



News on the Ninth February 2022

School Award



We are proud to say that we have received the Modeshift Stars gold accreditation for all the work we do to encourage safe and sustainable travel to and from school. The children learn about the health benefits of walking to school, the importance of clean air, and of course road safety. Thank you for supporting initiatives such as walk to school week, cycle and scoot to school week, park and stride and the Don't Be a Road Monster campaign.

Sports News

Indoor Athletics

January and February are busy months for school sports events. Indoor athletics takes centre stage for years 4, 5 and 6.

Indoor athletics is one of the biggest events in the sporting calendar, and we work extremely hard in our PE lessons to give ourselves the best possible chance in the competitions.

Year 4 and 5 children went to Ridgeway to compete in a Ridgeway family competition, both teams showed great athleticism, sportsmanship, and brilliant encouragement of each other. Both teams came out winners and learnt a lot from the experience to give themselves a great chance when competing in Year 6.

The year 6 competition is multi levelled. Winning each round progresses you to the next level. The first round was against Ridgeway family schools (Commonswood, Watchlytes, Panshanger, Springmead, Waterside academy, and Swallow Dell). This is a tough challenge but on the 27th January Commonswood progressed as winners to the district Finals. The district final is where the 2 winning schools from Stanborough, Ridgeway, Monkswalk and Onslow compete to try and go through to the County Finals. We are delighted and excited to say,



for the first time, Commonswood girls' team will be representing Welwyn and Hatfield district in the County finals. The boys finished 2nd place just missing out by 2 points.

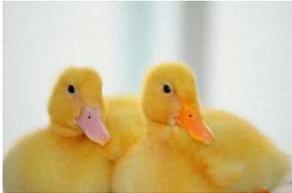
Commonswood did finish overall District champions with all children receiving gold medals!

We will continue to practice and prepare for the County finals, and you never know, we could progress to the national final.

Well done to all children in these years. We are so proud!

Mr Marshment

Ducklings Arrival



We are pleased to announce that we will be having the duck eggs in school after half term. The children are able to watch the hatching process and care for the ducklings. We are all very excited!

Nursery

Since returning to nursery after the Christmas break the children have been interested in looking for birds; we spotted a robin during a visit to the woods. We decided to fill up the bird feeders and hang them in the garden; we have been watching to see which birds might enjoy the food that we left for them. We spotted mostly magpies and pigeons. We will continue to look out for different types of bird.



Reception



Just as we were starting to learn our new Talk4Writing story, we witnessed a robbery! A silly robber stole Jennie Jigsaw from our classroom. We looked for clues, made wanted posters and wrote the robber letters. We finally managed to find Jennie safe and sound in the Orchard, along with a book all about the police, the robber, and his gang. We have enjoyed finding out all about the police and other people who help us.



Year 1

In Year 1 Art lessons we have been looking at sculptures. We went for a walk around our school to see all the wonderful sculptures we have, discussed what they were made of and what they reminded us of. Following that, we spent a day practising techniques that we need to create sculptures, planning our sculpture and then making it and painting it – a very busy day!



Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning about non-chronological reports in our literacy lessons. The children had a lot of fun learning a report on 'Ice witches' and, using their 'talk for writing,' performed the report together in groups to the rest of the class.



Year 3



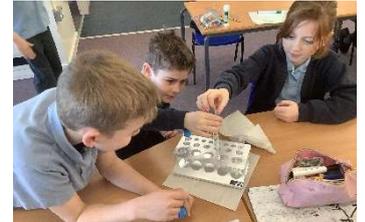
Our visit to the orchard saw us lighting a fire in order to heat up our Stone Age stew – some of us really liked the stew, others weren't too keen!!



Year 4



In science, we have been learning about solids, liquids and gases. Part of this unit of work involved learning to use a thermometer to measure the temperature of different water samples. We also observed how water can change state from a liquid to a gas and then back to a liquid



Year 5

A group of Year 5 children took part in a Samba drum workshop then shared their newly acquired skills with their peers and parents in the Hatfield Lantern Parade on Saturday 11th December. Despite the damp and cold weather, the children showed great enthusiasm.



Year 5 have also begun their swimming lessons this term. Poplar are already showing rapid progress and increased confidence. Their lessons are a very popular topic of conversation!

