



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August 2026 Edition 31

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End of Academic Year 2025/26

Warm Weather - Thank you for support

Goodbye to 6 leavers: Last Downham School leaver - End of era

5 new starters in September

Uniform standards

Label all items

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Leavers & Achievers Awards Ceremony

Summer Show & Picnic

Music Performances & Developments

Pupil progress best year yet!

English developments including RWI

Improvements to Teaching & Learning

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- Family & Learner Support Assistant
- Positive Behaviour Support Assistant

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Together, We Cann

By Shane Baker, Headteacher



That is the end of another school year, my fourth end of school year at Cann Bridge, and the final term provides us all with an opportunity to reflect on and recognise the progress our wonderful learners, staff, and community have made.

As always, there is a huge amount to celebrate, and I hope this bumper school newsletter gives you a flavour of the many things that have happened across our school community this term.

Keeping Our Learners Safe in the Warm Weather

I would like to start by thanking all our families and staff for your understanding during the exceptionally warm weather we experienced this term. On a few particularly warm days, we allowed parents and carers to make the decision about whether to send their child to school. Thank you also to those families who responded when, during the school day, we felt the heat was becoming too much and collected their child.

In response to the temperatures we experienced, we are installing canopies in the outdoor spaces outside classrooms, with some of this work taking place during these school holidays. These will provide additional shade and help to reduce direct sunlight entering classrooms.

We are also investigating our BMS (Building Management System), which controls our ventilation and extraction systems, to ensure these are working as effectively as possible. Both developments should help us prepare for and manage similar weather conditions in future years.



Saying Goodbye and Welcoming New Learners

This term, we said goodbye to four learners Blake, Steve, Tom and Kyle who completed their studies at Cann Bridge School, as well as two learners who have moved on to other local specialist schools, Ava and Theo.

Some of our leavers had been with us for 15 years, while one learner had been with us for just one year. Regardless of how long they were with us, each has been an important part of our school community and will be greatly missed.

It was also our final cohort of learners to leave who originally started with us when we were known as Downham School, which truly is the end of an era!

In September, we will welcome three new learners into Year 1 in 1Cann, one Year 7 pupil into 6Cann and one new student to Post Bridge College. In addition, seven of our existing pupils will move from our primary to secondary phase. We look forward to seeing them return in their smart black secondary uniforms — assuming they have managed to outgrow their teal ones first!

We will be placing a particular focus on uniform in September, as we have seen standards decline during the final term. I would like to remind families that sliders and sandals are not appropriate footwear for school, particularly given the need to keep our learners safe and able to participate fully in the school day.

Please do ensure that everything you send to school is labelled, as we ended up donating 10 sacks of lost property to charity this year.

Post Bridge College Leavers' Prom

Our Black & Gold-themed Leavers' Prom was fantastic, with the theme and evening designed by the students themselves.

A huge thank you to the whole Post Bridge College team for making it such a success. A special thank you to Sian for pulling everything together, and to Lee for volunteering to DJ alongside students who have been accessing DJ Club through Personal Development Club.





It was a wonderful evening, and I thoroughly enjoyed dancing the night away with our learners. It was extremely warm, but our learners certainly know how to party!



Everyone looked fantastic in their party outfits, although I have to give a special mention to Blake's Thomas the Tank Engine waistcoat!



Thank you also to all the staff who volunteered to work late, setting up and clearing the hall afterwards. You helped create very special memories for our learners, families and each other.



The Prom was also a reminder that, for some of our families, this is the end of an era too. Some have been part of the Cann Bridge community and family for many years, and it was incredibly special to celebrate this together.



And finally, a huge thank you to the wonderful PBC for the flash mob — great choreography, Kate!



Leavers and Achievement Awards
Our Leavers and Achievement Awards Ceremony is another highlight of the year.



A huge thank you to Jennie, the team and all the volunteers who helped put the event together. It is always a bittersweet occasion as we celebrate the achievements of our learners while also saying goodbye to those moving on.



It is genuinely moving to see our learners achieve, succeed and receive recognition for their hard work alongside their peers.



I was incredibly proud to hear that Cann Bridge had the highest number of pupils across the city achieving their Red Independent Travel Training Award. This is a great testament to the hard work of both our pupils and staff.

Well done, everyone!

Summer Show and Picnic

Our Summer Show was excellent! Thank you to everyone who was able to join us on what was a very warm day. A particular thank you to Tom and Jenson for presenting the show; they were brilliant!

Well done to all the staff and learners who took to the stage. It is always wonderful to see the learning that has been taking place across the school.

The 8Cann rap and 10Cann's three-times-table song were certainly memorable — well done, teams!

It was also fantastic to see the impact of George, our visiting music teacher, on some of our learners. Seeing Safari beam during the performance genuinely made my day.

Hearing pupils recall the story in 2Cann, some verbally and others using AAC devices, was also incredibly memorable. It was wonderful to see the progress they have made since joining Cann Bridge.

It was lovely to come together and mingle during our Summer Picnic. Thank you to the Friends of Cann Bridge for arranging the refreshments and the bumper raffle.

Music, Performance and New Opportunities

It has also been wonderful to see our pupils accessing so many new musical experiences this year.

During the final term, some of our pupils performed alongside other schools at the Sound Factory Festival and also performed alongside a professional orchestra in a production of The Fairy Queen.

As always, our pupils were incredibly proud of their achievements and of performing together. These opportunities provide such valuable experiences and memories, while developing confidence, communication, collaboration and a sense of belonging.

Thank you to Emma Vinnicombe for leading all these positive musical developments this year.

Celebrating Progress

During our final Parent Carer Evening, we shared your child's progress data for the year.

I am very pleased to share that pupil progress has continued to improve year-on-year since we introduced our current assessment systems three years ago. This provides evidence of the impact of our planned curriculum delivery and the high standards of teaching and learning taking place across the school.

Karen is currently writing the End of Year Examination & Assessment Report for 2025–26, which will be available on our website in the new academic year.

We also listened carefully to feedback from parents and carers at our Family Cafés about curriculum and assessment. Families told us that they value seeing clear evidence of progress and wanted a greater understanding of how assessment information links to the curriculum, individual outcomes and the next steps for their children.

This feedback will help inform our continued development of how we communicate assessment and progress with families.

English and Read Write Inc.

As previously shared, we will be moving from Monster Phonics to Read Write Inc. in September as we continue our drive to ensure that learners receive the very best English curriculum and education.

Monster Phonics has been well implemented at Cann Bridge and has supported our learners well. However, our review and research have identified that Read Write Inc. provides stronger progression opportunities, particularly in relation to writing. It is also widely used across special schools, giving us access to a well-established programme and wider evidence of impact.

All staff will receive training during our September INSET Professional Development Days, and we are currently planning a parent workshop to introduce Read Write Inc. and explain more about how it will work at Cann Bridge.

Improving Teaching and Learning

Improving the quality of teaching and learning has been a key priority at Cann Bridge. Karen has taken on the role of Director of Teaching, Learning and Assessment, driving improvements across the school alongside our teaching team.

In September, we will also introduce StepLab to support greater consistency in the quality of teaching and learning. We are calling this our Wave 1 Quality First Teaching and Learning approach. More information will be shared with families in the new academic year as we explain how this work will support teachers and, most importantly, improve outcomes for our learners.

Radio Cann Bridge

This term we launched Radio Cann Bridge! If you have not yet had the chance, do tune in. The show runs on repeat between 8am and 8pm, and the link can be found on our website. As always, our learners have chosen some cracking tunes!

We are looking forward to making even greater use of this resource over the coming year. It provides a fantastic opportunity for learners to share their learning, develop communication skills and contribute to our wider school community.

Read Write Inc.
Phonics





Post Bridge College

Post Bridge College had a busy final term, including a trip to Butlins and Bikeability around Saltram.

I always love hearing the stories about what our students have achieved while away from school. These experiences help us learn so much more about what our pupils like and dislike, what they can and cannot do, and what support they may need. We can then use this information to inform our curriculum and future opportunities.

Thank you to all the families who took up these opportunities, and to the staff who volunteered to support the trips or remained in school to support those pupils who chose to stay behind.

