

Cann Hall Primary School

Constable Avenue, Clacton, Essex CO16 8DA

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Headteacher Wendy Byrne



Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our KS2 Reading Sessions this week. The children have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming you into their classrooms and sharing their love of reading with you.



It has been wonderful to see families spending time together exploring the books available in school, discussing stories and reading alongside one another. The children were particularly proud to share their own reading books and demonstrate the progress they are making.

Your support plays such an important role in developing a love of reading and we are grateful for the time you took to be part of these special sessions. Thank you for helping us foster a strong reading culture both at school and at home.

It is the turn of EYFS and KS1 parents and carers next week. The gates will be open at 3pm for you to come and read with your child/ren until the end of the school day at 3:10pm. We look forward to seeing lots of you then.



Coats

This week we saw the temperatures drop and the rain reappear. Please can you ensure children have a named coat with them in school for the times they are outside, particularly Early Years children who spend a considerable amount of time doing outside learning.



Contacting staff by email



We would like to kindly remind parents and carers to be mindful of the times at which staff are contacted via email. Our expected email communication hours are **8:00am to 4:30pm**, Monday to Friday (or on the specific working days of the staff member concerned).

If you need to send an email outside of these hours, we would greatly appreciate it if you could use a scheduled send option where possible. While staff may occasionally choose to respond outside of their working hours, they are not expected or obliged to do so.

We also ask that if you are contacting the school regarding your child's absence or illness, that you notify the school office directly, in addition to emailing any relevant member of staff so Mrs Connolly and Mrs Webb can assign the correct attendance codes.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a healthy work life balance for our staff while ensuring effective communication with families.

Gazette new starters photos

As many of you may be aware, the local newspaper unfortunately printed RS's class photograph twice, meaning that one of our EYFS classes was omitted from the original publication. The newspaper apologised for the error and published RB's photograph in the edition on Thursday 8th October. However, for anyone who may have missed either publication, we are pleased to share both EYFS class photographs with you here.



Careers Fair



We are still hoping to run our careers fair on **Wednesday 18th November (timings tbc)**.

Whether you are a nurse, engineer, builder, police officer, artist, scientist, business owner, tradesperson, healthcare professional, personal trainer, designer, florist, chef, accountant, gardener, beautician, hairdresser, estate agent, performer, lifeguard, dentist, vet, farmer, a member of the armed forces or work in any other profession, we would love you to be involved.

The event will involve setting up a simple stand and talking to the children about your career, profession or trade, as they informally move from stand to stand. It is not an assembly or a presentation. For example the children might like to know:

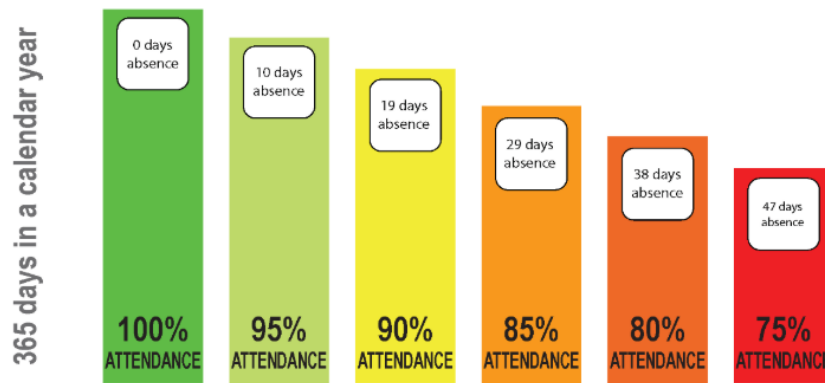
- What you do in your role
- What a typical day looks like
- The skills and qualities needed for your job
- The different pathways that led you into your career
- What you enjoy most about your work

Our aim is to broaden children's horizons, raise aspirations and help them discover the many exciting opportunities that exist for their future.

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact the school office. We would be delighted to hear from you. Together, we can help our children dream big and see what is possible.

Attendance

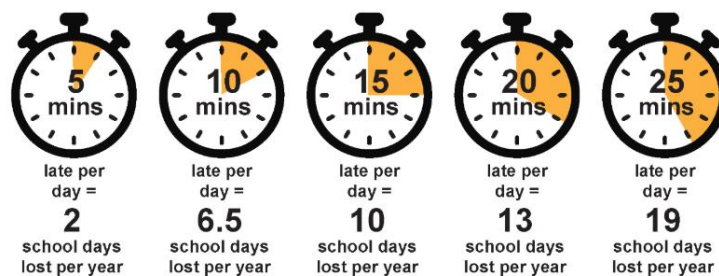
Our attendance this week was up to **95.7%**, this week. Thank you so much for another week of supporting your child to get the most out of their education, by bringing them into school each day.



