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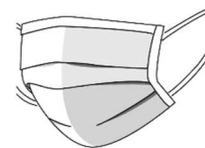
As you will be aware, the Covid-19 case rate throughout Hertfordshire remains high especially in younger and unvaccinated age groups leading to several recent outbreaks within school communities. We have outbreak management plans in place at school which largely consist of reinstating bubbles.

The local Authority monitors levels of Covid-19 in schools and are currently recommending that we remain cautious in planning gatherings or large events running up to Christmas. Therefore, we aim to repeat last year's Christmas arrangements which were very successful given the circumstances.

Christmas lunch will be held over 2 days. This gives the children more time in the dining room to enjoy the festivities. Christmas performances will be recorded.

Facemasks

A polite reminder to all parents to wear face masks while on the school premises. Thank you.



Nursery

The children have enjoyed learning about different types of woodland creatures and how they behave in the Autumn. We took clay to the woods and used natural resources such as twigs, leaves and pinecones to create our own hedgehogs. The children were very excited to discover holes in the woods too, "maybe a badger lives in there." They were surprised to discover that many woodland animals are asleep all day and awake all night, some of the children could remember the word 'nocturnal'!



Reception



We have enjoyed our first talk4writing text: The Little Red Hen. We have retold the story in lots of different ways and even thought of our own characters to tell our own versions of the story. The Little Red Hen was so impressed that she bought us some ingredients to make our own dough. We decided to make pizza dough and linked this into our wanderlust learning about mushrooms to make mushroom pizzas! We carefully measured out the ingredients and followed the recipe. They were delicious!

Year 1

In Year 1 we learnt and explored our senses as part of our Animals and Humans learning.



Year 2



In History, Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. Throughout the half term they have learnt about how the fire started, why the fire spread and how London was rebuilt. They enjoyed a fantastic day, where they got to dive into Pudding Lane and visit the shops that would have been open in 1666. The children were able to experience using many tools used from the time. The children had a great time!



Year 3

More outdoor learning! In science we are looking at forces and friction. We started by investigating push and pull forces. We went outside and investigated different types of equipment including throwing balls, using bats, springs, javelins and our bodies. Then we looked inside the classroom to find other items including pulling opening a drawer, pulling down our coat zip and pulling open a book. Next, we will be investigating the force of magnets!

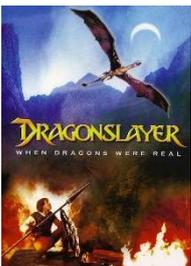


Year 4

We have visited the Orchard to investigate different trees and habitats.



Year 5



In English, we are coming to end of our work on 'Dragon Slayer' and are using the knowledge we have built up during the unit to write a new chapter for the story. We have moved onto volcanoes in Geography and are learning about their location, formation and how they erupt. We will be creating volcano landscape paintings in Art where we will focus on perspective to enhance our artwork.

Year 6

Year 6 have got back into the swing of life in the classroom after returning from Skern and having a restful half term. We are now focusing on newspaper report writing and further developing our understanding of justice and fairness in relation to WWII in RE and History.



Fox Club

At Fox Club, the children have been very keen to have their own garden. They chose the plants they'd like to grow, decided how to arrange them, and worked together to plant them, all whilst getting very muddy!

It's quite colourful and good for nature and wildlife. Some of the plants smell nice and some are a bit too strong! Look out for what else will grow in the spring - Megan (Hawthorn), Alice (Cedar) and James (Beech).

Plans are being made for their next garden project soon



PE Clothing

Please ensure that children bring their PE kits and trainers into school every Monday and take them home every Friday

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

- Shorts – **blue**
- Tee shirt – **white (no logos)**
- Trainers
- Socks if your child wears tights
- **No watches or any other jewellery**

A loose-fitting sweatshirt (not school uniform) and jogging bottoms may also be useful during the colder, winter months when some PE / games lessons take place outside. **Children should not wear replica kits or expensive branded clothing.**

Reception Workshop

Thank you to all the parents that turned out for the Reception Workshop. It was fantastic to see such a big response.

Parent Governor

We would like to welcome Mrs Stephanie Barrows to the school's Governing Body as our new Parent Governor. Mrs Barrows has two children attending Commonswood.

