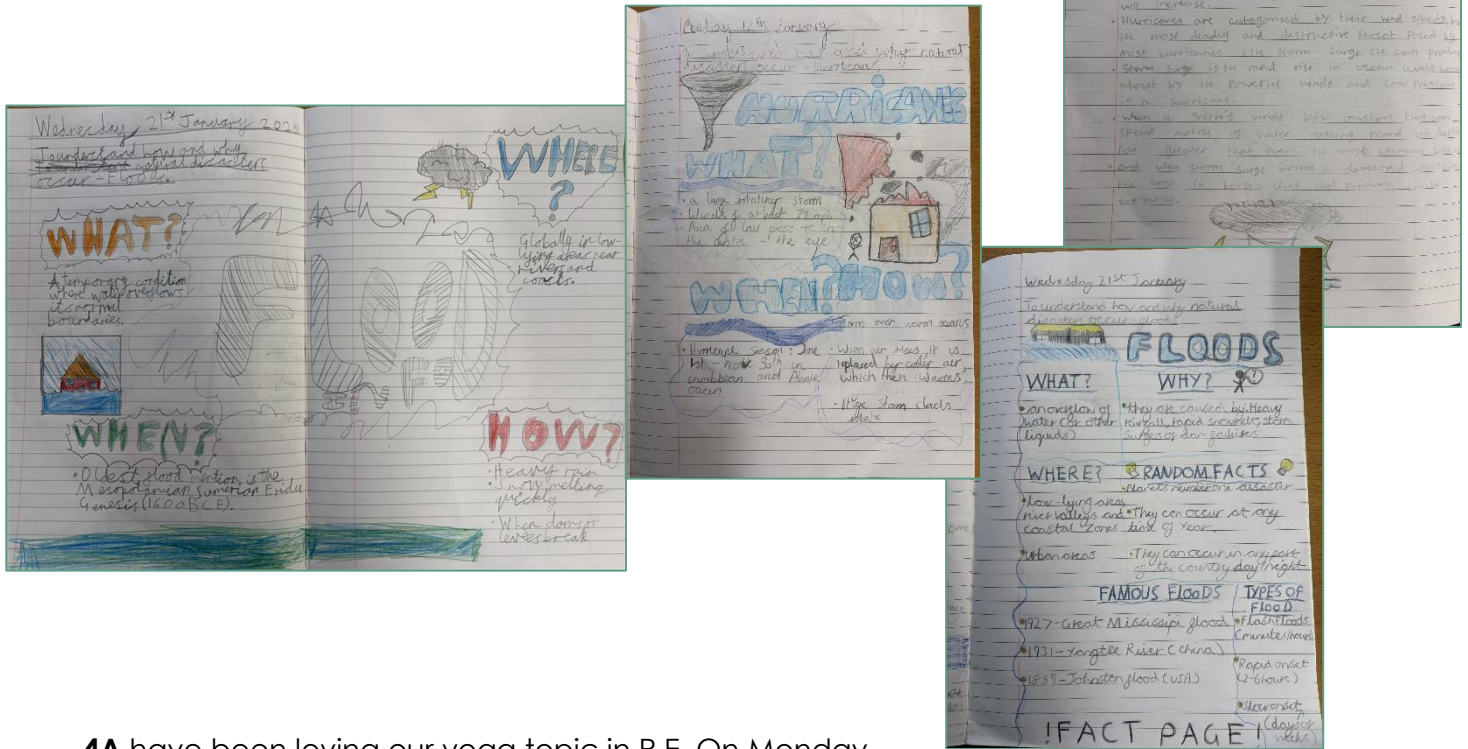
## Learning



**Year 2** have been digital photographers this week in computing. They discussed how to take a good photo using the iPads and then, linking to our maths unit on shape, went on a 2D shape hunt around the classroom. Here are some examples of circles, squares, triangles and rectangles they found!



In Geography **6AB** have been learning about natural disasters. The children have conducted independent research, organised information and presented their findings in the form of a fact file/poster.



**4A** have been loving our yoga topic in P.E. On Monday, they learnt some new poses and are working on creating their own flow routines.

In science they did an experiment to see what happens when you freeze different liquids. It was very interesting and very messy!





These are the finished haikus by **4HH**, produced using some of the pictures in their class text 'The Rhythm of the Rain' for inspiration.

**Stormy Sea!**  
Big grey fluffy seals  
wavey blue rain  
splashing in the sea.  
Annie

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Annie

A haiku poem is a traditional form of Japanese poetry that consists of three lines arranged in a specific pattern: five syllables in the first line, seven in the second line and five in the third line.

**The African Village**  
Red, black, yellow.  
A line, grassy, leafy, palm tree  
Greenish blue, grey.  
-Liam

**Water Falls**  
The elegant, green  
The beautiful, green, happy  
Singing on the hill.  
by Emma

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The elegant, green  
The beautiful, green, happy  
Singing on the hill.  
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The beautiful, green, happy  
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## Congratulations

Well done to Oliver we can see here with his player of the match medal.



Oliver has come on so well in his football journey and is the goalkeeper for Clacton Regent Gold U7s. His team are on a 4-win streak in their league, playing with others from Cann Hall: Mya, Brody, Louie and Lila.

Oliver received his medal after having been hit in the face with the ball twice and although he was in pain, he carried on playing saving some brilliant goals! He is such a brave boy and is playing with the best group of kids! Oliver – we are all so proud of you!