Breakfast Club and Our Local Community

Nikki gave Councillor Tess Blight a tour of the school this term, including our newly launched Breakfast Club.

It was great to share the positive impact this provision has had on pupils and their families, as well as on staff who have benefited from increased working hours.

Tess was very interested to hear about our work at Cann Bridge and our vision for the future, and it was encouraging to hear that she is keen to support our continued development.

Changes to Our Staffing Structure

In September, we will be making some changes to our staffing structure.

Nikki Burrage will no longer be our Family and Learner Support Advisor. Her role has been reviewed to reflect the increasingly broad range of responsibilities she holds as a Senior Leader within the school. From September, Nikki's new role will be Inclusion & Pastoral Care Lead. This will be a more strategic role overseeing a wide range of areas, including health and medical needs, behaviour, family liaison, mealtime assistants and wraparound provision, to name just a few.

One significant area Nikki will lead is what we will call Wave 2 and Wave 3 Interventions and Provisions. This will ensure that interventions and additional provisions have clear intentions, are implemented effectively and demonstrate impact. This will help us avoid a scattered approach and ensure that interventions remain purposeful and do not exceed their intended remit. More information about Nikki's new role is available on our website.

Our New Inclusion & Pastoral Care Team

You may recall from a recent letter that Vince, our Positive Behaviour Support Lead, left Cann Bridge to pursue a new career opportunity within the Local Authority. Vince will certainly be missed.

Following this, we have appointed three people who will form our new Inclusion & Pastoral Care Team. Debbie Burkin continues as our Health & Care Assistant, Carolyn McGinnis (2.5 days a week) has been appointed as our Family & Learner Support Assistant, and Jared Ferguson (2.5 days a week) has joined us as our Positive Behaviour Support Assistant. The team will be managed by Nikki, and further information about each role is available on our website.



Thank you to our Governors for supporting these important recruitment processes.

Speech and Language Therapy

I am pleased to share that we are currently in discussions with Longcause School and Mill Ford School about commissioning a shared dedicated Speech and Language Therapist. The therapist would work in harmony with Livewell, whose role would continue to include providing therapy and training to staff.

This provision will initially be funded through our Pupil Premium Grant and will run for one year, allowing us to evaluate its impact.

Communication is one of the fundamental skills our pupils require to access and engage with the world around them. We have excellent staff commitment to Total Communication, have had great success through the rollout of AAC devices and have valued our work with the Marjon University Speech and Language Service.

However, we want to take our speech and language offer to the next level. This work will sit within Nikki's area of responsibility.



Welcome Back, Emma!

In September, Emma Hookins will return as an Interim Assistant Headteacher as we strengthen our Key Stage Leadership structures. This is part of our continued commitment to supporting teachers to deliver high-quality teaching and learning, which remains a whole-school priority.

Emma will also continue in her role as our Understanding of the World Curriculum Team Lead. Emma has demonstrated significant impact through her work as a Class Teacher and Middle Leader during my time at the school, and I am confident that she will make a very positive impact in this new role.

Congratulations, Emma!



Governing Board and Friends of Cann Bridge

Michelle Prue, our Parent Governor, has decided to step down from the Governing Board after three years of dedicated service to the school. I cannot thank Michelle enough for her leadership, commitment and support.

Michelle will continue as Chair of Friends of Cann Bridge, which has had a huge impact on raising the profile of our school and generating financial donations, particularly towards our Upper School Playground Appeal.

Well done to all our Friends for their achievements this year, and thank you to everyone who attended this term's Quiz Night, which raised an amazing £357.80.



Recruitment for a new Parent Governor will take place in September. Parents and carers will be able to nominate or self-nominate themselves. If we receive more than one application, this will go to a parent vote, with the applications shared with parents to help them decide who they would like to represent the parental perspective on our Governing Board. We would be particularly interested to hear from parents or carers with experience or an interest in HR, Finance, Online Safety, or Post-16 and Careers.





We have an incredibly active and committed Governing Board. They are a dedicated group of volunteers who provide challenge and support as critical friends to the school, helping us to ensure that we continue to develop progressively.

This term, the Board reflected on the achievements of our previous three-year development plan and agreed our new development plan for the next three years. This will be available on our website in September under: Key Documents and Information > School Development Plan 2026–27.



We have achieved a great deal over the last three years. Feedback from pupils, parents and staff through surveys and other engagement has helped us identify where we want to be over the next three years — and it is exciting!

With development comes change and opportunity, but what the last three years have demonstrated is the positive impact these developments can have on our learners, their progress, opportunities and outcomes.

Healthy Schools

This year, we have been driving forward our Healthy School Award, and I am pleased to share that we are nearing completion. Rachael will share more in a brief update in the new academic year.



Much of our work has focused on PE, SEMH, PSHE, RSHE, Pupil Voice, Cooking and Nutrition.

We recently reminded families that we are unable to accept cakes and other food brought into school for birthdays and special occasions, and unfortunately these will be sent back home.

We also ask parents and carers to be mindful of lunch boxes. Please ensure that any special dietary requirements are met, but also consider providing a variety of foods so that we can support and encourage a balanced diet.



Finally, please remember that Cann Bridge is a Nut Aware School and nuts must not be brought into school.

Developing Our School Site

As always, we have a number of projects taking place across the school during the summer holidays to maintain and improve our facilities.



We have started a rolling programme to replace carpets and lighting in classrooms along the Upper School Corridor. 7Cann and 8Cann have had their flooring replaced, and 7Cann has also had new lighting installed.

Our vision over the next three years is for all classrooms on the Upper School Corridor to have new flooring, lighting and kitchens, bringing them up to a consistently high standard.

This is also part of our commitment to making the school more sustainable, including the installation of LED lighting across the school site.





Other developments taking place over the summer include:

- Installation of new car park barriers.
- A new kitchen in the staffroom.
- Renovation of school offices: a dedicated HR Office, a dedicated Inclusion & Pastoral Care Office, and a dedicated Senior Leadership Team Office.
- The start of the installation of canopies in classroom outdoor areas.

A New Cleaning Team

During the summer, we will also welcome Fusion Services to Cann Bridge as they take over our cleaning services.



We will also welcome two new cleaners to the Cann Bridge team. This is a positive development, and it has already been great to see new cleaning equipment and resources arriving to support the team in carrying out their roles effectively.

Forest School and Science Garden

As we broke up for the holidays, Lee and I, with help from Andrew, one of our parents, were busy unloading new composite benches into our Forest School area. Thanks to Wendy's fundraising efforts, Martin, our Caretaker, cutting the materials down, Wendy's husband Dave and Lee building the benches, and Andrew delivering them to the school, we have been able to improve these facilities. We have also started adding bark to the area.



Our Science Garden is also going from strength to strength under the leadership of Angela, one of our parent volunteers. Thanks to Angela and Nikki, we have secured charitable donations to enhance this space further, and I know Angela has lots of exciting things arriving to help bring her plans to life. I am sure that if anyone has some time to spare, Angela would appreciate a few extra pairs of hands!



Recycling, Fundraising and Improving Our Environment

We have also been busy sorting and clearing to ensure we maintain the highest standards in our learning environments. Recently, we donated and raised almost £1,000 through old, unwanted furniture, resources and chairs from our storage container. This money will go towards our Upper School Playground Appeal. It is fantastic to see unwanted resources being given a new life while also helping us raise money for our learners.



Developing Our HR Provision

As shared above, we are currently establishing a dedicated HR Office. This will enable our HR Team to provide a high-quality people and culture offer, ensuring that our policies and procedures are delivered in a timely and effective way and that we continue to support our biggest asset; our wonderful staff team. Providing the right space and resources will help our HR team undertake their roles and responsibilities effectively.



In September, we are also moving to a new system called SAMPeople, which will give staff access to their own HR records and allow us to move more of our systems digitally, reducing our reliance on paper-based systems and records.

Holiday Club & Summer Club Provision

Holiday Club is well underway, and we have also had a very successful Summer Club. Thank you to all the staff who signed up, turned up and provided this much-needed respite and support to families during the holidays. Please remember to book onto activities through MCAS. These activities are funded through Fit & Fed.