New Member of Staff

We would like to welcome Ms Dean, our new SENCo, to our Senior Leadership Team. She is looking forward to joining us full time from January.

Odd Sock Day



Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! CBBC and CBeebies star Andy Day and his band will release a totally rocking tune to celebrate Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying and, whilst we can't reveal much, if last year's songs and videos are anything to go by, it will be a show-stopper. Andy will highlight **Odd Socks Day** on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. There's a serious message behind the fun: let's pull on odd socks to show we're ALL unique and different, and let's be kind to each other and respect each other's individuality. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents

to buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to your school or

workplace, it couldn't be simpler! Odd Socks day will take place on the first day of Anti Bullying Week, **Monday 15th November**, to help raise awareness of bullying.

Children in Need 2021



This year we are raising money for Children in Need, which helps children and young people around the world. **Friday 19th November** will be a non-uniform day where children can dress up in spotty outfits and Pudsey accessories (ears, wristbands and badges) if they would like to. Please donate £1 to Children in need via School Gateway. Pudsey merchandise is available for purchase in your local shops, Post Office and Asda.



ONE KIND WORD

Anti-bullying Week 2021

This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long-lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers, politicians and

the media, to children and young people, we all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference. We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.

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 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.



Webinars – A selection of webinars are available to parents and carers via the link below. This programme of webinars cover a variety of topics including stress, sleep and relaxation, as well as worry and anxiety, mindfulness and bereavement. These webinars provide educational and practical help to support you to learn relevant Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques to make positive change in your life.

<https://www.hpft-iapt.nhs.uk/resources-and-self-help/webinars>

Family Support Worker



For those of you who do not know me, I am Sian Mills and I am the Family Support Worker at Commonswood Primary & Nursery School. I am in school every Tuesday and Friday morning and this term, I am pleased to be offering a drop-in for parents/carers. I look forward to meeting you in the Dining Hall and sharing a tea or coffee while I explain my role and offer support if needed. If you would like to book a slot to meet with me between 8.45am – 9.15am on any of the dates below, please email admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk

Family Support Worker Drop-in dates (8.45am – 9.15am)

Early Years, Years 1 & 2

16.11.2021

30.11.2021

14.12.2021

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

23.11.2021

07.12.2021



Family Support

Priya Dam, School Family Worker, from the Welwyn Garden City & Hatfield Schools Partnership will be in school on Tuesday 16th November from 8.45am.

Priya has a wealth of knowledge regarding services available to support families. If you would like to book a 15-minute slot to discuss concerns with Priya, please send an email to s.mills@commonswood.herts.sch.uk

School Cleaner Vacancy

Do you want to make a difference to the lives of children? Do you want to work with staff who are dedicated, caring and supportive? We are looking to appoint somebody who is proactive, positive and flexible to support the cleaning team in providing a clean and safe environment at school.

The post is for 12.5 hours per week (2.5 hours per day Monday - Friday 3.30pm - 6.00pm) term time only on a fixed term contract initially until July 2022.

The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Closing date 30th November 2021

Diary Dates

10th	Year 6 height and weight with the school Nurse team
11th	Armistice Day assembly (online)
12 th	Year 1 and 2 Rob's Reptiles visit Young carers' drop in
15 th	Antibullying week

	Odd socks day
16 th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
19 th	Young carers' drop in Children in Need – wear non uniform/spots
23 rd	Basketball competition Parent/Carer drop-in clinic with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
25 th	Football competition
26 th	Young carers' drop in
29 th	Occasional Day Children do not attend
30 th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
December	
3 rd	Young carers' drop in
7 th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
10 th	Young carers' drop in Dodgeball competition
13 th	Reception, Year 1 and 2 Christmas dinner, KS2 to bring in a packed lunch
14 th	Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Christmas dinner, Reception and KS1 to bring in a packed lunch

Be Bright Be Seen



Regular attenders of our breakfast and afterschool Fox club will be receiving a free Be bright Be seen light reflector for their bags to help them keep safe in the dark winter months.

If you would like one for your child there are a few for sale. These will be on sale for £1.50 from Monday 15th November. School Council will be selling them during the school day so if your child would like one, please ensure they have the correct change.

During the dark Autumn and Winter months pedestrians can often become invisible to drivers.

Always remember to be bright and reflective when walking, cycling or running at night.

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