



News on the Ninth March 2022



Nursery

The children were so excited to see the duckling eggs in the incubator and made lots of guesses as to what might hatch. We went to visit the duckling and got to hold or stroke them. The children were on their best behaviour “they are so soft”, “we have to be so quiet, so we don’t scare the ducklings”. We read about ducklings in our nature book and learnt how the mummy duck teaches them to swim and feed. We learnt that ducklings have webbed feet to help them to swim. On the ducklings last day at school we crept in to say goodbye!



Reception

Reception were very excited about the arrival of our eggs at school. We have learnt about which animals lay eggs and made some predictions about what would hatch from our eggs. We thought of class rules to take care of the ducklings that hatched out and were very gentle when handling and visiting them.

We have also enjoyed spending a lot of time with our Year 6 buddies. We visited the Orchard together to explore and build a bonfire. They were very kind and helpful. We have also been able to play and read stories with them each week.



Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed spending some time with the ducklings and watching them run around and swim.

Year 2



Year 2 have been very busy with their design and technology learning. We have researched, designed, created, and evaluated our own money pouches. The children practised 3 different types of stitches and then chose the stitch that they preferred. They even added a button and extra details! Threading a needle is not always an easy task, the children in Year 2 rose to the challenge and have created some fantastic money pouches!



Year 3

Wow! What a fun couple of weeks back we have had! We've been making toast as part of explanation texts in English, then making (and drinking) hot chocolate to inspire us to make up our own ideas on how a kettle works. For RE and Shrove



Tuesday, we chopped up fruit for pancakes which were delicious. In art we have been weaving paper and finally in music we've started to learn to play the recorder. Also, our vegetable story characters were fantastic!



Year 4

As we continue our learning about Ancient Egypt unit, we have been learning about mummification and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. We have used our art skills to make our own version of a burial mask.

Swimming achievements – Pine and Palm 7th February – 25th February

Our new way of swimming each day over a two week period has produced some fantastic results!



5m – Bobby-Joe

10m – Brooke

15m – Saleem, Lily, Gino, Pariza, Jessie, Angus, Mahitha, Lexi, Jay, Roxy

20m – Daisy, Darcy, Laycie

25m – Ava, Maia, Reshai, Daniah

33m+, sculling feet and head first, lifesaving – Amelia, Nyla, Bailey, Layal, Jude, Oliver, Mason, Addison, Charlie, Courtney, Manogna, Autumn, Grace, Henry

66m+, sculling feet and head first, lifesaving – Ella, Ruby, Bella, Lois, Ruby H, Logan, Austin, Mia, Nia

200m+, sculling feet and head first, lifesaving – Emilia, Oliver

Year 6



Year 6 have been learning about the features of a non-chronological report and have been learning the difference uses of colons and semi colons.

They have just finished 4 weeks of learning about relationships, respect and consent with Stephanie from Young Hearts, which was very informative. The children also really enjoyed their visits with the ducklings.



School council news



On 4th March, the school council had a visit from Natasha who works for the charity Asthma and Lung UK. The children asked her lots of questions about asthma, its medication and how we can help. We found out that fundraising helps by funding nurses who run a helpline, paying for research and changing policy to try and make sure that when politicians make decisions, they think about the effect on our air quality.

School council are going to become Clean Air Champions for the charity, do an assembly to raise awareness, run a competition and of course do some fundraising. Further details will be announced later in the year.

Whole School Art Competition



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 'New beginnings' art competition. The entries covered a range of styles and various media, all interpreting the theme in their own way. The children were all eager to share their entries with their teachers.

Winners were announced in Key Stage assemblies this week and certificates and prizes were awarded as follows:

Year group	Runners up	Highly commended	Winner
Nursery		Vienna	Roberto
Reception	Sebastian (Alder) Evie (Alder)	Darcee (Alder)	Jake (Alder)
1	Pola (Birch) Milo (Birch)	Isabelle (Beech)	Lucy (Beech)
2	Josiah (Cheery) Amelia (Cedar)	Franklin (Cherry)	Bethany (Cedar)
3	Luca (Hawthorn) Oscar (Hazel)	Abigail (Hazel)	Sienna (Hawthorn)
4	Brooke (Magnolia)	Mia (Maple)	Roman (Magnolia)

	Riley (Maple)		
5	Simon (Poplar) Ally (Poplar) Lily (Pine) Ruby (Pine)	Austin/Oliver (Palm)	Emilia (Palm)
6	Johann (Spruce) Joshua (Sycamore)	Flora (Spruce)	Amy (Sycamore)

Thank you to Val Fowler from John Lewis for her time judging the final entries and for supplying the prizes for each winner.



Fox Club

Children at Fox Club have thoroughly enjoyed spending extra time with the ducklings over the last two weeks. Small groups of children visited regularly to check on their progress and to let them out for exercise - judging by the excitement from the ducks, they seemed to love it too! We can't wait to do it again next year.



Packed lunches

We would like to remind you of our packed lunch guidance. We are noticing that some children have a lot of food in their lunch boxes, and many feel that they need to eat it all, which can lead to unnecessary stress at lunchtime. Please note the guidance below, which can also be found on our website.

Your child's lunchbox should contain:

1. Main	2. Fruit, veg or both	3. Snack
This could be based on a sandwich, some pasta, rice and/or a protein item such as cold meat. Whatever you choose, make sure it is enough to fill your child up.	Fresh, tinned, frozen or dried fruit is all good.  Any vegetables you like – include a dip if you want to keep it interesting.	<u>One</u> snack item. This could be a yogurt, cheese, crisps, biscuit, etc. Try some healthy swaps such as popcorn instead of crisps.

You don't need to include a drink. All children are provided with fresh drinking water while they eat. We even flavour some of it with fresh fruit. Please support all children drinking water together.

Please avoid:

Too much food	Too much choice	Items not allowed
Your child's stomach is only this big  Take this into account when calculating portion size.	1,2,3 will be enough food. In addition, all children should be eating a fruit/veg snack mid-morning to keep them going. If your child is in Years 3-6 please send this in each day.	We have always said no to nuts, fizzy drinks, chocolate bars and sweets. If we see these, we ask children to take them home again. Avoid pressed fruit such as Winders as these are high in sugar content and children need to learn that these do not have the nutritional content of fresh fruit.

A note on waste – Children may throw away messy waste such as fruit skins/cores, yogurt pots and anything that might leak. Wrappers and uneaten food will be brought home.

eSafety



Parental controls on devices can offer different types of protection. From filtering out adult content in search results, to preventing your child from buying things when playing games. You can find instructions on how to set controls on the manufacturer's website or to find specific guidance for your device, network or platform use this online tool from the 'Internet Matters' website. Control settings will apply whether the device is being used in your home or outside. It's also easy for controls to be switched off, so make sure your child understands why the settings are in place.

Non Uniform Day

We will be having a non-uniform on the last day of term, 1st April 2022, to raise funds for aid for Ukraine. Please log onto Gateway to make contributions as from Monday 14th March 2022.

Diary Dates

March	
14 th	Juniors School Councillor's to Westminster Abbey
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).
24 th	Zoolab workshop Year 3
28 th	No Clubs this week
31 st	Nursery last day of term
April	
1 st	Non uniform day End of Term – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – 12.25pm End of Term – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 – 12.30pm
19 th	Inset day children do not attend
20 th	Term commences for children
May	
2 nd	Bank Holiday
9 th	KS2 SATs 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 (Designated Senior Person)

Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Noakes