SEND Family Hub

Thank you also to everyone who attended our SEND Family Hub launch. It was fantastic to see families and professionals coming together, and we look forward to seeing how this develops over the coming year. To learn more about our Satellite Family Hub, please visit our website.



Schools Challenge Fundraiser

We understand that some people were refunded for their donations to the Schools Challenge fundraiser through JustGiving. We are still unsure why this has happened, but we would really appreciate it if those who donated could kindly re-donate using the new link sent by our Finance Team. Thank you for your continued support.

Education Visits and Entry & Exit Experiences

This term, Katie and I finalised our Education Visits and Entry & Exit Experiences programme. Our aim is to ensure that, during their time at Cann Bridge, every learner has access to a broad range of opportunities for personal development and enrichment. These include opportunities to access the local community, beaches, Dartmoor, zoos, places of worship and many other experiences. This can be found mapped on to our Curriculum Long Term Programme on our website.

One excellent exit experience in Key Stage 2 was a beach day designed to consolidate learning from the term. The team created our own beach in the outdoor space, complete with beach games, a picnic and even an ice cream van! Huge thanks to all the staff who set up and cleared away this fantastic experience. I was particularly pleased to get an ice cream!

In Key Stage 3, pupils held the Great British Cann Bridge Bake Off. As one of the judges, I can assure you that the cakes really were made by the pupils; and it was an experience I will not forget for a while! It was a fantastic opportunity to develop life skills, independence and confidence while having lots of fun to finish the term.

Personal Development Club

This term, we held our final EYFS/Key Stage 1 Diddi Dance Personal Development Club session after several years of the Diddi Dance team visiting Cann Bridge. Many children at our school have benefited from these sessions, moving to music, developing confidence and simply having fun together. We wish the team all the very best as they close the business and move on to new opportunities.

Jennie is currently reviewing our Personal Development Club offer to ensure that we continue to provide a strong programme of extracurricular and personal development opportunities as pupils move through the school. These activities and events are an important part of what makes Cann Bridge special; opportunities that go above and beyond the planned curriculum.

Parent and Carer Feedback

Please find on the following pages a summary of this year's Parent Carer Annual Survey and Parent Carer EHCP Annual Review Parent Survey results. As always, we really appreciate the time you take to provide this feedback. Your views help us understand what we are doing well and where we need to improve, and directly inform our school development work. We also continue to use feedback gathered through Family Cafés, Parent Carer Evenings and other opportunities to engage with families.

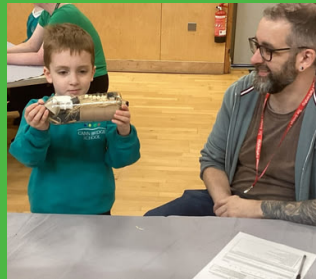
Father's Day

A huge thank you to all the dads, grandads and special men in our pupils' lives who came to our Father's Day event. The bug houses looked fantastic! Huge thanks to Nikki for organising the event and to On Course South West for their support and contributions.

Celebrating Our Learners

One of my happiest parts of the week is leading our Celebration Assembly. It is an opportunity to spend time with all our learners and staff and celebrate our 'We Cann...' Awards.

At the end of each big term, we also present special end-of-term awards and trophies, recognising learners whose achievements, commitment and personal growth have been truly exceptional.





Our Summer Term winners were:

- 🏆 Proper Job Cup: Pa Ousman
- 🏆 Lydia Hayward Trophy for Commitment & Dedication: Maisy
- 🏆 Bee Coelho Award for Excellence in Work-Related Learning: Joshua
- 🏆 Laura Henshaw Arts Award: Jenson K

Each of these awards reflects the values and aspirations that make our school community so special. Congratulations to all our deserving recipients, you have made us incredibly proud.

Well done also to Argyle Team, who won this term's House Points Cup!

Celebrating Our Staff

We also took the opportunity to celebrate our amazing staff team.

Each term, staff can leave postcards of appreciation for colleagues who have gone above and beyond. One postcard is drawn at random, with the recipient receiving a £25 gift voucher. Congratulations to Alana, our Appreciation Award winner this term!

We also presented our Staff Values Awards, nominated by colleagues:

- ★ Aspiration: Kate P
- ★ Learner Focused: Malwina
- ★ Collaborative: Fiona
- ★ Progressive: Jaime

We have an incredible staff team. I regularly reflect on the amazing work of our colleagues. Working in a special school is certainly not a 'job' that just anyone can do. You have to be a very special and particular person to have the values, commitment and resilience that make you an excellent special education practitioner. We may just have the best team — although I may be a little biased!

It was fantastic to see our pupils and staff come together on the final day of term to show off their dance moves on the Upper School Playground and celebrate the end of another successful year.

Cann Bridge Continues to Grow

We have also recently reached 2,000 followers on Facebook, and one of our recent reels received an incredible 102,000 views! This is more than just a social media milestone. It demonstrates that people care about Cann Bridge and want to see our pupils receive the very best opportunities, education and experiences. We have an incredible story to tell, and I am proud that more people are seeing the wonderful things our learners and staff achieve every day.

Catering Changes

As you may remember, CaterEd, the school catering provider, closed down at the end of this term.

I am pleased to share that our catering team have moved over to Fusion Services, who will continue to provide lunches to Cann Bridge School, and there will be no gap in service.

Initially, the menu will remain the same. Josh, the Catering Manager, knows our pupils extremely well and will continue to develop menus and an offer that meets their needs whilst meeting school food standards. Full details of the new offer will be added to our website in due course.

Please remember to apply for Free School Meals if you believe you may be entitled. If you need help with applying, please contact our Family & Learner Support Assistant, Carolyn. Details on how to apply are available on our website.





A reminder for those entering Year 3: universal free school meals finish in Year 2, so it is important that you apply if you believe you are eligible.

For those accessing universal free school meals from EYFS to Year 2, if you believe you would qualify for means-tested Free School Meals, please apply. This brings in additional income for the school to fund our speech and language offer, our Occupational Therapist, Family & Learner Support Assistant, Positive Behaviour Support Assistant and MAST offer, to name a few.

Accessing Cann Bridge School

To help keep pupils, families, staff and local residents safe, Cann Bridge School is located within Plymouth City Council's Safer School Street Scheme. The scheme has now been made permanent following a successful trial period and applies to Eden Valley Gardens, Ambleside Place and Ravenglass Close.

Vehicle access to the restricted roads is limited during the following times:

- 8:00am–9:00am
- 2:15pm–3:30pm

During these times, only authorised and exempt vehicles may enter the restricted area. Staff should carry their staff ID badge, and parents must be Blue Badge holders and must be able to present their badge if requested by enforcement officers. Please note that there is clear signage in place, and the school will not be able to assist anyone who is caught breaking the law. If you require support with applying for a Blue Badge for your child, please contact our Family & Learner Support Assistant.

Attendance Celebrations

I want to share that we have continued to see attendance improvements, from 92.7% last year to 93.4% this year (National average 93.07%, National special school average 86.81%). Thank you for your continued support. This continues to be significantly above the national average. It shows a strong commitment to your child and their access to their full education.

We have seen severe absence reduce but persistent absence slightly increase. Josie, our Deputy Headteacher, and our Family & Learner Support Assistant will be in touch with those with persistent absence levels to see what additional support we can provide to ensure your child is at school.

Personal Highlights of This Year

- Rollout of 30 new AAC devices for learners across the school.
- Launch of Radio Cann Bridge.
- Development of Meditracker and SAMPeople, which I know will have a positive impact on the school.
- Wonderful music developments and the impact these have had on pupils.
- Healthy Schools developments.
- Staff Health and Wellbeing initiatives.
- The Cann Bridge School Song.
- Upper School Playground Fundraising Appeal launch.
- Friends of Cann Bridge Carnival Ball.
- Lots of facilities developments.
- Launching our Breakfast Club and new staffroom.
- Recruitment of our dedicated School Caretaker.
- Joining Ten Tors Camp.
- EHCP Annual Review developments to improve the quality of the written documents.
- Becoming a SEND Family Hub satellite provision.
- Seeing the continued improvement to pupil progress again this year.
- As always, the Winter and Summer Shows.