Swimming achievements – Poplar 31 Jan - 4 Feb 2022

5m aided – Imogen, Sofya

3m – William

5m – Alecia

10m – Aston-Kai, Brooke, Louis, Mia-Rose, Simon

25m – Ally, Ayden, Dylan, Edward, Oliver, Thomas

50m – Max, Zachary

33m+, sculling feet and head first, lifesaving dummy test - Annierose

66m+, sculling feet and head first, lifesaving dummy test – Bethany, Daisy, Delara, Jessica, Linus, Maddison, Radil.



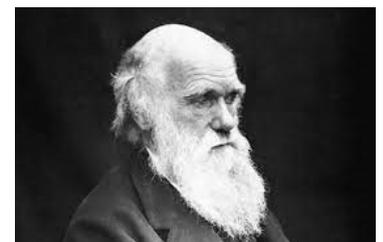
Year 6



In Year 6, in English, we are in the process of writing our suspense narrative based on the short film 'Alma'. We have been looking at ways to create tension and suspense in our writing.

In Science, we are looking at Evolution and how animals have adapted to suit their environments. We learnt about a man called Charles Darwin who came up with the idea of 'natural selection'. In Geography, we are focusing on Brazil and are using our atlas (and Maths) skills to learn

about 6-figure grid references.



Attendance

Well done Cherry class your are in the lead!

Class	Wins
Birch	5
Beech	10
Cedar	10
Cherry	15

Class	Wins
Hazel	5
Hawthorn	5
Magnolia	5
Maple	3
Pine	1
Palm	5
Poplar	5
Spruce	1
Sycamore	1

Children in Need



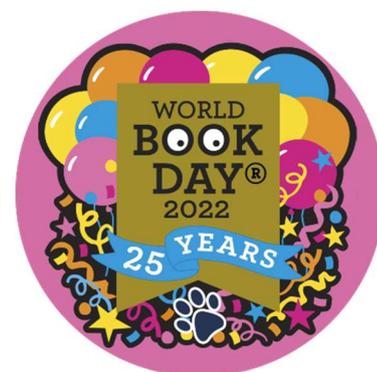
Thank you to all who contributed for Children in Need total raised was £287.00

Workshops

Within the parent section of the school website is a 'virtual' workshop for years 2-6. Our aim was to provide some further information about the curriculum and provide information about how we can work together to help your child make progress. So we can plan further workshops, we would appreciate feedback whether they have been useful and suggestions for future workshops.

World Book Day 2022

World book day will be celebrated on **Thursday 3rd March** this year. We would like the children to come to school dressed in pyjamas to celebrate world book day. Pyjamas are of course connected to bedtime, which is the time of day when many of us read or are read to. We also want the focus of the day to be on reading and about books that inspire us, rather than finding or making a good costume which can be expensive. Throughout the day there will be fun activities linked to our favourite books and authors and of course, lots of reading! So, join us in celebrating world book day by coming to school in your pyjamas (and dressing gown if the weather is cold!). Children are asked to wear trainers (any colour) and not slippers on this day.



Road Safety



Different year groups took part in road safety workshops. Each year group learnt different skills, starting with how to keep safe whilst crossing the road, where to cross the road and how to cross the road. The older children discussed distractions that they may encounter, such as using a phone or talking to friends. The importance of wearing bright clothes at night was also discussed and then we were given the opportunity to purchase light reflectors to keep us safe.



Year 3 continued this work during their science lessons on 'light'. They investigated reflective materials and watched different road safety videos.

Online Safety



Attached with this newsletter is Hertfordshire's online safety newsletter for parents. It contains information about potential problems with current sites and apps which children may be using, along with details about where to go for support and advice.

8th February was the International 'Safer Internet Day' which the school took part in. At Commonswood, we teach the children about online safety in every year

group, throughout the year and this day helps to re-iterate some key messages. This year's focus was online gaming and being respectful to all.

I hope that many of you were able to 'virtually' attend the parent workshop yesterday and found it useful.

Music

Free music lessons at Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts.

We have a very exciting opportunity for children to learn a musical instrument for FREE at Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts for half a term for:

- Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon
- Cello, Double Bass
- Trumpet, Trombone, French horn
- Orchestral percussion

The free lessons will be in small groups thus giving the experience and joy of group playing as well as playing solo.

The Centre will provide the instruments for FREE, and if your child chooses to carry on with lessons, the instrument can be kept until the end of the academic year.

Lessons will be allocated on a first-come-first served basis. If you are interested, please see the poster attached to this email which explains how to sign up.