190 school days in a calendar year
175 not at school for shopping, holidays & appointments

Did you know?
A two week holiday in term time means the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

Did you know?
If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks in a year.



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. Wellbeing visits are carried out, by our school attendance team, if a child has not been in school for 3 days.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please come in and speak to us so we can see if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

Learning

In **1A** we have love creating our collages and sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy! We used natural resources we found around the school to help us.



In Maths **1A** have been using part-whole models to help us write addition number sentences.



Year 3 have been practising their throwing and catching skills in cricket this week while working together as a team.



In science this week, the children in **Year 5** had to make a boat from plasticine, thinking about what shape would be most effective to float and which shape would have less water resistance. When we tested these, there was one boat in particular that floated which had a smooth, curved surface and a deeper middle.



National Numeracy Week

It's National Numeracy Week on 2-8th November and there is a free webinar by NRICH for parents. Please sign up using the link below. This will really help you in supporting your child with their maths learning.



[NRICH webinar sign up form](#)

Maths at home - talking about numbers together: 3 November, 7pm for ages 5-13

A free webinar for parents, carers and teachers of children aged 5-13

You don't need to be confident at maths to help your child develop a love of numbers.

Join Liz and Charlie from NRICH for a relaxed and friendly webinar exploring how engaging activities and everyday conversations can help children develop positive attitudes towards maths.

You'll discover that tapping into children's curiosity through play and discussion can lead to mathematical conversations that every parent or carer can have, regardless of their own maths experience.

Whether you love maths or avoid it, this webinar will be packed with practical ways to support your child's confidence with numbers. No maths expertise is needed. Just bring a willingness to have a go!

Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment

Are you considering requesting an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) for your child or young person and unsure where to start?

Families InFocus Essex are running a workshop to help parents and carers understand how and when to make a request, what supporting evidence may be needed, and what happens next.

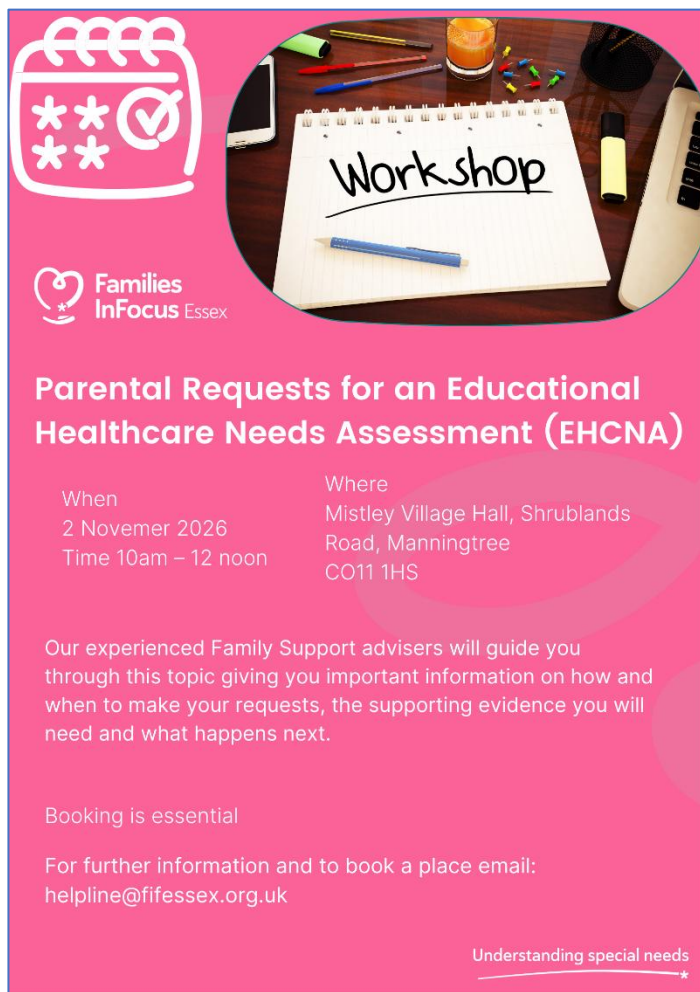
 **Monday 2 November 2026**

 **10am–12 noon**

 **Mistley Village Hall**

The session will be led by experienced Family Support Advisers and is a great opportunity to get practical information and guidance to help you navigate the process with greater confidence.

Booking is essential. To find out more or book your place, email helpline@fifessex.org.uk.



