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6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The new term is well under way and all children have settled brilliantly. Our new Reception children already have their feet under the table and it is wonderful to see them making new friends.

Each month I will send you a letter with information and updates I hope you will find this useful. Although I don't want to bombard you with too much information, I do want to keep you informed of what is going on in the school and remind you of any events that might be approaching.

Please remember to check your emails regularly and to keep an eye on the school website. All letters are uploaded to the 'news and events' section and I will do my best to keep the calendar up to date with upcoming events. An additional page has been added under 'parents' to enable our PTFA to upload information. Please click the link to find out more: <https://canvey-island-infant-school.secure-primariesite.net/parent-teacher-and-friends-association-ptfa/>

We also have an 'official' Facebook page – search for Canvey Island Infant School and Nursery 2023-24, answer the admin questions and you will be admitted.

Beach Schools

You will have received an email from Mrs Gopee, who will be organising our new Beach Schools sessions. This is an exciting opportunity for your child to build their resilience, independence, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, so please look out for the letter that gives information about when the children will be going and what to wear.

Punctuality

As you know, the timings of the school day altered at the beginning of this term, which was in line with the DfE expectation that 'all state-funded mainstream schools deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2024 at the latest'.

I am extremely disappointed to note that we are seeing large numbers of children arriving at school after registration at 8.45am. Whilst I appreciate that, on occasion, there may be something that does cause a hiccup in the morning, some children are arriving late almost every day.

At Canvey Island Infant School and Nursery, we believe that good attendance and punctuality are essential life skills that contribute to a successful future and I urge you to ensure your children are in school on time every day.

Learning is a journey, not a destination



Wet Play

As we move into the winter months, they may be occasions when the children do not go outside to play. Although there are toys and games for the children to play with during 'wet playtimes', please send a colouring book into school for your child to use too. Thank you.

Coats and hats

Please make sure you send your child to school with a coat every day, as we aim for the children to be outside during breaktimes as much as possible. In line with the Beach Schools philosophy that 'there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing', we may take the children outside when it is raining, or snowing.

Harvest Festival

Autumn is the time of year when farmers harvest and store their crops ready for the Winter. Traditionally, we recognise this event in school with a whole-school Harvest Festival assembly and collect food donations to be given to needy families in the community. This year, our Harvest Assembly will be on Friday 13th October, therefore, if you are able to donate one item of non-perishable food we will be very grateful. Reverend Marion will be coming into school to give thanks for the donations which will be taken to St Nicholas' church for their community food bank. Your child can bring any donations into school anytime next week and I will deliver them to the food bank after this special assembly on Friday.

School Values

Our school values, **Respect**, **Resilience** and **Responsibility** are at the heart of absolutely everything we do at Canvey Island Infant School and Nursery. We have therefore introduced some areas of responsibility that Year 2 children have been given.

School Councillors: Ella, Tommy, Hadi, Eliza H

Library Monitors: Eliza M, Reggie, Aria, Jaxon

Friendly Faces: Isla, Alfie, Sophia, Thomas, Ross, Cooper, Lillie-Mai, Esmee

Team Captains: Isabella, Brooklyn, Freddie K, Nilavan
Molly, Isobel, James, H, Lily-Anne, Sean

These children are very proud to have been chosen for their new role and are keen to get started. School Councillors will meet with Mrs Todd each month to discuss a variety of whole school issues, Library Monitors will meet with Mrs Sadler each week to tidy the library and learn library skills and the 'Friendly Faces' will help other children find friends and play games with them, and Team Captains will collate the team points each week, ready for the achievement assembly.

Measles

I have received information from the DfE regarding the increase in the number of measles cases across the Country. Education settings are being asked to highlight this issue and encourage parents to get their children vaccinated. Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a classroom can catch the disease if just one child is infectious. The [Back to school MMR Guidance](#) from the NHS includes information, so I urge you to take a look and get your child vaccinated to avoid an outbreak of measles in the school.

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Half term holiday clubs

With the half-term fast approaching, I have been asked to share information about two holiday clubs that you might be interested in.

The Deanes Sports Centre is running an Activate camp which will run from Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th October from 10am – 3pm each day. A hot and cold food option for lunch will be provided and children will take part in sporting and enrichment activities. If you would like to check if your child is eligible to attend this free club, please visit: www.activeessex.org. To book, please visit <https://bookedit.online/deanes-sports-centre-activate-camps/>

Deanes is also running a holiday club from 23rd – 27th October from 8am – 6pm. A variety of activities are on offer so for further information parents can visit www.deanessportscentre.com.

Camp Epic is another holiday club you might be interested in. They are offering a free Year 1 introduction day on Monday 23rd October. For more information please visit: <https://prosportssolutions.coordinate.cloud/project/47323>

Parent volunteer helpers

If you would like to volunteer to come into school to help, please let me know. Class Teachers are always grateful for an extra pair of hands.

And finally, ...

Please remember, we are all here to do the best we can for your precious children, so if you have any suggestions for how we can improve what we do, please drop a note into the suggestion box which is located in the School Office Reception area.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sandra Dorrington
Headteacher

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