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 – NO playsuits which are unsuitable as they require children to undress each time they go to the toilet)
- 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 logo or white/coloured soles or coloured laces. No laced shoes in Reception.
- **Changes for September 2022 only formal plain sensible black school shoes must be worn. No trainers, boots or sandals.**
- Wellington boots can be worn in wet weather but children must change into school shoes on arrival.

HERTFORDSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE

Get Playing

Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts

Hertfordshire Music Service is proud to be joining the national campaign by Music Mark called 'Get Playing', offering an exciting opportunity to get more young people into music.

The Get Playing project has the ambition to enable and inspire 2,000 young people in Hertfordshire to start instrumental music lessons.

At Mid Herts we are going to be offering half a term of free group lessons for children who are not already learning an instrument.

Music is good for your brain. Regularly singing or playing an instrument is linked with improvements in your brain, especially memory and focus.

Instrument	Age group	Time and day of session
Young Flutes	Year 1- 2	Saturdays 1.40pm - 2.10pm
	Year 4-6	Tuesdays 5.10pm - 5.40pm
Flute	Year 7-9	Tuesdays 6.00pm - 6.30pm
	Year 4-6	Thursdays 4.15pm - 4.45pm
Oboe	Year 7-9	Thursdays 4.45pm - 5.15pm
	Year 4-6	Wednesdays 4.30pm - 5.00pm
Clarinet	Year 7-9	Wednesdays 5.30pm - 6.00pm
	Year 4-6	Thursdays 4.00pm - 4.30pm
Bassoon	Year 7-9	Thursdays 6.30pm - 7.00pm
	Year 3-5	Saturdays 12.50pm - 1.20pm
Cello	Year 3-5	Wednesdays 4.30pm - 5.00pm
	Year 5-6	Wednesdays 4.00pm - 4.30pm
Double Bass	Year 4-6	Fridays 4.10pm - 4.40pm
Trumpet/Trombone	Year 4-6	Fridays 5.15pm - 5.45pm
French Horn	Year 4-6	Saturdays 1.30pm - 2.00pm
Trumpet	Year 5-7	Mondays 5.30pm - 6.00pm
	Year 8-10	Mondays 7.00pm - 7.30pm
Orchestral Percussion	Year 5-7	Mondays 5.30pm - 6.00pm
	Year 8-10	Mondays 7.00pm - 7.30pm

QR code:

To sign up please visit <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/GetPlaying/> or scan the QR code

Follow @HertsMusic
hertsmusicservice.org.uk

Hertfordshire

Nursery Applications



If your child was born between 1st September 2018 – 31st August 2019 they are eligible to start at our Nursery in September 2022. Please visit our school website for a virtual tour of our Nursery. Application forms are available from the school office admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk or via our website.

Nursery applications close at 4pm on the 7th March 2022.



Diary Dates

February	
14 th – 18 th	Half term
21 st	Pine swimming Palm swimming Duck eggs arrive
22 nd	Young Hearts Yr6
March	
3 rd	Ducklings depart World book day. Children to dress up in pj's (not as book characters) with trainers
15 th	Young Carers Forum
16 th	Year 4 Pedestrian skills
17 th	Year 4 Pedestrian skills
21 st	Last week of clubs Big Walk and Wheel (The Big Pedal).
28 th	No Clubs this week
31 st	Nursery last day of term
April	
1 st	End of Term - 12.25 – EY and KS1 and 12.30 – KS2
19 th	Inset day children do not attend
20 th	Term commences for children
May	
2 nd	Bank Holiday
9 th	KS2 SAT's week
27 th	Inset day children do not attend
30 th -3 rd	Half term

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

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2022/2023

Autumn Term

Thursday 1 st September	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Friday 2 nd September	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Monday 5 th September	Term commences
Monday 24 th October to Friday 28 th October Half Term	
Friday 25 th November	Occasional Day Children Do Not Attend
Wednesday 21 st December	Term Ends

Spring Term

Thursday 5 th January	Term commences
Monday 13 th February to Friday 17 th February Half Term	
Friday 31 st March	Term Ends

Summer Term

Monday 17 th April	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Tuesday 18 th April	Term commences
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday – Children do not attend
Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June Half Term	

Monday 5 th June	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Thursday 20 th July	Term ends
Friday 21 st July	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend

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), Mr S Burt (Deputy Designated Person for eSafety & Mrs D Lindsay-Hill (Deputy Designated Person), Miss K Dean

Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Noakes