Families InFocus Essex

Parental Requests for an Educational Healthcare Needs Assessment (EHNA)

When
2 November 2026
Time 10am – 12 noon

Where
Mistley Village Hall, Shrublands Road, Manningtree
CO11 1HS

Our experienced Family Support advisers will guide you through this topic giving you important information on how and when to make your requests, the supporting evidence you will need and what happens next.

Booking is essential

For further information and to book a place email:
helpline@fifessex.org.uk

Understanding special needs ★

PTA fundraising

Earlier this term, all of the children created a special Christmas design which was sent to the publishers. This week, your child will have brought home a proof of their design, along with details of how to order a range of personalised products, including Christmas cards and gifts that make wonderful keepsakes for family and friends.

Not only are these lovely gifts, but every order also helps to raise valuable funds for the school. Please remember that the **order deadline is Friday 23rd October** to ensure your items can be processed in time. Thank you for your continued support.



PTA AGM - reminder

The PTA invite all parents and carers to attend their upcoming PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM). It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible.

The PTA work incredibly hard throughout the year to raise additional funds for the school and the impact of their efforts can be seen across many areas of school life. The money raised helps provide children with valuable extra experiences, contributes towards the cost of educational visits and events and supports the purchase of resources and opportunities that enrich our curriculum. The PTA plays a vital role in helping us offer experiences that might not otherwise be possible and we are extremely grateful for the time, energy and enthusiasm of all those involved.



Cann Hall School PTA

Annual General Meeting

Join us for our Annual General Meeting and find out what we've been doing over the past year!

Have your say, share your ideas and help shape what's next for our school community.

It's a great opportunity to hear about the PTA's work, meet other parents and carers, and get involved in making a difference at Cann Hall School.

Everyone is welcome (including children).

We'd love to see you there!



DATE
MONDAY
19TH OCTOBER 2026



TIME
3.20



LOCATION
MIDDLE YEAR 6 CLASSROOM

If you have ever thought about getting involved, please come along to the AGM to find out more about what the PTA does and how you could help. Joining the PTA is a fantastic way to support the school community, meet other parents and carers and make a real difference to the experiences we can provide for our children.

Whether you can offer a little time or a lot, we would love to welcome some new faces. Please see the letter at the end of the newsletter regarding the meeting and current vacancies. We hope to see you there!

Lego® tokens in the Gazette

If you purchase the local newspaper, we would be very grateful if you could save the tokens that will be appearing over the coming weeks. Collecting these tokens gives our school the chance to win an Educational LEGO® package, which would provide a fantastic resource for our children's learning and creativity.

Thank you for your support.

Colchester Gazette

Bring learning to life and help your local school unlock the power of play with up to £10,000 worth of LEGO® Education resources to be won!

Designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and problem-solving, LEGO® Education helps pupils develop vital STEM skills through fun, hands-on learning experiences that make lessons unforgettable.

START COLLECTING TODAY!

Every day for 10 weeks, we'll print a special token in this newspaper. The more tokens your local school collects, the greater their chance of winning an amazing LEGO® Education prize package.

Everyone can get involved, teachers, parents, pupils, grandparents, friends and readers who simply want to help their local school. Cut out the token and hand in to your local school for their chance to win!

HOW SCHOOLS CAN ENTER

Simply email your school's name and contact details to:

SE-RETAILS@LOCALIQ.CO.UK

Don't miss it. Start collecting and help your school build a brighter future, brick by brick!

TOKEN

TODAY'S TOKEN

FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Terms & Conditions: Schools must be registered by 15th November 2026 to be eligible for prizes. Tokens in print 28th September to 4th December. The prizes will be awarded based on the average number of tokens collected per pupil (i.e. 50 pupils collecting 5,000 tokens is the same as 100 pupils collecting 12,000 tokens. No photocopies accepted. Tokens must be returned to us by Sunday 13th December 2026. Prizes are non-transferable and no cash alternative is available. No two schools can combine their token collection.

Year 6 to Year 7 Secondary Applications for September 2027 - reminder

If you currently have a child in Year 6, Secondary School applications opened on **12th September 2026** and closes on the **31st October 2026** on the Essex online portal: [Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#) (You are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply late)

When will you find out?

Emails for online applicants will be sent on 1 March 2027. If you applied online, you can [log into your account](#) to see your allocation. Find out more about what to do [after you get your school offer](#).

On the Essex portal website, you will also find key information, such as admission policies, a short video about applying, an online booklet.

Look out for upcoming posters advertising the open evenings to help you make an informed decision regarding your child's secondary application.

