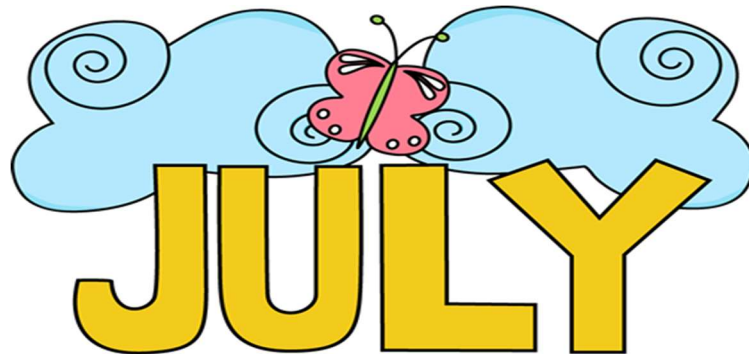




July 2024



News on the Ninth

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The whole school enjoyed a 'WoW writing' experience which at first was all a bit of a mystery! Thank you for helping us keep the secret! During the week before we all experienced some peculiar events. A symbol appeared in different places around the school and even on the teachers' computers! On the Wednesday we all heard some form of odd communication and some weird alien writing appeared while the teachers tried logged on to the internet. We were all very confused and decided that as a school we must investigate!



The Crime Scene



Commonswood Agent Teachers Investigating

Therefore, on the following Monday the teachers and children all turned up looking very smart as 'MIB' Commonswood Agents ready to investigate. To everybody's surprise, early that morning an alien spaceship had made a crash landing into one of our classrooms! When the children arrived to investigate, they found alien slime, hidden messages which they revealed using special UV torches and lots of other surprises! This experience was an amazing hook for the children to begin to generate writing in our Literacy lessons. Each Year group has chosen a different text type to create, and the results are fantastic!

Fancy experiencing the crime scene for yourself? Come and take a look in the conference room on our open evening on Wednesday 17th July. Where it will be open for you and your child to come and investigate for yourselves!

Nursery



The children's excitement and wonder built as strange things began to happen in the classroom. An alien symbol appeared and then more symbols which the children thought might be, "The alien's plan." When Monday came, they were so excited to investigate. After looking for clues they spoke about what they thought had happened. "I think an alien has crashed." "I think the aliens might want to take our toys." The children then used lots of different ways to express their thoughts and



ideas. Some drew pictures, some used natural resources to create aliens, others used playdough or collage materials. Some built space ships with the blocks, or other construction. They all then communicated their ideas by talking about what they had created and what their thoughts were. By the end of the week some had also created their own books of alien stories.



Reception

Reception really enjoyed our wow writing week and it has inspired lots of incredible writing in our classes! We were intrigued by the clues popping up around the school, like the strange symbols we noticed everywhere we

went. We wrote predictions about what might be happening. We wrote lists of alien clues that we discovered along the way and were surprised by the spaceship that had crash landed in the school. We wrote our own alien stories for the aliens to read to their children once they had fixed their rocket and flown back home. We tried to remember to include a beginning, middle and end and also some story language.



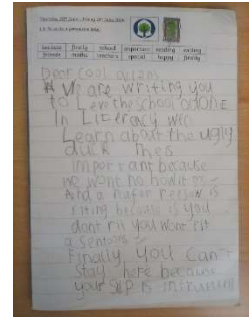
Year 1



For Wow writing week, Year 1 explored the scene, collected information and then back in class collated all our findings. The next day we discovered a letter from some friendly aliens that wanted to borrow our school grounds to keep their spaceship in. This meant that we would not be able to come to school! The children wrote letters to persuade the aliens to find alternative grounds for their ship. We thought about all the reasons we need to be in school and what we would miss out on if we weren't able to come.

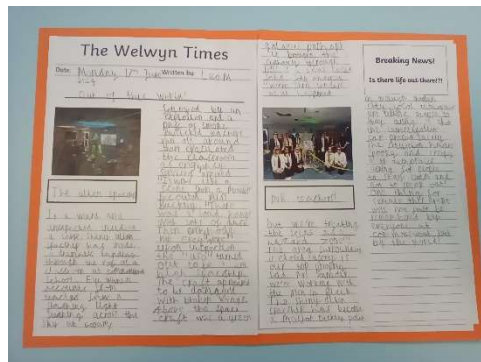
Thankfully, the aliens agreed to find an alternative parking space for their ship!

Well done Year 1!



Year 2

In Year 2 we have been reporting on our 'WoW' writing week events by creating newspaper articles. As the children were 'Commonswood MIB Agents' they investigated the scene of the alien spaceship crash. We then decided that we had to inform our Commonswood Community about these strange events. The children interviewed eye witnesses, spoke to teachers about their response to this unexpected event and then created some wonderful newspaper articles.