Looking Ahead to September

Our September INSET days are already full!

We will be covering:

- Welcome back and an overview of our new School Development Plan.
- Safeguarding updates.
- Health and Safety updates.
- Read Write Inc. training.
- CPI Theory training.
- Launching Meditracker and SAMPeople.
- TeachUsToo.
- Medical training.
- Preparing new classroom environments.
- Setting up learning spaces.
- Getting everything ready for our learners' return.

There is certainly no shortage of things to do!

Finally...

I am incredibly proud. We have achieved so much this year and, as you will have seen from this newsletter, there is no sign of us slowing down!

Our school continues to evolve. We are developing our curriculum, strengthening teaching and learning, investing in our staff, improving our buildings and facilities, expanding opportunities for personal development and enrichment, and, most importantly, continuing to put our learners at the heart of everything we do.

There will always be challenges. There will always be things we can do better. But what continues to make me incredibly proud is the ambition, commitment and belief that exists across our whole Cann Bridge community.

To our learners: thank you for making Cann Bridge such a brilliant place to work.

To our families: thank you for your continued support, challenge, feedback and partnership.

To our staff: thank you for everything you do; often going far beyond what could reasonably be expected, to give our learners the very best experiences and opportunities.

And to our Governors, volunteers, Friends of Cann Bridge, visiting professionals and wider community: thank you for helping us continue to move forward.

Have a wonderful summer break. I hope you all have the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with the people who matter to you.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Cann Bridge.

We Cann! ❤️

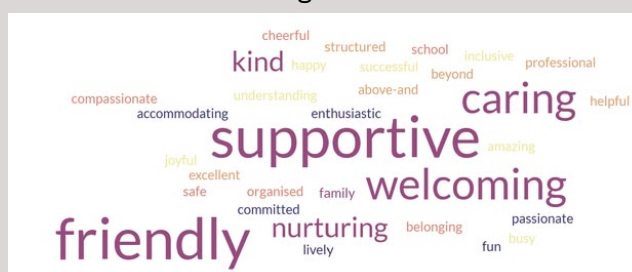
SD Baker

Summary of the Parent Carer Annual Survey 2026

Thank you to the 21 responses to our recent survey. Approximate 19% completion rate.

Summary of results:

- 100% agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school
- 90.47% agree or strongly agree that their child is safe at school. 4.76% did not know.
- 95.2% agree that the school makes sure it's pupils are well behaved.
- 80.92% felt that their child had not been bullied, agree or didn't know whether the school dealt with any form of bullying quickly or effectively.
- 100% agree or strongly agree that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 52.36% agree or strongly agree that when they have have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly. 14.28% have not raised any concerns. 14.28% did not know.
- 80.92% agree or strongly agree that the school gives their child the support they need to succeed.
- 95.2% agree or strongly agree that they find the EHCP annual review meeting well organised and purposeful to support their child's development.
- 90.44% agree or strongly agree that the school has high expectations for their child. 9.56% did not know.
- 95.2% agree that their child does well at Cann Bridge.
- 100% agree or strongly agree that the school lets them know how their child is doing.
- 95.2% agree or strongly agree that the school communicates what is happening at the school effectively.
- 90.44% agree or strongly agree that they are aware of the school curriculum and its intent. 4.76% did not know.
- 90.44% agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with the quality of education provided by the school.
- 85.68% agree or strongly agree that there is a good range of subjects available to their child.
- 80.92% agree or strongly agree that their child is taught the right things to prepare them for the future. 4.76% did not know.
- 85.68% agree or strongly agree that their child can take part in clubs and activities at school. 9.56% did not know.
- 95.2% agree or strongly agree that the school supports their child's wider personal development. 4.76% did not know.
- 80.92% agree or strongly agree that their child is fully supported to develop their communication skills.
- 76.16% agree or strongly agree that they are confident that the school works hard to support their child and their family if there is a problem. 9.56% did not know.
- 85.68% agree or strongly agree that they know who the Safeguarding Team are at the school.
- 95.2% agree or strongly agree that if they had a safeguarding concern, they would feel confident in contacting the Safeguarding Team.
- 90.44% agree or strongly agree that the school supports their child's wellbeing, including their emotional and mental health.
- 66.64% agree that they value the holiday activities and summer school provision. 33.36% had not previously accessed.
- 90.44% agree that they have felt welcomed when they come to the school.
- 90.44% agree or strongly agree there are a good range of school events and activities for families to engage with the school. 9.65% have not taken part in any events or activities.
- 90.44% would recommend Cann Bridge School to another parent.
- When asked the top 3 words to describe Cann Bridge School the results were:



Summary of the Parent Carer Annual Survey 2026

Summer & Winter Show Review

Thank you for your feedback regarding our review of the Summer and Winter Shows, following comments from some parents and staff who expressed an interest in exploring alternative approaches. The survey results showed that 38.08% of respondents had no preference as to whether the current format remained the same or changed, while a further 38.08% indicated that they would like the shows to remain as they are. We would like to reassure families that there is no intention to discontinue our seasonal celebrations. Instead, we are looking at ways to refresh and enhance these events to create even greater opportunities for participation and engagement across our school community. During the next academic year, we will trial a Winter Fair in place of the traditional Winter Show. The event will include festive stalls, carol singing, a visit from Santa, and a seasonal café, all supported and run by our pupils and staff. We believe this will provide a wonderful opportunity for pupils to showcase their skills in a different way, while bringing together families, staff, and the wider community for a festive and inclusive celebration.

School Photography

Last year in our survey you suggested trailing a new school photograph provider and 66.64% have fed back in this year's survey that you felt the quality and value was either slightly, significantly or about the same as last year. The majority has suggested keeping it the same in the next academic year.

Friends of Cann Bridge

Thank you for your feedback on Friends of Cann Bridge and how we are encouraged and supported more to get involved.

Evisense

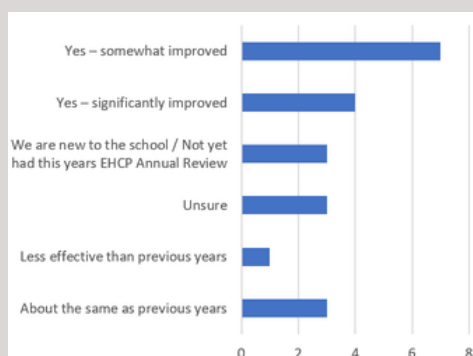
95.2% of you said that you found Evisense somewhat or very useful. The majority view posts daily or weekly, with a 9.52% looking at it monthly, and a further 9.52% rarely or never. We appreciate your feedback. We are currently reviewing the impact of Evisense and will update you on our findings during this year.

Website

100% find it very helpful or somewhat helpful.

EHCP Annual Review Process

We explained that this year we had made significant changes to our EHCP Annual Review process to enhance the review paperwork. Full details available on our website. On the whole the feedback is really positive about these developments:



Parent Quote:

“A fantastic place for my child to attend. We feel very lucky for him to have this school and he adores it. The staff are amazing in supporting both him and us as a family. Thank you”

“Amazing school with amazing people who go above and beyond to support my child and his needs.”

“Thank you”



EHCP Annual Review Parent Carer Questionnaire Survey Responses Academic Year 2025/26

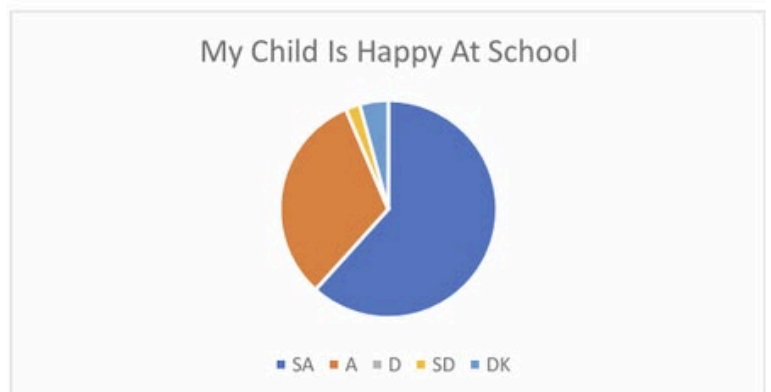
This survey was completed either before or during each learner's EHCP Annual Review and marks the second year of implementing this approach. Last year 58 families completed, whereas 47 families completed and returned this academic year.

