

**Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JG**  
Headteacher Mrs S Dorrington B.Ed  
Deputy Headteacher Miss H Maynard BA (Hons)  
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4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a good half term break and are ready for the second half of the Autumn Term, which is looking to be just as busy as the first half!

I would like to start by welcoming some new members of staff to the team: Mrs Amy Moss has joined us as Nursery Teacher and Mrs Jodie Brett will be covering Mrs Milne's maternity leave in class 3. We are very pleased to have them on board.

### **School security**

You may have noticed that we have a new door entry system for the school office. Should you need to come into the office, please press the button and wait for the door to be released. Please note, the office is open from 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am – 4pm on Fridays.

Huge thanks to Mr Maynard for fitting this updated security measure during the half term break.

Additionally, please do not arrive in the playground before 8.25am to drop your child into school and, in the afternoon, please do not arrive before 3pm. Thank you.

### **Toilets**

We are experiencing more and more requests to use the school toilets before and after school, for adults as well as young children. I am sure you will appreciate that we need to be vigilant around safeguarding and, as we are reviewing our safeguarding procedures, will no longer be able to admit anyone into the school without an appointment.

Although we are not obliged to provide a public convenience, we have started opening the 'playground' toilets before and after school. Unfortunately, on Monday and Tuesday after school, the toilets were left in a dreadful state. Not only was excrement on the floor, it was smeared on the walls in one of the cubicles and the toilet blocked with toilet paper. Obviously, this is completely unacceptable, particularly as this resulted in more work for our school cleaners, who had to deep clean the whole area, and for Mr Moon who had to unblock the toilet.

Please ensure that any child who requires the toilet is supervised as, if anything like this happens again, these toilets will be locked and there will be no available facilities for you to use.

*Learning is a journey, not a destination*

## Telephone answer service

Just a reminder that if you call the school office to report your child absent, please leave their name and the reason for absence on the answer service.

## Harvest

I would like to thank you for the generous donations you sent in for our Harvest Festival. All donations were taken to the food bank at St Nicholas Church, where they will be distributed to needy families in our community.

## Playtimes

We are keen to enhance the children's playtimes and have been asking the children for their opinions on how we can do this. The School Councillors have reported that the children have asked for some additional toys they can play with, especially during lunchtimes. Therefore, if you have any pre-loved toys, such as dolls, cars, puppets, toy animals, dinosaurs or toys suitable for outdoor play, that are no longer needed at home, please send them into school with your child.

Please also send a named colouring or activity book in to school for your child to use during wet playtimes.

## Coats and hats

As the winter approaches please make sure your child has outdoor wear suitable for the weather, as we try to get the children outside as much as possible. The playground can be mighty chilly at times, so please remember to send your child into school with a warm coat. It is fine to send in hats, scarves, gloves etc but **please write your child's name on everything**.

Remember that as a 'Beach School', our philosophy is that there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing.

## Diary Dates

We have a very full schedule of events planned for the rest of this term, so please note these dates in your diary. Where parents are invited, you will receive more information via email, so please check your inbox regularly. Letters are also uploaded to the school website.

<https://www.canveyislandinfantschool.co.uk/letters-to-parents/>

November		
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Diwali Workshop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	PTFA funded
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	School Councillors to represent the school at the Knightswick Centre Act of Remembrance	Letter given to School Councillors
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Class 2 Beach Schools	Re-arranged
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3 Beach Schools	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2	School funded
	Children in Need day – wear something spotty with your uniform	Donations will be collected
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	World of Stories workshops for all classes	
	Healthy Living Assembly	

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<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Class 4 Beach Schools	
	Winter Games Festival – Class 1	Letter to follow
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Mayor's Christmas Concert – choir only	More info to follow
<b>December</b>		
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Internet Safety Workshop	School funded
	Character and life skills festival – Class 2	Letter to follow
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Pantomime for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	School, PTFA, parent contributions
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Nursery mini-concert and Christmas Craft morning for children & parents	More info to follow
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Reception children & parent Christmas Craft morning	More info to follow
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 1 children & parent Christmas Craft morning	More info to follow
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 2 children & parent Christmas Craft morning	More info to follow
	Christmas jumper day for Save the Children UK	Donations will be collected
	Christmas dinner day	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Reception Christmas Concert	More info to follow
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Reception Christmas Concert	More info to follow
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Reception Christmas Concert	More info to follow
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Whole school Christmas sing-a-long on the playground	3pm – all invited

### And finally, ...

Please remember that positive parent partnerships are important to us, so please put any comments or ideas in the suggestion box located in the school office reception area.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sandra Dorrington  
Headteacher

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