THE WELWYN POST

Spaceship Lands at Primary School!

Monday 17th June 2024

In a shocking and surprising incident, a spaceship has made a dramatic landing through the roof of a classroom at Commonswood school in Welwyn Garden City.

An eyewitness account from a little girl walking to school at 8.00 am described hearing a loud crash and seeing a huge cloud of smoke coming from the roof. Worried teachers evacuated the building safely as emergency services arrived.

"It was a weird sight" recounted Miss James a year two teacher: "I witnessed a spaceship floating in the air and suddenly I heard a bang".

Upon investigation the 'Men in Black' reported finding a shiny silver spaceship, bright, green slime and backwards writing. It appears that no passengers were hurt as no one was found in the spaceship.

It is thought that they have arrived here on Earth from Mars to teach us about life on their planet.

Mrs Seymour, a spokesperson for the school said "This is a complete disaster for us all and it is the last thing you'd expect to find when you come to work in the morning. We are working with the Men in Black' and would like to reassure everyone that the school is a safe and secure environment and learning will continue as usual".

It is hoped that this incident will not be repeated!

Who are the passengers, and will they ever be found?

Reporter: Lena



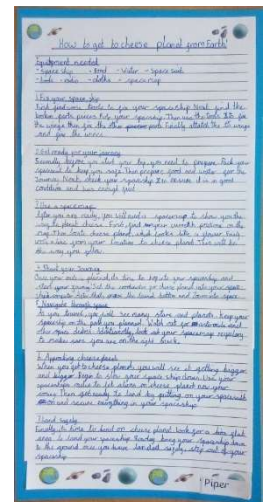
'Men in Black' agents investigate the scene of the crash at Commonswood

Year 3

For Year 3's WOW writing, we wrote instructions for the Aliens on 'How to get from Earth to your Alien Planet'. We used an example text about 'How to get to Earth from an Alien Planet', and story mapped this together.



We then changed the key bits of the text, so it explained how to get back to their alien planet and included some more detail, like 'How to Fix Your Spaceship'. Here are some pictures of our writing, and us on Men in Black day in our outfits.



Year 4

For our alien writing, we thought about what it must be like for an alien to try and survive on Earth. We designed our own aliens and wrote a simple survival guide explaining how they needed to behave and act so they could blend in with humans. We had fun thinking about all the things we do which aliens might find amusing!



Year 5

Following our visit to the crashed spacecraft, Year 5 held a debate to answer the question 'Should aliens be allowed to join Commonswood School?'

The children then presented their arguments for and against this question in a discussion text and came to their conclusions using the evidence presented.

Should aliens be allowed to join Commonswood School?

Students at the educational facility, Commonswood Primary and Nursery School recently experienced a rare event where multiple aliens landed in an unused classroom. The aliens appeared to have created quite a mess, causing the children to consider keeping them a mistake. Others, however, believe it will be nice to have a change and the aliens could potentially improve our school. Here are some arguments for and against. Should aliens join Commonswood School?

Firstly, the aliens might bring in a wider range of food, which could possibly result in better snacks or lunches. Therefore, the school could rapidly improve their collection of recipes and the children would start to change to school dinners, and have more of a variety to choose from. An outcome of this could mean that the school could raise more money with the parents paying for their child's/children's (or perhaps alien's) lunches.

While a lot of people understand that the food provided by the aliens could be better, many also think that it could be hazardous for the teachers and children. In other words, poisonous. As a result, they could gradually lose the population of the school, and the parents will be outraged (because of the children passing away) and could potentially sue them. However, the teachers may pay lots of attention to students and stop the aliens from sharing food secretly to children of the school.

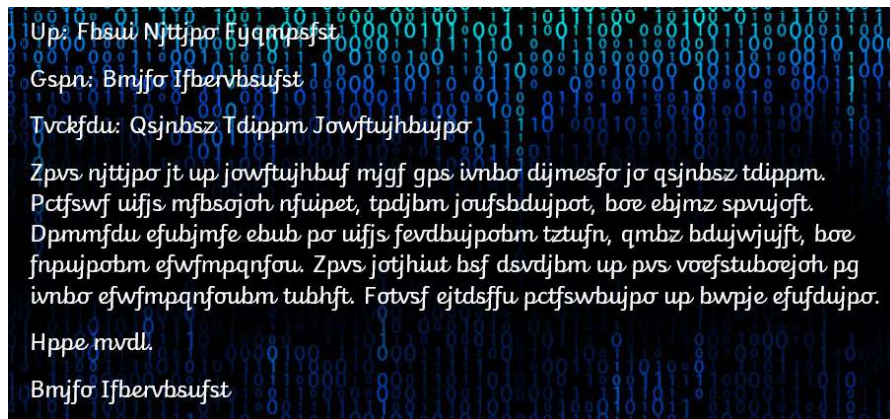


Here is a conclusion to the discussion from Oscar...

