

It's



SUMMER

News on the Ninth
July 2021

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Time

Once again, statutory assessments were cancelled due to the impact of the pandemic. Teachers have worked hard to identify and close gaps in attainment. As a result, progress has been strong. Internal data has demonstrated how our remarkable children have shown their resilience and applied their positive learning behaviours. There is no doubt that we are all incredibly proud! A huge thank you for all the home learning. It has really made a difference!

Spotlight on success...

95% of Year 1 children would pass the phonic screening

85% of children have made at least good progress in reading

79% of children are working at the expected standard in science

Average attendance rate is 98%

79% of children have made at least good progress in writing

82% of children have made at least good progress in maths

86% of children have made at least good progress in science

June 2021
The school has been awarded the Wellbeing Quality Mark

End of Year Reports



You will be receiving your child's end of year report this week and will have seen that all the children have contributed their own thoughts about the past year at school. I have really enjoyed reading what they had to say. Regardless of the impact of the lockdowns, the children have engaged in their learning and embraced their learning opportunities. We collectively should be very proud of their resilience!

Swimming next term

The local pool and swimming instructors have restructured their way of working. Instead of weekly lessons, the children will be swimming for an hour each day for 10 consecutive school days. Instructors assure us that this is an effective method as it has a positive impact on progress.

Why it is important to learn to swim:

- 1 **Safety** – It could save your life!
- 2 **Fun**- Swimming is an enjoyable activity that can be done at any age!
- 3 **Exercise** – Swimming keeps us fit!
- 4 **Opportunity** - You need to know how to swim if you want to go boating, kayaking, canoeing, snorkeling, go to the beach, water skiing, surfing, sailing... (and more)!
- 5 **Experience** - Swimming is one more thing to make you a well-rounded individual.
- 6 **Health** - Swimming is a great way to keep your heart and body healthy. It builds stamina, strength and posture. It can help to maintain good mental health and wellbeing.
- 7 **Life-Long Skill** - No matter what age, swimming is a skill you will always use.

School Uniform

Our school uniform comprises:

- Smart, plain grey short or long trousers (not sportswear, leggings, jeggings, chinos or jogging bottoms except in Nursery)
- Sky blue polo shirts or shirts
- Plain grey skirts or pinafores (or pale blue gingham dresses in the Summer term)
- Navy blue sweatshirt or navy blue cardigan (preferably with the school logo)
- Black, navy, grey or white tights or socks
- Socks/tights **must** be worn for hygiene purposes
- Black shoes or plain black trainers – no laced shoes in Reception from September 2021. (From September 2022, trainers will not be permitted)

PE clothing:

All pupils are expected to participate in PE / Games lessons. Children need to dress safely for PE. They should wear plain, **close fitting**:

- Navy blue shorts
- White tee shirt
- Black plimsolls for indoor PE and velcro trainers for outdoor PE
- Hair tie for long hair

Please check the school uniform list before purchasing uniform and shoes for September.

RAINBOW FUN RUN



On Wednesday 7th July, the children in each class had the chance to take part in our Rainbow Fun Run fund raising event. We would like to congratulate all children who took part and helped raise a total of £3,620, this will go towards new reading books in the classrooms.

Classes 2021/22

Current teacher	Current class	Class Teacher in September	2021/22 Class name in September
		Mrs Farmer	N Saplings
Mrs Farmer	N Saplings	Miss Ingamells	R Acer
Mrs Farmer	N Saplings	Miss C Johnson	R Alder
Mrs Lindsay-Hill	R Alder	Mrs T Johnson	1 Birch
Miss Ingamells	R Acer	Mrs Scott	1 Beech
Mrs Scott	1 Beech	Miss Buckley	2 Cherry
Mrs Johnson	1 Birch	Miss Jones	2 Cedar
Miss Jones	2 Cedar	Mrs Sinclair	3 Hazel
Miss Buckley	2 Cherry	Miss Sherwood	3 Hawthorn
Mrs Moss	3 Hornbeam	Miss Holmes	4 Magnolia
Mrs Sinclair	3 Hazel	Mr Burt	4 Maple
Mr Burt	4 Maple	Mrs Barnard	5 Pine
Miss Smith	4 Magnolia	Mr Rock	5 Palm
Miss Turner	4 Mulberry	Mrs Moss	5 Poplar
Mrs Manning	5 Pine	Miss Smith	6 Sycamore
Mrs Neilly	5 Poplar	Miss Turner	6 Spruce

Nursery



Nursery have been learning the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children have learnt the story through actions, used stick puppets to retell the story and created their own story maps. There has been extra excitement as we have had real live caterpillars in the classroom! The children have been very gentle while exploring and watching the caterpillars grow and grow then change into butterflies.