The outcomes continue to demonstrate a highly positive and demonstrate consistently strong levels of parent/carer satisfaction with the quality of education, care, and support provided. Feedback indicates that parents/carers feel their child is well cared for and making good progress, with 95.7% stating they would recommend the school to another family (with 4.3% do not know) - comparable to last year. Importantly, these results are in line with — and in some areas exceed — those from the annual Parent/Carer Survey, where the completion rate was 19% compared to 43% for this survey, giving greater confidence in the reliability and representativeness of the findings.

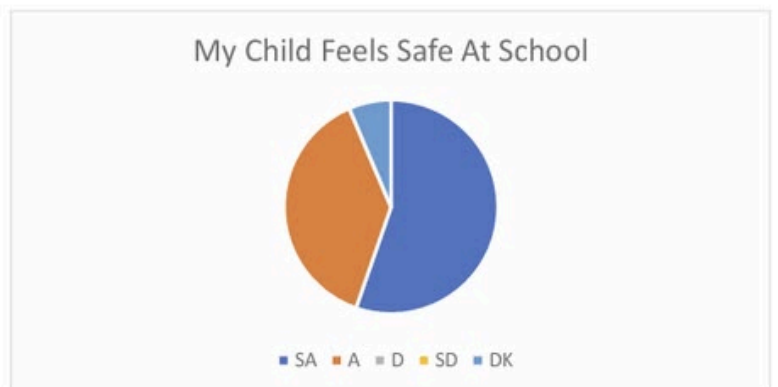
Alongside these strengths, the findings highlight a key priority to continue to ensure that EHCP Outcomes are clear, explicit, and regularly reviewed; this has been a priority of the last year and we believe through the strengthening of written long term outcomes. All families continue to be actively involved in co-producing these outcomes, and it is essential that they remain relevant and closely aligned to each learner's Personalised Learning Goals.

These insights provide a strong foundation for driving continuous improvement and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to ensuring that the voices of learners and their families remain central in shaping the development of our provision.

My child is happy at school				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
29	15	0	1	2

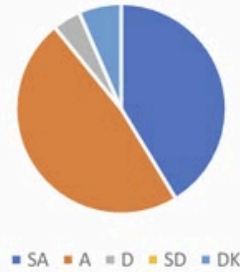


My child feels safe at school				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
26	18	0	0	3



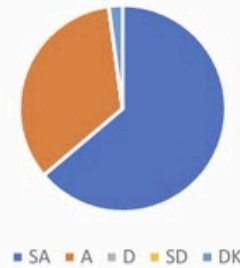
My child makes good progress				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
19	22	2	0	3

My Child Makes Good Progress



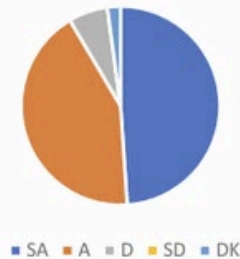
My child is well looked after at school				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
30	16	0	0	1

My Child Is Well Looked After At School



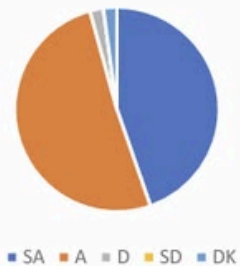
I am aware of my child's EHCP Outcomes				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
23	20	3	0	1

I am Aware of My Childs EHCP Outcomes



Pupils are well behaved				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
21	24	1	0	1

Pupils Are Well Behaved



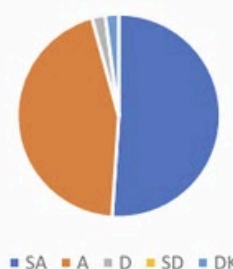
Behaviour issues addressed effectively				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
25	17	0	0	5

Behaviour Issues Are Addressed Effectively



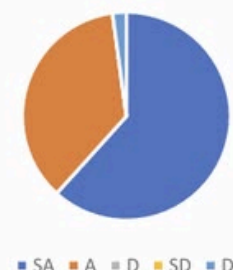
The school is well led and managed				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
24	21	1	0	1

The School is well Led and Managed



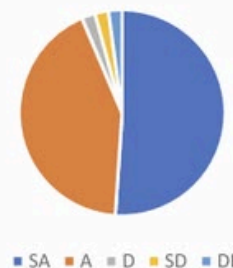
I know who to go to if I have concerns				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
29	17	0	0	1

I Know Who To Go To If I Have Concerns



I receive valuable information about my child's progress				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
24	20	1	1	1

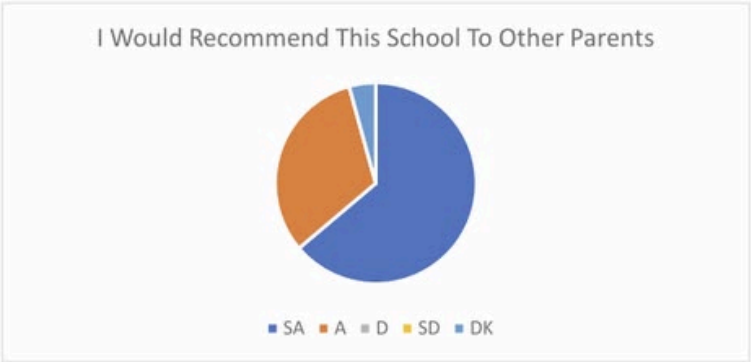
I Receive Valuable Information About Progress



I would recommend this school to other parents				
SA	A	D	SD	DK
30	15	0	0	2

SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree
DK	Don't know

Completion Rate	
Completed	Non-completion
47	62





EHCP Annual Review Learner Questionnaire Survey Responses Academic Year 2025/26

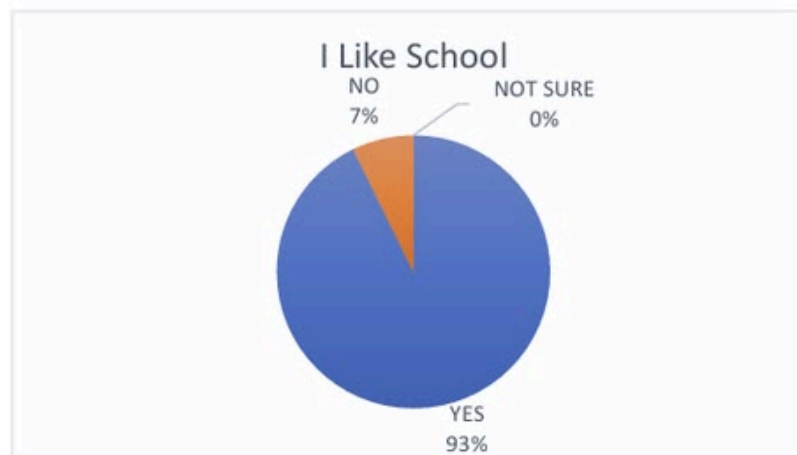
This survey was completed either before or during each learner's EHCP Annual Review and marks the second year of implementing this process. Responses were gathered directly from pupils wherever possible, with parents, carers, or staff acting as advocates where additional support was required. The overall return rate was excellent, ensuring the findings are representative of the wider school community.

The outcomes of the survey are highly positive and demonstrate consistently strong levels of pupil satisfaction with the quality of education and care provided. Feedback shows that learners feel safe, supported, and well cared for, and that the school is effectively fostering both personal and academic development. There has been a significant improvement in the number of learners that feel supported to be healthy during the last year.