In conclusion, it is very hard to choose whether aliens should be allowed to come to Commonswood, but I think aliens shouldn't be allowed to go to Commonswood. This is since so many things could go wrong; there might be wormholes that the children might fall into, the aliens might not be able to eat our food since they have never tried it and it might kill them. They may be unsuitable for long-term stay on Earth, when they try to update our technology, it might break our technology since they might not be used to the futuristic alien technology. Also, the aliens might have hypnosis powers, hypnotise the school and take over it, they might even take over the Earth.

Year 6

After aliens had landed at Commonswood, Year 6 worked really hard to decrypt a message which was left on the wall. Children quickly realised the letters in this message had been shifted one place in the alphabet (similar to Caesar Shift Code) and used this rule to find its hidden meaning.



They found out it was an email sent from alien headquarters to their expeditionary team on Earth asking them to report back any valuable insights into the lives of primary school children. Year 6 children used this as their writing stimulus and wrote a letter, in role as an alien, back to alien headquarters with information about humans, children and routines at Commonswood. Here are some of our extracts:

Greetings!

This is the Saitama Expedition Team. We have had an unsuspected landing on planet "Earth" recently. Our discovery team, Genos, have found out it is an empire called "Commonswood Primary School" and is ruled by a humanoid named Mrs. Seymour. She is in charge of other races of humans named Teachers and Children. They have welcomed us with open arms and let us stay inside a what seemed abandoned building, until they stormed in with small handheld light sources and paper. We had to evacuate, leaving everything behind. On that particular day, they all wore black! Considering it was a very sunny day, it was a bad idea,; very bad idea. The report below records our important findings and will tell us much more about the human race.

Diet

At 12 o'clock each Earth day, children travel to a "dining room" where they can fill their mouths with vegetables and fellow mammals like cows and pigs! Ladies with fish nets on their heads serve them and dish them carrots and potatoes; some children bring a small decorated box which already has food in it, such as sandwiches and crisps.

Extra-curricular

When the lessons finish and the majority of children travel to their shelter; some younglings are captured and forced to partake in extracurricular activities. These include football, netball and drama. These are organised by the "teachers". They are later freed from their enslavement and are allowed to go back to their home.

Greetings to the Supreme Command of the Hidden Galaxy,

We have successfully teleported inside a primary school, infiltrated most rooms, and figured out their daily routine. We are intending to stay a few more earth days to observe some more 'lessons' and to expand our knowledge of these juvenile humans.

These 'lessons' are very peculiar and are much unlike our own tuition periods. They usually consist of the children sitting at tables and listening to the adult human (which the children call 'the teacher', 'miss', 'misses' or 'mister') talking and pointing to the big screen at the front of the room. After that, the children will write in their 'books' (simple but ingenious inventions that involve a lot of 'paper'-a white substance that we have not discovered the source of). Once the lesson is over, the children queue up to go outside.

After school time is over, most children leave the building, but some stay behind to do activities



Greetings Supreme Command Council Of The Galactic Federation,

We hope this message find you well. We the Galactic Supreme Council Expeditionary Team have crash landed in a place scientifically known as Earth. Our team has been observing and identifying the bipedal beings Humans. They welcomed us, fed us food and let us play a "Game" - we are still not 100% sure what that means. We will update you on our later records and findings.

The creatures that inhabit Earth (humans) are the most dominant species on Earth so far. This amazing life form are bipedal beings have very good intellectual understanding. Later we discovered that humans have something called fingers which they have 5 of.



A huge thank you to all the staff for making our wow writing week such an exciting event especially Miss Buckley who organised the whole thing!



A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who topped the charts with their SATs results this year and a huge thank you to all of the teachers and support staff who have helped them along the way! No National data is available yet, so last year's percentages are there as comparison. The school's website will be updated with the results once National figures are verified.

	Reading at the expected standard +	Reading above the expected standard	Writing at the expected standard +	Writing above the expected standard	Maths at the expected standard +	Maths above the expected standard	Grammar, spelling, punctuation at the expected standard +	Grammar, spelling, punctuation above the expected standard
Commonswood 2024	87%	33%	83%	17%	85%	33%	85%	50%
Hertfordshire 2024	78%	33%	72%	15%	75%	28%	75%	36%
National 2023	76%	29%	72%	13%	73%	24%	72%	30%

Anti-Abuse Curriculum

In order to embed the Anti-Abuse Curriculum into our teaching, each half term we are focusing on one theme which we will discuss in our classrooms during snack and discussion time. This half term, we are focusing on **Character and personal values**. Some objectives link closely with our PSHE topics as well as our discussion on the Emotion of the Month.

