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3rd February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We are well and truly settled into 2025 and time is already flying by.

Already this term, our Year 2 dancers have performed at the Palace Theatre and they were spectacular! We are looking forward to seeing them perform again at our Summer Fun Day in July.

This week has started with a mindfulness workshop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children as it is Children's Mental Health Week. Please see this link to a leaflet that gives advice about this important subject. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/canvey-island-infant-school/UploadedDocument/9dbbf845-b51b-44b0-974c-6563f03686a7/childrens-mental-health-week-parents-and-carers-leaflet.pdf>

As we all know, online safety is vital, so Miss Maynard will be presenting an Internet safety workshop for parents on the 10th February. Please let us know if you are able to attend by following this link. <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=NgRYU-4Z4U2NXIvYBnrddlnEw5mfDLIAj6n9CGalcFFURFVXWEczTVBYRkVOMUhYTUUhFTjIDOVBaVy4u&route=shorturl>

We are very excited to welcome an African Drumming workshop into school on 28th February. The children will enjoy playing a range of African instruments, as well as learn about the history and significance of drumming throughout African culture. Thanks to our PTFA who are funding this curriculum enhancement workshop.

You will receive more information about Book Week nearer the time but, just to remind you, this is 3rd – 7th March. We will be taking part in World Book Day, so you have got plenty of time to think about which book character your child will dress up as.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be headline news and we are statutorily obliged to follow up an absence from school. If your child misses 10 days of school in one year, their attendance will equate to 95%. If your child is absent for 15 days of illness during the year, this is reported to the Department for Education. Children are legally required to be in school for 190 days each year and no absence is authorised without a very good reason. Childhood illnesses are always an issue for young children, and parents are often confused about when they should keep their child away from school. This link, 'is my child too ill for school', gives advice about a range of childhood illnesses that you might find helpful. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Learning is a journey, not a destination

As a general rule, we advise that if your child has slept through the night and eaten breakfast, they are usually well enough to attend school. If your child becomes poorly at school, we will, of course, let you know.

Please also see this 'support your child to attend and enjoy school link'. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/canvey-island-infant-school/UploadedDocument/73cb0407-4dc4-41fd-8867-86e665a183f5/acl-flyer-support-your-child-to-attend-and-enjoy-school.pdf>

Friday afternoons

We are noticing an increase in children being collected from school early on a Friday afternoon. This is extremely disruptive for the rest of your child's class, as well as for the office staff. Should your child have an unavoidable appointment, please bring evidence of this to the school office in advance and we will get your child ready for you to collect at the specified time. If your child needs to leave early for any other reason, please complete a leave of absence form that is available from the school office. Thank you.

Punctuality

As well as good attendance, we actively promote good punctuality. Persistent lateness is also reported, so we do need to ask the reason for your child being late to school. Writing 'late' in the registration book is not acceptable.

To remind you, the doors open at 8.40am and close at 8.45am prompt. The register is taken at 8.45am. Any child arriving at school after 8.45am will be recorded as 'late'. Any child arriving after 9.15am is recorded as unauthorised absence.

Should you be experiencing difficulty with getting your child to school on time, please make an appointment to see me and you will be signposted to support agencies.

Half Term Holiday Clubs

The Deanes school has asked me to promote their Half Term Holiday Club that will be running from 17th - 19th February. Children aged 4-16 years old, who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or from low-income working families, can book onto their Activate camp and enjoy physical activity and enrichment sessions.

If you would like more information please call 01268 741162 or follow this link. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/canvey-island-infant-school/UploadedDocument/7e623a8a-8ccf-4846-9b24-4608de780382/half-term-ea-flyer.pdf>

Essex Child and Family Well-being Service

This excellent service offers support with so many areas families might find challenging. For example: toileting, sleep, healthy lifestyles. For more information, please visit <https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/services/family-support/>.

Volunteers in school

If you have any spare time during your week and you would like to come into school to help in class, please let me know via the School Office. Please note, however, it is school policy that you do not support in your own child's class. Thank you.

Learning is a journey, not a destination

Date/time amendment

Please note that I made a mistake with the dates and times of the parent meetings. They are on Tuesday 11th March 3.30pm – 6pm and Thursday 13th March 5pm – 7.30pm. Apologies for any confusion.

... and finally

Should you wish to speak with me regarding any issues with your child, please make an appointment via the School Office, as I may not always be able to give you my full attention if you 'catch' me at the entrance door.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sandra Dorrington
Headteacher

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