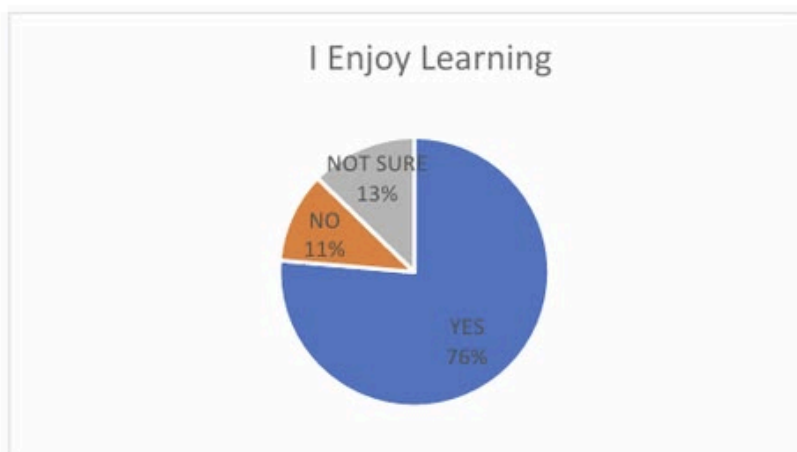
Alongside these strengths, the findings identify a key priority for further improvement: to ensure that Personalised Learning Goals and next steps in learning are communicated more explicitly to learners so that they have a clearer understanding of their progress and future targets.

These insights provide a strong foundation for driving continuous improvement and ensure that the voice of learners and their families remains central in shaping the ongoing development of our provision.

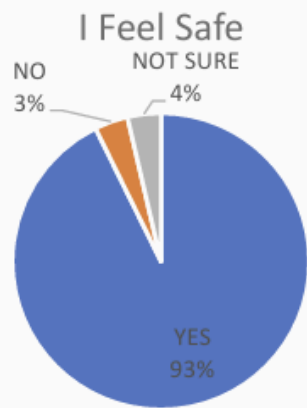
I LIKE SCHOOL		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
102	8	0



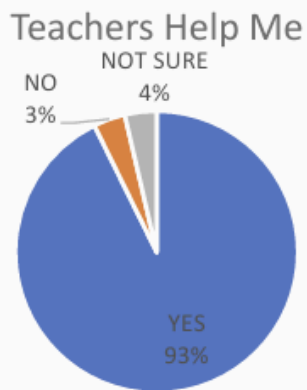
I ENJOY LEARNING		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
84	12	14



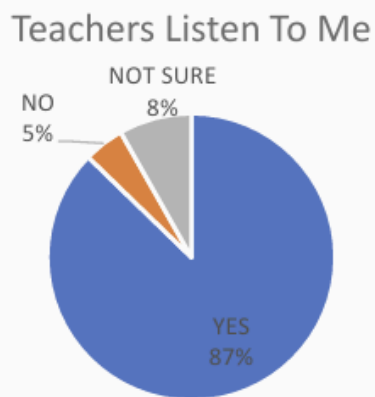
I FEEL SAFE		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
102	4	4



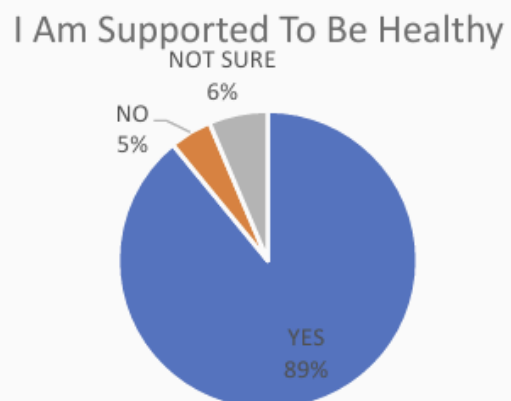
TEACHERS HELP ME		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
102	4	4



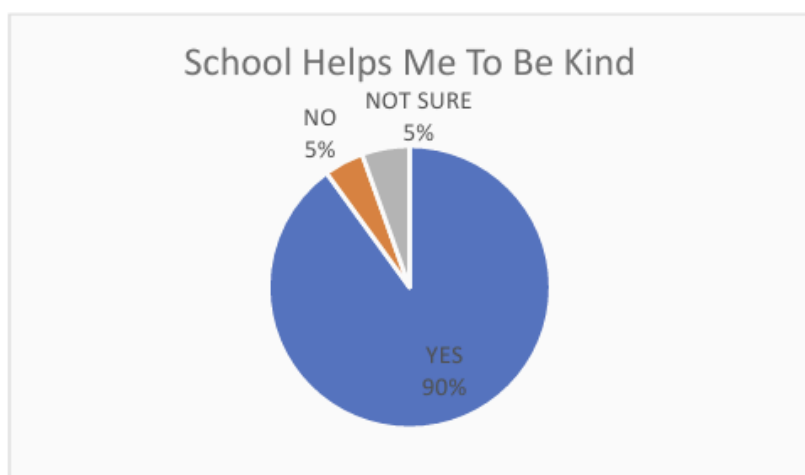
TEACHERS LISTEN TO ME		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
96	5	9



SUPPORTED TO BE HEALTHY		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
98	5	7



SCHOOL HELPS ME BE KIND		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
99	5	6



I KNOW MY TARGETS		
YES	NO	NOT SURE
31	55	24



PUPIL SURVEY COMPLETION RATE	
COMPLETED	NOT COMPLETED
110	0

School Term Dates 2026/27

	September 26					October 26					November 26					December 26				
Monday		07	14	21	28		05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30		07	14	21	28
Tuesday	01	08	15	22	29		06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24		01	08	15	22	29
Wednesday	02	09	16	23	30		07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25		02	09	16	23	30
Thursday	03	10	17	24		01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26		03	10	17	24	31
Friday	04	11	18	25		02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27		04	11	18	25	

	January 27					February 27					March 27					April 27				
Monday		04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22		01	08	15	22	29		05	12	19	26
Tuesday		05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23		02	09	16	23	30		06	13	20	27
Wednesday		06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24		03	10	17	24	31		07	14	21	28
Thursday		07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25		04	11	18	25		01	08	15	22	29
Friday	01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26		05	12	19	26		02	09	16	23	30

	May 27					June 27					July 27					August 27				
Monday	03	10	17	24	31		07	14	21	28		05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	04	11	18	25		01	08	15	22	29		06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	05	12	19	26		02	09	16	23	30		07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	06	13	20	27		03	10	17	24		01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	
Friday	07	14	21	28		04	11	18	25		02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	

The school year comprises:

Teaching days (statutory)	190
Professional development days ¹	5
Occasional days ²	5
sub-total	200
School holidays	53
Bank holidays	8
Saturdays and Sundays	104
Total	365

School terms:

term	start	end	days
1	7 Sep 26	23 Oct 26	35
2	2 Nov 26	18 Dec 26	35
3	6 Jan 27	12 Feb 27	28
4	22 Feb 27	25 Mar 27	24
5	12 Apr 27	28 May 27	34
6	8 Jun 27	23 Jul 27	34
Total			190

What's coming up...

23rd July - Last day of term
 25th July - SEND Family Hub Launch
 HOLIDAY CLUB & SUMMER CLUB
 2nd - 4th September - INSET Staff Training Days (Closed to pupils)
 7th September - Pupils return to school
 11th September - Class Timetables and Newsletters Sent Home
 17th September - Friends of Cann Bridge Meeting
 19th September - Neurodiversity Festival at Devonport Park - FOCB Event
 24th September - Parent & Carers Evening
 15th October - Friends of Cann Bridge AGM
 23rd October - Last day of term
 2nd November - Pupils and staff return to school

Further details
 about Family
 Training/ Workshops
 & Family Café
 dates are sent
 separately and
 bookable on
 Bromcom/MCAS



THIS IS US! NEURODIVERSITY FESTIVAL

2026 CELEBRATE AND EDUCATE

**JOIN US AND BE PART OF THIS AMAZING
NEURODIVERSITY FESTIVAL IN
PLYMOUTH!**

SEPTEMBER 19 | DEVONPORT PARK

**LIVE MUSIC | MARKET STALLS |
WELLBEING ACTIVITIES | STREET FOOD**

FREE TO ATTEND | 12 NOON - 7PM



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE---->



COLLECTING BOTTLE TOPS



PLEASE MAKE SURE THE TOPS ARE WASHED.