Here are just some of the things we have been discussing across the school:

- I know that helping others can make me feel good about myself, but in helping others I should not put my own safety, wellbeing and future at risk.
- I know that my choices and behaviours have consequences and that I can change my behaviours and choices.
- I know the importance of a growth mind-set and approaching life with optimism to help me achieve my goals.

- I can reject pressure to join in with hurtful and immoral behaviour.
- I have confidence in my ability to decide when to be compassionate and when to challenge and confront.
- I have skills and strategies to help encourage understanding when friends fall out.
- I know that fulfilling my potential requires the development of judgement, morality and integrity.

At home, why not speak with your child about what important qualities they look for in a friend and why showing kindness and care to everyone is important. It would be useful to discuss 'peer pressure' and the importance of standing up for yourself and others in an appropriate way.

Sports Day



Thank you to all the parents who attended sports day and thank you to Mrs Scott for organising such an amazing event. The children had a great time!

Online Safety

internetmatters.org has a 'Back to School online safety guides and an advice hub' which offers lots of advice covering all aspects of technology use for children of all ages.

If you have not visited this site before, it is well worth a visit so you are more prepared when issues arise.

Online Safety Monthly Theme: Online Bullying

For EYFS / KS1, please discuss how to behave online and how reading unkind messages or having unkind actions in games make people feel.

For KS2, please discuss how what one person perceives as playful joking and teasing (including 'banter') might be experienced by others as bullying and how to 'screen grab' and report any unkindness within the game / app.

School Council

As the academic year draws to a close, the School Council remain busy. The children have been working with Mrs Seymour and the PTA to design an area of the junior playground which will be improved in the coming months. There will be some decking, some shade, a seating area and spaces to plant some flowers to make a relaxing zone suitable for all weathers. Very soon we will be saying farewell to our Y6 members, but the rest of the children will remain on School Council until the handover ceremony in November.



Commonswood Friends PTA



Commonswood Summer Fair is this Saturday 13th July 12-3pm. Please come along and support this event. We have live music from our very own choir, special guests and a DJ.

Please return your raffle tickets to the office to be in with a chance of winning some great prizes.



The school has now got a new minibus which is partly funded by the PTA. Thank you to all who support the PTA events as this has enabled us to do this.



Thank you for all your positive comments and messages into school. We would strongly recommend that you log on to Parent View (which can be found on the school's website) and answer the survey questions about 12 aspects of the school.

This Month's Reading Recommendations!

EYFS

Nursery – Britannica's Baby Encyclopaedia by Saly Symes

Reception – Pippin Paints a Portrait by Charlotte Mei

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – The Pocket Chaotic by Ziggy Hanaor and Daniel Grey-Barnett

Year 2 – Dr. Xargle’s Book of Earthlets by Jeanne Willis

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – Small Worlds: Earth by Lara Hawthorne and Camilla De La Bedoyere

Year 4 – The 13th Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Year 6 – Cogheart by Peter Bunzl



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. We wish the Year 6 leavers well as they venture onto secondary school.

As always, our 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 ready for another busy year at Commonswood in September.

With best wishes,

Mrs Seymour

DIARY DATES

July 2024	
12 th	Year 2 Orchard Day
12 th	9-11.30am Young Carers sport event
13 th	12-3pm PTA Summer Fete
15 th	2.30pm Rocksteady Concert. Please enter through the main office.
16 th	Year 1 outdoor learning day
16 th	Year 6 dress rehearsal
17 th	3.10-4pm Parents are invited in to view pupil progress in books and visit child’s next classroom
18 th	9am/1.45pm Year 6 performances
19 th	9am Year 6 bell ringing – please enter through the junior gate

19 th & 22 nd	Whole school multicultural days
22 nd	4-6pm Year 6 BBQ
22 nd	Year 6 Leavers trip
22 nd	Last day of term for Nursery
23 rd	End of Term 12.30pm
Sept 2024	
3 rd	Term Commences
3 rd	9am – 1pm Staggered start for Reception
3 rd	9-10.30am/1.30-3pm Nursery Stay & Play sessions
4 th	9am – 2pm Staggered start for Reception
5 th	Nursery 30hrs children start
5 th	9am – 3.10pm Staggered start for Reception
6 th	AM Nursery children start
6 th	8.30-3.10pm Reception all day

Term time holidays

We are unable to authorise term time holidays. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered. The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them. Term time holidays have a negative impact on friendships and learning. Please avoid taking your child out of school. Term time holidays are not authorised. Absence requests can only be authorised if there are exceptional, unrepeatable circumstances. 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