2027 EYFS show arounds - reminder

It is that time of year again when we will shortly be offering EYFS show arounds for our next cohort (2027-28) You will be able to book onto one of these tours, by filling out the form on the following link:

[EYFS Show around for 2027-28 intake booking form](#)

Information and applications for September 2027 can be found on the Essex school's portal: [Primary school places | Essex County Council](#)

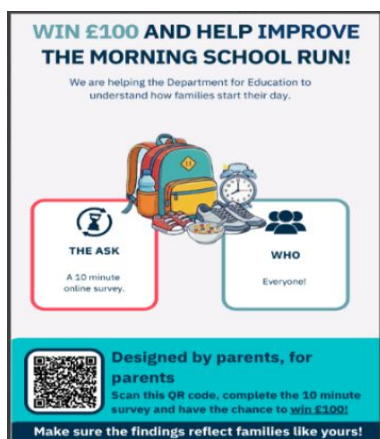
Applications open on **9th November 2026 and close on 15th January 2027**. (You are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply late)

When will you find out?

Emails for online applicants will be sent on 16th April 2027. If you applied online, you can [log into your account](#) to see your allocation. Find out more about what to do [after you get your school offer](#).

On the Essex portal website, you will also find key information, such as admission policies, a short video about applying, an online booklet.

Your chance to win £100



Scan the QR code to complete the survey to help the DfE understand how families start their day.

Good Luck, Elsie and Devon!



A huge congratulations to Elsie and Devon, who will be competing this weekend at the ISTD Grand Finals. Earlier this year, they both successfully qualified in their age-appropriate *set dance* category, competing against hundreds of talented dancers. Their hard work and dedication have earned them a place in the Grand Finals, where they will compete against the very best qualifiers. Elsie will also be competing in rock and roll.

After-School Site Safety Reminder

For health and safety reasons, please ensure that your children do not use any of the school play equipment at pick up times, including the climbing and gym equipment, as well as the Early Years outdoor play equipment.



Please supervise your children closely, at the end of the school day and leave the school site promptly after collection. This enables us to secure the site safely and efficiently at the end of the day and avoid any nasty accidents. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and support in helping to keep the children and school environment safe for everyone.

The Big Future Survey - Reminder

The Children's Commissioner for England is inviting children and young people to take part in The Big Future survey. The survey gives children the opportunity to share their experiences, views and hopes for the future, helping to ensure that young people's voices are heard at a national level. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and we encourage as many of our pupils as possible to take part. To find out more and complete the survey, please visit: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

Tesco's Café - Reminder



Tesco are continuing their 'Kids Eat Free' promotion 7 days a week until **18th December**, giving one free kids' meal with any full-price adult purchase when you scan a Clubcard—even an item as cheap as a 65p apple qualifies.

Upcoming dates for your diary

More dates have been added to the following list, however, please be aware that some dates are provisional and still need to be confirmed.

At the end of this letter there is information about the **PTA AGM** and a **TEA group information poster, which is aimed at adoptive parents, free indoor cricket sessions for 8 years+, Active Essex's half term activity programme, swimming trials information and Colchester United Community Foundation half term and Christmas holiday activities.**

- 12.10.26: EYFS & KS1 Reading Afternoons (all week) 3pm-3.10pm
- 16.10.26: New Photographs being taken for the school website
- 21.10.26: Flu Vaccinations
- 23.10.26: Last day of term
- 02.11.26: First Day Back after half term
- 04.11.26: Open Evening (3.30-6pm)
- 05.11.26: Open Evening (4-7pm)
- 07.12.26: PTA Christmas Pop Up Shop
- 11.11.26: Year 6 Crucial Crew
- 12.11.26: Michael Rosen Live Poetry Event
- 17.11.26: Year 5 Trip to Princes' Theatre – Tendring Ambassador Celebration
- 18.11.26: Careers Fair – 2.30pm (tbc)
- 20.11.26: Individual and Sibling Photographs
- 23.11.26: PTA Christmas Disco
- 30.11.26: PTA Wreath Making
- 08.12.26: Rocksteady Concert (tbc)
- 14.12.26: KS1 Nativity Assembly led by St John's Church
- 14.12.26: EYFS and KS1 Christmas Dinners
- 15.12.26: KS1 Nativity Performances
- 15.12.26: KS2 Christmas Dinners
- 16.12.26: KS2 Christmas Church Service at St John's Church
- 16.12.26: EYFS Christmas Activity Afternoon (tbc)
- 18.12.26: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Parties

18.12.26: Last day of term (gates open at 2.30pm)

See you all on Monday!

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Byrne', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wendy Byrne

The Friends of Cann Hall School - PTA
Cann Hall Primary School,
Constable Avenue,
Clacton-On-Sea, Essex, CO16 8DA
Email: friendsofcannhallpta@gmail.com
Registered Charity No: 1132662



23rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Friends of Cann Hall School (PTA) would like to invite you to our upcoming **Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

Monday 19th October 2026 at 3:20pm in the middle year 6 classroom.