Reception



In Reception, we have had some very exciting visitors in our classroom. They arrived as little caterpillars and we watched them grow. They soon each made a chrysalis and then emerged as butterflies! We enjoyed watching and looking after them, before finally releasing them in the Orchard. We were very gentle and even got to hold them. We will look forward to looking out for them on our future Orchard visits.

Year 1

In Year 1 we are learning about plants and flowers this half term in science. As part of this, we spent the afternoon spotting various plants and flowers in our Orchard area. Children also spotted lots of insects and minibeasts that come out at this time of year.

We then went on to build camps in groups, making sure that all structures were strong and safe for all to use. When it was time to return to class, we made sure that we put everything we had used back to where we had found it- learning not only to tidy up after ourselves but also the importance of leaving nature the way we found it.



Year 2



In Year 2 we have had a lot of fun in our design and technology lessons designing, making and evaluating our own fire engines with moving parts! Would you believe this began as a tissue box? The children have used mod rock to create the basic structure of their fire engine and then thought about which type of axle would be best. Complete with ladder, hose and blue lights these fire engines come fully equipped! Well done Year 2, they look fantastic!

This half term in art, year 2 are learning about 'Patterns and Printing'. This week we took our art lesson outside and searched for patterns in nature. We were surprised by how many patterns we found! Then, we created repeating patterns using natural materials.



Year 3



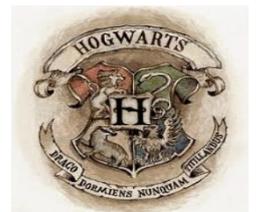
We completed our DT project 'Moving Monsters'. We created our pneumatics systems to control the movement using a selection of balloons and syringes. We were very proud of the end products and were able to evaluate them and make suggestions for improvements in the future.

In English, we have been learning about newspapers. We enjoyed reading different articles with our learning partners. We have written captions for photographs, made up our own headlines and are now writing our own newspaper articles.



Year 4

In year 4, we have been continuing our Harry Potter themed work in English, focusing upon persuasion. The children have produced some incredibly persuasive work about why Hogwarts should be attended – demonstrating all the skills they have learnt. We have also continued learning about electrical circuits, investigating how they work and how to successfully make bulbs and motors work.



Year 5



Hands washed, aprons on, knives at the ready ... Year 5 did a great job learning how to cook pasta bolognese. After watching a tutorial from Buddy Oliver (Jamie Oliver's son), the children mastered the necessary chopping, frying and simmering. Apart from the fact that many tears were shed during the onion chopping phase, the final dish was a roaring success and totally delicious. Sorry parents, none for you, we ate it all at school!

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about biased and unbiased arguments. First, we researched zoos, specifically the advantages and disadvantages. Next, we wrote our own unbiased arguments regarding zoos, focusing on the language and format. We then held a whole class debate, with teams for and against zoos. The adjudicators decided which team won the debate. We had a fantastic debate with a variety of points made by different children.



We have also been doing our own relief printing. First, we designed our own Harry Potter printing (based on the houses). Next, we transferred our designs onto Styrofoam and then onto fabric. These look fantastic! In addition, everybody thoroughly enjoyed the fun run (even some adults joined in)!

Year 6

As part of our Leavers' activities, we went to The Edge Activity Centre for 2 days of action-packed fun, adventure and learning. In groups, we experienced many exciting and new sports and activities together.



We learned the basic safety skills of wearing a harness and climbing and were then challenged to try the lower, middle or high course of climbing ladders and traversing tyres and ropes.

It was very scary but very exciting at the same time.

If we managed the higher levels, we could return to earth using the zip-wire – that was the best part!