WE CAN ACCEPT ✓

***PLASTIC** bottle tops,
milk/water/juice/fizzy
bottle lids



***Washing up and
detergent** lids



***Toiletry bottle lids:**
Shampoo/conditioner/
body wash/
shower gel



WE CANNOT ACCEPT ✗

***Corks**



***M/Donald's/Burger
/KFC etc. lids**



***Metal lids**



***Pump
dispensers**



***Lids from pots e.g cake
lids, takeaway pot lids**



***Dosing ball**



PLEASE HAND THE LIDS TO YOUR CLASS TEACHER SO THEY CAN
BE CHECKED BEFORE THEY ARE PUT IN THE BOX. THANK YOU

SchoolCycled

HELP US EARN AMAZING PRODUCTS LIKE
THE ONES SHOWN IN IMAGE_0.PNG!



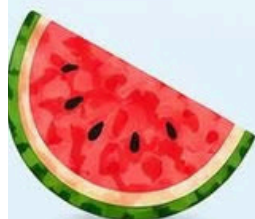
SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB ACTIVITIES

for our pupils and their families

A range of exciting activities, food and play
over the summer holidays!



FUN,
FRIENDS &
AMAZING
MEMORIES!



**SATURDAY
25TH JULY**



11:00am – 2:00pm

SEND FAMILY HUB

📍 CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

**WEDNESDAY
29TH JULY**



12:00pm – 2:00pm

JUMPING JANNERS

**MONDAY
3RD AUGUST**



10:45am

CINEWORLD TO SEE TOY STORY 5

📍 CINEWORLD, PLYMOUTH

**THURSDAY
6TH AUGUST**



10:00am – 2:00pm

FOOD IS FUN AND STAY & PLAY

📍 CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

**TUESDAY
11TH AUGUST**



10:00am – 2:00pm

POP UP PLAY VILLAGE

📍 CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

**WEDNESDAY
12TH AUGUST**



10:00am – 2:00pm

STAY AND PLAY

📍 CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

**MONDAY
17TH AUGUST**



2:00pm – 3:00pm

SUPERTRAMP

**THURSDAY
20TH AUGUST**



10:00am – 2:00pm

FOOD IS FUN AND STAY & PLAY

📍 CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

**WEDNESDAY
26TH AUGUST**



10:00am – 2:00pm

STAY AND PLAY

📍 CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

**THURSDAY
3RD SEPTEMBER**



6:15pm – 8:00pm

JUMP



Open to our
pupils and
their families only



Funded through
Fit & Fed

#WeCann



For more information, please contact the school office on
01752 207909

Fit & Fed
Healthy minds, healthy bodies

Friends of



CANN BRIDGE SCHOOL

The Friends of Cann Bridge brings together families, staff, and the local community to raise essential funds to support the work of Cann Bridge School. Our efforts range from fundraising for large appeals to funding smaller educational resources and opportunities. Can you help us to make a difference? You can also use our QR code to donate today.

LEARN MORE



www.cannbridgeschool.co.uk/families/friends-of-cann-bridge



Cann Bridge School Fund Charity Number 288503

Raise funds for us for FREE

with  easyfundraising



Join as our supporter today at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause

Just search for:

Cann Bridge
School Fund

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



JOHN
LEWIS



Start at the
easyfundraising
website or app

Click out
to where you'd
like to shop



Checkout:
prices are exactly
the same!

The retailer sends
a % of your spend
to easyfundraising



They pass
it on to us
:)

Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

Over
£60m
raised for UK good causes

£0
extra cost to anyone



IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

If your child qualifies, it means:

- They receive a healthy, hot meal every day at school
- They may be able to access extra support during school holidays, such as free activity clubs
- You save the money you would have spent on lunches each week
- Your child's school receives extra funding to support pupils' education and wellbeing.

Even if your child is in reception to year 2 and automatically gets free school meals, if you receive qualifying benefits you can apply and your school receives extra money!



Scan here to apply online or visit
plymouth.gov.uk/free-school-meals

If you would like some help with signing up, support is available at your local Family or Wellbeing Hub.



Our Mantra, Vision & Values



We Cann...

Together, we aspire to create a nurturing school community by being aspirational, learner focused, collaborative and progressive.

We develop each learner's communication and independence through their school journey to prepare them for the wider world through creative and personalised learning, actively contributing to society, leading to healthy and fulfilled lives.

Together, 'We Cann...' be

Aspirational

**Learner
Focused**

Collaborative

Progressive

Our Behaviour Values at



We Cann...



Our Safeguarding Team



Safeguarding



Team



Josie Cuffe-Fuller

Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)



Shane Baker

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Jennie Ferrett

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Nikki Burrage

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Jackie Carter

Link Governor for
Safeguarding

We help keep you safe and happy at school and at home. If you are worried, tell a member of staff or someone from the Safeguarding Team.

**Safeguarding
is everyone's
responsibility**

Our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Adult Safeguarding Policy and protocol are available on our website.

Report any concerns and incidents through CPOMs or directly to the Safeguarding Team.

You can make contact with governors by emailing clerk@cannbridge.co.uk.

Integrated Front Door (MASH): 01752 668000, or 01752 346984 out of hours, integratedfrontdoor@plymouth.gov.uk. For allegations of abuse to children.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 01752 306758 or LADO@plymouth.gov.uk For allegations of abuse Made by Staff, visitors or volunteers.

Call 999 or 112 if the child is in immediate danger

***Safeguarding is everyone's
responsibility***

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here we highlight simple activities, creative ideas, and safe approaches to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS

Evidence shows that time in nature can benefit children's mental and physical health, learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Nature does not need to be rare, grand, or far away to matter. Common, small, and local spaces can offer valuable opportunities too. Despite competing demands on children's time, many say being in nature makes them happy.

2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS

Children's outdoor play has reduced significantly in recent generations, with independent play and roaming also becoming less common. Reasons can include alternative play options, worries about safety and risk, fewer suitable play spaces, busier roads, and increasingly structured routines. Understanding these barriers helps adults respond with practical, realistic ways to make outdoor time easier and more appealing.

3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

Children can benefit from being in natural spaces even when engaging with nature is not the main activity. Think about everyday pursuits that could be moved outdoors, such as reading, playing cards and board games, arts and crafts, hide and seek, exercising, eating, or chatting. Involve children and young people in creating their outdoor space – for example, an upturned box can become a table, while cushions wrapped in strong bags can make temporary outdoor seating.

4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY

Too much screen time can be unhelpful, but technology can also support nature connection, particular for older children and young people. They can use a camera to document the wildlife they find, create art projects, or record natural sounds. Apps can help identify birdsong, plants, insects, or stars. Older children and young people may also enjoy citizen science projects, where their observations contribute to real environmental research.

5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES

Green spaces are brilliant for exploration, adventure, creativity, and problem-solving. Adventures can be small and local, such as hunting for insects, looking for natural colours, or spotting patterns. They can also be bigger, including hill walks, den building, rock pooling, or watching the sunset. These experiences can create moments of awe and leave lasting memories.

6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME

Even small spaces can help children connect with nature through play and creativity. Seeds can be grown in windowsill boxes or hanging baskets, while herbs, strawberries, flowers, and cherry tomatoes often thrive in containers. Bird feeders, nest boxes, and insect hotels can support local wildlife. Indoors, garden magazines, leaves, and natural textures can inspire imaginative art, storytelling, and play.

7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD

Holidays and weekends can offer children and young people the opportunity to visit country parks, nature reserves, waterways, woods, and the coast. These places may create memorable "Wow!" moments, such as rock pooling, exploring forests, pond dipping, or simply visiting somewhere new. Local activity centres may also offer taster sessions in canoeing, climbing, or archery, helping children and young people try outdoor activities safely.

8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN

Teenagers may be less interested in adult-led activities designed for younger children. They often respond better to challenges, independence, skill building, and meaningful responsibility. Wildlife surveys, photography, outdoor cooking, whittling with safe tools, den building, or conservation tasks can feel more purposeful. Allowing controlled risks can support confidence, judgement, and a stronger connection with nature.