The Friends of Cann Hall (PTA) organises a busy programme of exciting events throughout the year for the enjoyment of our children while also raising valuable funds for the school. These events are an important part of school life and help create a thriving and supportive school community.

We hope to continue offering an exciting and successful programme of activities throughout the 2026-2027 school year. However, to make this possible, **we need your help and support.**

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Everyone is welcome to attend our AGM. However, **we must know if advance if you plan to attend**, so please complete the form below.

The AGM is also an opportunity for parents and carers to **elect the PTA Committee for the 2026-2027 school year.** We will also discuss plans and events for the year ahead and consider possible ways to use the funds raised by the PTA to benefit the school and our children.

We are currently inviting nominations for the following positions:

- **Chair**
- **Co-Chair**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **General Committee Members**

If you would like to stand for one of these positions for the first time, please submit your nomination in advance using the form below.

Existing committee members who wish to stand for re election do not need to be nominated again, but should let the PTA know if they would like to continue in their current role.

We warmly welcome new members and would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. Whether you can take on an official role or simply help with events from time to time, your support can make a real difference.

Thank you for your continued support or the PTA and for supporting the events we organise throughout the year. **We couldn't do it without you!**

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Scott
Chair
Friends of Cann Hall (PTA)

Please complete the section of the form that is relevant to you and either return it to the school office, fill in the online form at <https://forms.gle/sR6ikaUUyJY5WoWq7> or email it to friendsofcannhallpta@gmail.com by **Monday 19th October 2026**.

I am interested in becoming a member of the PTA committee.

Name:

Mobile Number:

Email Address:

Child's Name: Class:

Please tick:

I would like to attend the AGM with **no role** ☐

Or

I would like to be considered for the following role:

Chair Co-Chair Secretary Treasurer Committee Member

☐☐☐☐☐



TEA Group

Talking Education In Adoption

Essex is in an extremely lucky & unique position to have an Educational Psychologist co-facilitating TEA group with a worker from the Post Adoption Team.

TEA groups are for adoptive parents. There's a topic every other session, along with time for discussion about educational related issues you may be experiencing as a family. All adopters are very welcome – parents who have pre-school aged children, school-aged children and college-aged young people all attend. TEA groups support children and young people in mainstream school, home education and specialist provision.

Upcoming Sessions - online from 10am to 11.30am:

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - NO TOPIC

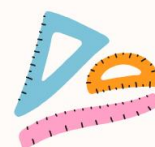
THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER - ORDINARILY AVAILABLE & ONEPLAN INTRODUCTION

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER - NO TOPIC

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER - EHCP

THESE GROUPS ARE CONTINUINALLY UNDER REVIEW
- 'USE IT OR LOSE IT' -

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL ADOPTION.TRAINING@ESSEX.GOV.UK



CCC
CENTURION
COMMUNITY CRICKET

CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET



FREE INDOOR
CRICKET.

HAVE FUN.
GET ACTIVE.
MAKE FRIENDS.

6.00-7.00 PM ON MONDAYS

FROM 14 SEPTEMBER 2026
SUITABLE FOR AGES 8-16

FREE ENTRY

TENDRING EDUCATION CENTRE, JAYWICK LANE, CLACTON, CO16 8BE

SCAN TO REGISTER





**Essex
ActivAte
October Half
Term
Programme**

[Search for Activities](#) | [Active Essex](#)

Follow the link for Active Essex's half term activities



SWIMMING TRIALS!

JOIN THE CLACTON SHARKS!

**WE ARE HOLDING TRIALS FOR
NEW SWIMMERS!**

CLACTON LEISURE CENTRE
VISTA ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA

CONTACT US OR VISIT:
WWW.CLACTONSWIMMINGCLUB.CO.UK

CHILDREN ARE INVITED FOR A FREE TRIAL/ASSESSMENT AND THEN WILL
BE OFFERED A PLACE IN THE MOST SUITABLE STAGE AND BEGIN THEIR SWIMMING
JOURNEY!





**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



SCAN ME TO BOOK

**HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES**

OCTOBER & CHRISTMAS 2026

HAVE A DISCOUNT ON US!

USE CODES: **OCTOBERHALFTERM2026** **XMASHOLIDAYS2026**

EXPIRES: 30/09/26

EXPIRES: 27/11/26

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

Registered Charity Number: 1159381

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cucf@colchesterunited.net
01206 755160
@ColU_CF /ColUCF
#enrichourcommunities