We had to learn to listen carefully to instructions, use the safety equipment correctly and balance! It was just as tiring to concentrate as to climb. This was easy after the High Ropes – or so we thought. There were 4 different routes to the top which became more difficult each time. We were able to use the skills we learned on the High Rope Course.



Mountain Boarding



We felt as if we were in the Olympics as we boarded down the hillside. We could either stand or sit down but we had to learn how to keep our balance and turn. Watch out in the future, there are some real Year 6 superstars here!

Zorb Strike was one of the funniest things to do as we rolled about. We chased each other, crashed into each other and knocked each other over and, most of the time, ended up upside down!

We played games of soccer snooker, footgolf and soccer darts.



Overall, we had an amazing time. We learned so much and had such fun. There are new sports that we would like to take up and new skills we have learned.

But the most important thing was that we all challenged ourselves and pushed ourselves to ... The Edge!

Thank you to all the staff at school who came with us and to the centre staff for such an awesome time.

eSafety – TikTok



TikTok is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos. It is growing in popularity with children but there have been numerous reported problems from parents about children accessing / posting inappropriate content. If your children do use TikTok, this website <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/> has some invaluable advice to how to keep the children as safe as possible.

And finally... I would like to thank parents for their very positive contribution to the school over the past year. You will have seen improved attainment, positive attitudes to learning, and happy young people and I'm sure that's what we all wish to see with our children.

The school has set itself highly ambitious targets which have been the driving force for staff development and the school's Governing Body has worked tirelessly together with the Senior Leadership Team and all of the staff to continue to improve the school.

I am sure that you would also like to join me in thanking the staff for their dedication and hard work.

Thank you, once again, for your on-going partnership. Have a great summer holiday and we'll see you once again bright and refreshed for another busy year at Commonswood in September.



Diary Dates

June	
19 th July	Year 6 BBQ – 4pm
19 th July	Year 6 Bell Ringing 9am – Sycamore
20 th July	Last day for Nursery children Year 6 Bell Ringing 9am - Spruce
21 st July	End of term – staggered gate times for collection from the usual pick-up points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception – 12.10 – Gate 1 • Year 1 – 12.20 – Gate 1 • Year 2 – 12.30 – Gate 1 • Year 3 – 12.20 – Gate 3 • Year 4 – 12.10 – Gate 3 • Year 5 – 12.30 – Gate 3 • Year 6 – 12.20 – Gate 5
September	
1 st Sept	Staff inset day
2 nd Sept	Children return to school

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2021/2022

Autumn Term

Wednesday 1 st September	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Thursday 2 nd September	Term commences for children
Friday 22 nd October	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Monday 25 th October – 29 th October	Half Term – children do not attend
Monday 29 th November	Occasional Day – children do not attend
Tuesday 21 st December	Term ends

Spring Term

Wednesday 5 th January	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Thursday 6 th January	Term commences for children
Monday 14 th February – 18 th February	Half Term – children do not attend
Friday 1 st April	Term ends

Summer Term

Tuesday 19 th April	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Wednesday 20 th April	Term commences for children
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday – children do not attend
Friday 27 th May	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Monday 30 th May – 3 rd June	Half Term – children do not attend
Friday 22 nd July	Term ends

Term time holidays have a negative impact on friendships and learning. Please avoid taking your child out of school during term time. Term time holidays are not authorised.

Section 7 Education Act 1996 places a duty on parents to ensure that their child of compulsory age attends school.



Commonswood Primary & Nursery School is a Safeguarding School

We are an Encompass School working with external agencies to support children who are victims of domestic abuse.

'All schools have a clear responsibility placed on them by the Children Act 1989 and by guidance from the Department of Education to safeguard the welfare of all their pupils. In doing so schools are expected to consult with Social Services if they believe there is a possibility that a child may be suffering from abuse or neglect.'

If you have any concerns about children please contact 0300 123 4043.

Mrs G Seymour (Designated Senior Person), Mrs S Manning (Deputy Designated Person), Mrs N Scatchard (Deputy Designated Person), Mr S Burt (Deputy Designated Person for eSafety & Mrs D Lindsay-Hill (Deputy Designated Person),

Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Noakes