



JUNE 2024

News on the Ninth



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Nursery

The children were very excited to take part in our Nursery trip to Hertfordshire Zoo. The children enjoyed travelling on the coach, they noticed lots of things when looking out the windows. After walking around the dinosaur areas, which were a little bit scary, the children were ready to have lunch. We were soon up and moving again and eager to see the animals. We had a great view of the lions and a sun bear, which was very exciting. All of the children behaved so well during our trip, we are so proud of them.



Reception

In Reception, we have become historians and are investigating the past and comparing how some things are different in the present. We have explored photographs and artefacts, which we learnt are objects from the past, to help us with our investigations. We have noticed that technology has changed over time, for example, now phones are portable and have a screen. We have also enjoyed learning to use a new tool to help us in maths called rekenreks. We have been learning to move the beads with just one finger, to help us with our counting, subitising and composition of numbers.





As promised here are some photos of the new mud kitchen area for Reception children to use as part of their outdoor learning.



Year 1



Before half term, Year 1 took part in a 'big build' day. In the hall, we created structures using wooden blocks, Lego, Constructa and more! We were very proud of our houses, towers, bridges and castles! After that, we created models using just art straws and tape.

We worked together and developed our teamwork skills!



Year 2

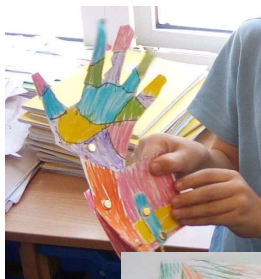


Year 2 visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum, where we linked our history learning of Florence Nightingale with our science learning about materials. We learnt about Victorian life and had a go at hand washing clothes using a washboard and a mangle! We also made our very own Victorian style rag rug using recycled scraps of materials. Despite the wet

weather we had a wonderful day!



Year 3



In our DT projects we were exploring levers and linkages. The children researched different levers and linkages and tested a few different ideas out before creating their final design. They then made a prototype to test out their final design, making any changes that they needed to. Lastly, they

made their final designs. Take a look at some of our creations!



Year 4

May saw the start of our Harry Potter unit in English. We have started reading the first book in the series and our English unit was about wizarding descriptions. We are now learning to write newspapers and are using events from Harry Potter to help us. In our classrooms, owls and wands have been arriving. We are also continuing our science unit on Living things and habitats.

Year 5



In Science we have been learning about the lifecycle and propagation of plants. We carried out an investigation to find out which parts of the plant propagate best. We took cuttings from pansies and mint from their petals, stem, leaves and roots and planted each of these. We



watered and observed them over two weeks and discovered that the leaf and stem of the mint propagated the best.

Year 6



Year 6 have been having lots of fun during their Enterprise project. Their aim was to design and run a stall with the aim of making a profit. Each group was given a budget of £10 which they had to use to buy resources and prizes and rent equipment. They marketed their new business

by pitching their game during assembly and advertising it around the school with posters. On Thursday 6th June, they worked really hard in selling their games to children across the whole school before counting up their profit. £337 was made which will be donated to Isabel Hospice.



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.

Online Safety

For June, our theme is health, well-being and lifestyle.

For EYFS / KS1, please have some discussions around rules to stay safe when using devices and the importance of not having too much screen time.

For KS2, please have some discussions about:

- the positive and negative impact technology can have
- the pressures that technology can place on people - through adverts, wanting latest technology, wanting messages / comments to be 'liked'

Online Safety - Mental Health

For children in Years 5 and 6, despite having an age rating of 16+, the use of WhatsApp and other messaging apps are increasingly popular. Over the past couple of years, we have noticed a huge increase in the number of children who they are having a negative effect on - affecting their mental health, concentration and wellbeing.

The issues arise especially within large group chats. Common issue include: Children posting unpleasant messages about each other, removing / adding others to groups without their permission, excluding individuals from conversations. Sometimes, it is not individual messages that are unkind, but the frequency of non-positively phrased messages which children struggle to cope with.

Please help support your children by:

Ensuring sufficient parental controls / privacy settings are in place.

Monitoring their messages. Are they posting messages which are unkind? Are they receiving unpleasant messages?

Ensure they know how to block individuals.

Report more serious unpleasanties, or continued abuse to the police.

Remove them from groups which have a large number of people.

For inappropriate messages within games, ensure they know how to report this to the game company.

Emotional Literacy

Our focus emotion for this half term is Fear.

With change can come feelings of fear of the unknown along with excitement for the future.

This half term our children will be learning about how fear feels in their bodies and learning new ways to cope when feeling afraid.



Please talk to your child about how fear is a normal feeling and that we all feel scared at times.

This link will give you more information on how to support your child with their worries at home.

[Childhood fears: Helping your child with fears and worries - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Tickets for Summer Fete

Please look out for tickets to the Summer Fete coming soon, these will be sold on the playground.

Parking

Please be aware that parking in the Church car park is for pre-school parents only. Please find alternative parking when dropping off and picking up your child. Thank you

Uniform

Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their name.

Isabel Hospice Fundraising



At the beginning of May, Year 4 took part in some fundraising as part of their Archbishop of York Award. The children had to advertise for a collection as part of Isabel Hospice's Tonnes of Care project. This project looks at how we can be more sustainable and reuse items instead of throwing them away. The collection was advertised using posters and even speaking in an assembly and then we helped to load up the Isabel Hospice van.



A whopping 112 bags were collected, which is the equivalent of 75 nursing hours!

Thank you to everyone who got involved by donating!



Messages from the Friends of Commonswood PTA

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofcommonswoodpta/?event=login¬LoggedIn=true&>

This Month's Reading Recommendations

EYFS

Nursery – Perfect Presents by Anke Kuhl

Reception – Oi! Get Off Our Train by John Burningham

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – Oof Makes an Ouch! By Duncan Beedle

Year 2 – Gorilla by Anthony Browne

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd

Year 4 – There's a Werewolf in My Tent by Pamela Butchart

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell

Year 6 – Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford



	DIARY DATES
June 2024	
3 rd – 14 th	Year 3 Swimming
10 th – 14 th	Year 1 Phonic Screening
11 th	10-11.30am Mill Green Golf event
12 th	pm District Athletics
14 th	Year 1 outdoor learning
17 th	Last week of Clubs
17 th	'WOW' writing week. Dress as Men in Black
18 th	3.10-4.15pm Theatre club performance to parents
18 th	Reception to Aldenham Country Park
24 th	Reception/KS1 Sports day, parents arrive 12.55pm
25 th	Nursery Sports day, parents arrive 9.20am
25 th	KS2 Sports day, parents arrive 12.55pm
27 th	Contingency day for Rec/KS1 sports
28 th	Contingency day for Nursery/KS2 sports

28 th	Uniform Sale in playground after school
July 2024	
3 rd	Year 4 Paris Olympic Event
4 th	2pm New to Reception parent meeting
11 th	Secondary transfer day – all children visit their next class
13 th	12-3pm PTA Summer Fete
15 th	2.30pm Rocksteady concert
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	Year 6 performances for parents 9am /2pm
19 th	9am Year 6 bell ringing
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
3 rd Sept	Term commences for children

Term time holidays

We are unable to authorise term time holidays. Absence can only be authorised if a child is unwell. If however, the number of unauthorised sessions reaches 15 or more within 2 terms, the local authority may issue you with a Penalty Notice. The Penalty Notice requires parents to pay a fine of £60 within 21 days. If this is not paid within the time limit, the penalty rises to £120 which must be paid within 28 days.

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