## Celebration certificates

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



Year 1: Chapman & William

Year 2: Nyla & Molly

Year 3: James & Katie

Year 4: Cara & Gracie

Year 5: Elsie & Harper

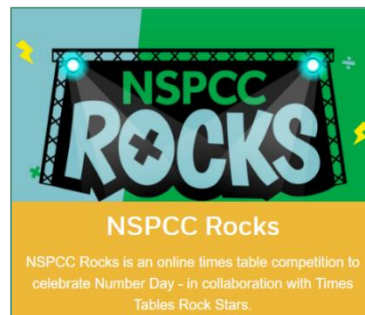
Year 6: Gracie & Phoenix

## NSPCC number day



On **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**, we will be participating in the NSPCC's number day. We are encouraging the children to wear something digit related in return for a donation that will go to the NSPCC.

Here are a few ideas.



The children will also be participating in a special TTRS NSPCC Rocks competition, problem solving and completing maths activities linked to real life. Please help us support this very worthy cause.

## A Reminder About Safe Parking Around School

To help keep our children and our school community safe, we kindly ask all families to park considerately when dropping off and collecting their children.

### **Please do not park on:**

- the zigzag lines outside school
- double yellow lines
- pavements, where this blocks access for pedestrians
- residents' driveways



Unsafe or inconsiderate parking creates hazards for children who are walking, crossing the road or arriving by bike or scooter. It also causes difficulties for residents and other road users.

We really appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

## **Give what you can, take what you need**



If you come into our school foyer, you will see a basket, full of donations of food and/or toiletries.

Please feel free to take what you need and, if you are able to, give what you can.

Thank you!



## **Additional Information**

At the end of this letter, you will find information about Colchester United Community Foundation holiday clubs, Under 9's Rugby and the Winter Reading Challenge.

## **Upcoming dates for your diary**

- 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

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

## **kindest regards**



**Wendy Byrne**



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



SCAN ME

**HAVE A DISCOUNT ON US!**

USE CODES:  
CUCFEBRUARY26  
EXPIRES 31<sup>ST</sup> JAN  
CUCFEASTER26  
EXPIRES 30<sup>TH</sup> FEB



**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

**NEW HOLIDAY CLUB**  
8.30am - 5.30pm

FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL YEARS 1-6  
A FUN, ENRICHING, & VARIED  
CHILDCARE OFFER

SPORTS & GAMES  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
CHILL ZONE

**TO INSPIRE, ENRICH AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITIES**

www.cu-fc.com/cucf  
cucf@colchesterunited.net  
01206 755160  
@ColU\_CF /ColUCF  
#enrichourcommunities

Registered Charity Number: 1159381

Upcoming Events!

**FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS**

**SHRUB END COMMUNITY & SPORTS CENTRE, CO2 9BG**

DATES	TIME	SCHOOL YEAR	COURSE	FULL PRICE	PRICE P/DAY
16 - 20 February 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£112.50	£25.00
16 - 20 February 2026	9.30 - 16.30	7-11	TRAIN LIKE A PRO	£112.50	£25.00
16 - 20 February 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-8	GOALKEEPERS	£112.50	£25.00
16 - 20 February 2026	8.30 - 17.30	1-6	HOLIDAY CLUB	£135.00	£30.00

**ST CLARES PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLACTON, CO16 8AG**

16 - 17 February 2026	9.30 - 15.00	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£40.00	£22.50
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**ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, MALDON, CM9 6HY**

17 - 18 February 2026	9.30 - 15.00	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£40.00	£22.50
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**JOBERVE COMMUNITY STADIUM, CO4 5UP**

19 - 20 February 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£45.00	£25.00
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Prices from as little as £2.80 per hour.

Age range 5-16 years old.

Pathway Progression into our Development Centres

Meet new friends.

Meet Col U players and/or mascot Eddie the Eagle.

Opportunities to receive gifts and prizes.

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**SHRUB END COMMUNITY & SPORTS CENTRE, CO2 9BG**

**WEEK 1**

30 March - 1 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£67.50	£25.00
30 March - 1 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	7-11	TRAIN LIKE A PRO	£67.50	£25.00
30 March - 1 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-8	GOALKEEPERS	£67.50	£25.00
30 March - 1 April 2026	8.30 - 17.30	1-6	HOLIDAY CLUB	£85.00	£30.00

**WEEK 2**

7 - 10 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£90.00	£25.00
7 - 10 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	7-11	TRAIN LIKE A PRO	£90.00	£25.00
7 - 10 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-8	GOALKEEPERS	£90.00	£25.00
7 - 10 April 2026	8.30 - 17.30	1-6	HOLIDAY CLUB	£110.00	£30.00

**ST CLARES PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLACTON, CO16 8AG**

7 - 8 April 2026	9.30 - 15.00	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£40.00	£22.50
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**ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL, MALDON, CM9 6HY**

30 March - 1 April 2026	9.30 - 15.00	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£60.00	£22.50
7 - 9 April 2026	9.30 - 15.00	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£60.00	£22.50

**JOBERVE COMMUNITY STADIUM, CO4 5UP**

31 March - 1 April 2026 & 7 - 8 April 2026	9.30 - 16.30	1-6	OUTFIELDERS	£90.00	£25.00
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**EARLY DROP OFF AVAILABLE:** Need an earlier start? Option at point of booking for early drop-off from 8.30am - 9.30am.

**TO INSPIRE, ENRICH AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITIES**

www.cu-fc.com/cucf  
cucf@colchesterunited.net  
01206 755160  
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Registered Charity Number: 1159381

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## 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 Pawprofessionals' 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](http://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