9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE

Natural spaces enable unstructured play and exploration. Adults don't need specialist knowledge to help children enjoy nature and wildlife. Start by noticing what can be heard, smelled, and seen in a garden, school grounds, local park, or on the way to the shops. Encourage walking at a slower pace, looking for birds, leaves, insects, clouds, colours, and patterns, so that nature becomes part of daily living.

10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS

Taking certain small risks in nature can in fact be valuable for children. Getting wet, muddy, or even stung by a nettle can help them understand the consequences of nature, cope with discomfort, build confidence outdoors, and assess situations more safely in future. Adults can support them in these moments by setting clear boundaries, supervising appropriately, teaching safety, and preparing children for all sorts of weather and natural spaces, while still allowing their curiosity, independence, and resilience to grow.

Meet Our Expert

Kate Whitehead leads on Connecting Children with Nature for Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. With a background in ecology and sustainable development, and a passion for education, Kate works to facilitate between the environmental, education, and health sectors, collating research and best practice to support schools to unlock the multitude of benefits nature can offer.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHAT'S REAL ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are growing up in a digital world where seeing and hearing no longer mean they can always believe. One major emerging concern is what UNESCO describes as 'synthetic media': AI-generated audio, images or video, including deepfakes, that can convincingly imitate a person's voice or likeness. As these tools become easier to access, children may encounter manipulated content, cloned voices, and fabricated messages that appear or sound real. Parents and educators therefore need to help them question what they experience online, which can often feel harder when we're experiencing it for the first time, too.

AI-GENERATED CONTENT

Artificial Intelligence can now create realistic images, audio, video, and text in a very short time. Online, children may encounter fabricated news clips, AI 'influencers', fake screenshots, or entirely invented events without ever realising they are fake. The real challenge is that this content often looks polished and convincing. Parents and educators need to help children understand that professional-looking content is not automatically reliable and that all digital material should be questioned before it is trusted or shared.

DEEPFAKES LOOK CONVINCING

'Deepfakes' use AI to alter or create images and videos that appear to show a real person doing or saying something that never happened. They are sometimes used to spread false information, embarrass someone, or target people through bullying and image-based abuse. Even when others know the content is fake, the emotional and reputational impact can still be significant – and, in some cases, potentially life threatening. Deepfakes therefore need to be treated as both a digital literacy and safeguarding concern.

FALSE INFORMATION SPREADS

Misinformation is false or misleading information shared without necessarily intending harm, while disinformation is deliberately created to deceive others. Both types can spread quickly through social media, messaging apps, and video platforms. Their popularity, repetition, and confident presentation can make these false claims feel true. Children may also be more likely to trust content shared by friends, influencers, or familiar accounts, making source-checking and verification essential parts of developing their digital literacy.

VOICES CAN BE CLONED

AI tools can copy someone's voice using only a short audio sample. A child may receive a call or voice note that appears to come from a parent, friend, teacher, or trusted adult, but the audio is not genuine. These messages can be used to create panic, request money, obtain information, or pressure a child into secrecy. Hearing a familiar voice is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity, especially when a message is urgent or unusual.

ACCOUNTS MAY BE FAKE

Not every online profile represents the person it claims to be. Fake accounts may impersonate another pupil, a teacher, a family member, or someone connected to the school. They can be used for acts such as bullying, scams, grooming, or manipulation. A convincing photograph, username, or message history does not prove that an account is genuine. Children should be cautious when someone asks for their or someone else's personal information, images, passwords, money, or access to private conversations.

ALGORITHMS INFLUENCE REALITY

Many online platforms, such as social media, are shaped by algorithms that recommend content based on what users view, like, search for, and share. This means children do not see a neutral or balanced version of the world. They may repeatedly encounter similar opinions, misleading claims, or increasingly extreme content. Over time, this repetition can make an opinion feel more common or credible than it really is, because the child may never see this opinion opposed or countered.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PAUSE, CHECK, COMPARE

Teach children not to accept content as true simply because it looks professional, sounds confident, or has been widely shared. Encourage them to pause, identify the original source, check the date, and compare the claim with another reliable source. Ask questions such as: Who created this? What evidence is provided? Could anything have been altered? What is the real motive? Regular, age-appropriate practice helps children develop the critical thinking needed to navigate their online worlds.

VERIFY ANOTHER WAY

A familiar face, voice, or account is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity. If a message is unusual, urgent, or asks for secrecy, money, personal information, or immediate action, children should verify it through a separate route. They should be encouraged to call the person directly using a known number, speak to them face to face, or check with another trusted adult. Families can also agree a private 'code' phrase to help them authenticate genuine emergency messages from each other. This should be something random, non-personal, and known only to the family.

KEEP TALKING OPENLY

Create regular, non-judgemental conversations about what children see, hear, and experience online. Make sure you use parental controls where appropriate and understand each platform's age restrictions. Asking children about new platforms, influencers, unusual messages, or content they are unsure about can help open up valuable conversations. Avoid immediately blaming the child or removing their device, as this may discourage them from disclosing their concerns in the future.

SAVE, REPORT, SUPPORT

When fake content, impersonation, or manipulation targets a child, take it seriously, even if the material is fabricated. Save relevant messages, usernames, links, and screenshots without sharing the content any further. Report it through the platform, follow safeguarding procedures, and escalate concerns involving threats, grooming, sexual content, coercion, or extortion. Remind children that creating or sharing this content, even as a so-called 'joke', can have serious consequences for them and others, and may be difficult to remove once shared online.

Meet Our Expert

Philippa Wraithmell is an educator, author and digital transformation specialist with expertise in digital safeguarding, online safety, AI in education and whole-school digital strategy. She is the Founder and CEO of EdRupture and works with schools, organisations and policymakers to help create safer, more ethical and more effective digital learning environments for children and young people.



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The National College



FAMILY HELP AND INFORMATION LINE

Need help or advice about your own family?

**Are you a practitioner who wants to get some advice about a family
you are working with?**

Get in touch using our new Early Help and SEND advice line.

Our Family Support Workers are here to talk about any worries or answer your questions.

We can offer support around:

- Parenting guidance
- Emotional wellbeing
- Social and emotional development

- Relationship worries
- Education worries
- School attendance
- SEND concerns
- The SEND process



Book a conversation now at www.plymouth.gov.uk/familyhelp



About Family Hubs

Family Hubs offer support services for families with children aged 0 to 19 (or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities).

Your local Family Hub has:

- information about local support in your area
- groups and activities for all your family
- practical help from professionals and peer supporters
- breast feeding and infant feeding support
- equipment on loan for example, breast pumps
- face to face support, to talk through yours and your family's needs and help you make a plan
- access to extra help if things get difficult

www.plymouth.gov.uk/about-family-hubs

Welcome & Goodbye

We say goodbye to:

Leteasha Paul
Vince Squance
Alana Penney
Amy Leggett
Beth Hildyard
Ewa K-Margas
Luke McGuinness
Rachel Ewart
Ginny Vo

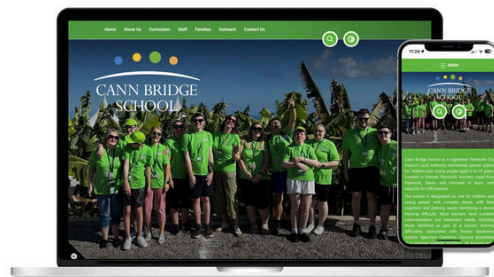
We also say goodbye to our incredible Psychology University students, Syke, Lauren and Sinead. They have been a tremendous asset to the school this last academic year, supporting everything from Zones of Self-Regulation and Rebound Therapy to lunchtime clubs. We thank them for their dedication and wish them every success with the rest of their studies.

We welcome the following new staff:

Hannah Steels
Rasmibala Swain
Laura Smith
Victoria Millar
Hannah Punchard
Beverley Green
Hortensia Calheiros
Ollie Carter
Katie Potter
Lauren Carew

Internal Supply Bank

Teri Barnett



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Our current vacancies:

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