

**Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JG**

Headteacher Mrs S Dorrington B.Ed

Deputy Headteacher Miss H Maynard BA (Hons)

Tel. No. 01268 683257

Email: [admin@canvey-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@canvey-inf.essex.sch.uk)

Website: [www.canveyislandinfantschool.co.uk](http://www.canveyislandinfantschool.co.uk)



Dear Parents and Carers

We are well and truly settled into 2024 and time is already flying by.

Already this term our Year 2 dancers have performed at the Palace Theatre and they were spectacular! We have a mindfulness workshop booked for children's mental health week, 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February and an exciting science workshop scheduled for science week 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March. Not to mention the very popular Valentine's Disco that is organised by our PTFA – you will hear from them directly about this.

Please see below for some information and updates.

### **School meals**

Just to update you on our new school meals provider, TCS. The quality of food being served to the children is far superior than previously and the children are enjoying selecting their own meals. If your child has any dietary requirements eg vegetarian/gluten free/dairy free etc, you must let us know so we can ensure they are given the correct food.

### **Attendance**

Children are legally expected 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/>

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.

Just this week, the secretary of state for Education, Gillian Keegan wrote to headteachers outlining the Government's campaign that is aimed at reminding parents and carers that **moments matter, attendance counts** – not just because of the importance of learning, but because of the wider holistic benefits for children's wellbeing and happiness. At this school, we wholeheartedly endorse this message and will continue to challenge parents who appear to not value education enough to send their child to school every day.

### **Punctuality**

We are noticing that there are some parents who are not managing to get their children to school on time. We do understand that there can be unexpected incidents eg the car doesn't start. However, when a child is repeatedly late for school, learning time does add up. Five minutes may not seem a lot but, when added up, some children are missing a significant amount of time in class. For example, 5 minutes every day equates to 3.4 days missed learning across the year. 15 minutes every day equates to 10.3 days missed learning.

*Learning is a journey, not a destination*

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 an 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.

Our Governing Board are interested to find out parent's views on attendance and punctuality and have asked that you complete this short survey. This is completely anonymous but, if you would like to be entered into a prize draw to receive a £20 Amazon voucher, please give your name at the end of the survey. <https://forms.office.com/e/2GgAVa87Km>

### **Half Term Holiday Clubs**

The Deanes school has asked me to promote their Half Term Holiday Club that will be running from 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 one of these links  
<https://deanessportscentre.com/holiday-camps/>  
<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/>

### **Support for Parents**

Essex have created a Speech, Language and Communication Awareness training for parents. It is a 1-hour pre-recorded session that parents can watch that will enable parents to understand how to support their child's language development at home.

<https://www.tlc-essex.info/tips-and-links/recorded-webinar-supporting-your-childs/>

### **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/>.

### **... and finally**

If you would like to see anything in particular on my monthly newsletter, please do let me know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sandra Dorrington  
Headteacher

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