

Commonswood News on the Ninth



November 2020

Email: admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01707 880420

Fax: 01707 880422

As the nights start to draw in and the temperature drops, you'd think that we had started to hunker down and spend more time indoors. Not at Commonswood! Our outdoor learning areas are being used as much as ever, so please have wellies at the ready in case they are required at short notice.

This month there are some national charities which we will be supporting. This helps the children gain a sense of citizenship and the notion that they can do something to help, whether it be raising awareness or fund raising. Please take note of the dates below to ensure your child is joining in with the right thing on the right day! The diary dates also gives you important information about end of term arrangements.

Parents and Carers, please access the links on the 'Pupil Wellbeing' page on the school website to find out lots of useful information about how to support your child's emotional wellbeing. There are links to the school nursing team (where you can submit a referral for your child to access support) and the NHS - Schools and Families Advice Line (SAFL), supporting parents and children through the COVID-19 pandemic with signposting to 'early help' for those experiencing difficulties.

Nursery



The children have loved exploring the grounds of the school and learning about Autumn. We found apples growing on an apple tree and all types of mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi. We listened to a story about a Very Helpful Hedgehog while we had our snack in the story circle, under the trees.

Reception



After learning The Little Red Hen story and finding out how she baked her bread, we decided to do some baking of our own. Instead of bread dough, we made pizza dough and cooked mushroom pizzas. Working together, we carefully followed the recipe, weighed and mixed the ingredients and then rolled out our dough. We grated cheese, cut mushrooms and spread tomato sauce on the top. Once they were cooked, we tried a slice and they were delicious!

Year 1

In Year 1 we are investigating the question – 'Can plants grow without soil?'. We planted seeds using cotton wool and have left some root vegetables, grass, acorns and conkers in water to see whether they will grow roots. We have all predicted what we think will happen!



Year 2

In Science we have been learning all about 'Everyday Materials'. We investigated which materials are waterproof. We tested a range of materials including cotton wool, felt, plastic, tissue and paper. We found out that tissue was the least waterproof and plastic was the most waterproof. We had lots of fun, but we got a bit wet!



Year 3

In geography we have continued our natural disasters topic by looking at tsunamis. The children particularly enjoyed an investigation that replicated the movement of the tectonic plates during a tsunami and their effect on water levels. Outside, the children had a beaker of water and two different sized stones. These stones were dropped in turn from approximately waist height into the beaker and they were able to see how the displacement of the water changed.



Year 4

As part of our Geography topic about India, we have started to look at foods grown in India, along with fair trade. Before the half term, we learnt about how tea is turned from plant to drink. We tasted a sample of different types of tea, including Earl Grey, Assam and Green Tea. Some of us really liked the different tastes, however some found the taste unpleasant.

Year 5

To link our History work with our Literacy, we wrote Tudor diary entries. We had to put ourselves in the position of Catherine of Aragon. As she had just had her marriage annulled, she was deeply saddened. We had to include historic facts and try to convey the feelings we imagined she had at the time.

Year 6

This has been a busy half-term. We have refreshed our knowledge of number facts and honed our skills in the calculation methods in Maths. In English we have studied the "Journalistic" style of writing and the children have produced some great pieces of work based on events in World War 2. Our History topic "War and Social Change" has involved investigating what life was like in the early 1900's and we are now looking into the causes of World War 1 and the timeline of the war.

Maths - TT Rockstars

The school subscribes to TTRockstars for all children in years 2 to 6 to use to practise multiplication tables. Having a good knowledge of multiplication tables can boost confidence with other aspect of maths. TTRockstars can be accessed via a free downloadable app or visiting play.ttrockstars.com. The children will be using TT Rockstars in school within the first couple of weeks of this half term to familiarise them with it. Please can you support and encourage their use of this at home. We recommend regular (daily if possible), short amounts of time to practise tables.

Rock Out 2020

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, this November we are taking part in a competition for Maths Week England. It's called Rock Out 2020 and it's all done online via play.ttrockstars.com. All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th. In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on your child's behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans.

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 do 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.

Children in need 2020

This year we are raising money for Children in Need, which helps children and young people around the world. On **Friday 13th November** we will be dressing up in Pudsey accessories (ears, wristbands and badges) **with school uniform**. Please donate £1 to Children in need via school gateway. Pudsey merchandise is available for purchase in your local shops, Post Office and Asda. We will also participate in 'Big Morning Move' with Joe Wicks. It's a perfect start to the day, helping children to get moving and start the day with positivity.

Antibullying week

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is: United Against Bullying.

Anti-Bullying Week will happen from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November and will start with Odd Socks Day on **Monday 16th November** to mark the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. 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! There is no pressure to buy expensive socks. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school with your school uniform, it couldn't be simpler!

This year, more than ever, we have 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 and politicians, 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.

Wear a silly jumper

This year we will be participating in Save the Children's Christmas jumper day on **Friday 11th December**. On this day please can the children wear their school uniform and replace their school jumper with one which is brightly coloured or of a Christmas theme. Please donate £1 to Save the Children via school gateway.

Young Carers

COVID-19 is having an impact on us all and even more so on young carers. Lots of young carers are not known to their schools. If anyone in your household is struggling with mental or physical ill-health, disability or drug/alcohol addiction and you feel your child may be a young carer please let us know. Further information can be found on the school website or by contacting Sian Mills 07753 471712 or s.mills@commonswood.herts.sch.uk.

PE

PE lessons continue as normal. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit, including trainers, to school every Monday.

Christmas

The songs we are singing, the bells we are ringing
The stage will appear very soon in the hall
The spacing and waving and lots of rehearsing
Is starting to happen for one and for all

You might need a costume or headband or hat
For your Santa or shepherd, donkey or angel
Soon it's time to start searching on Amazon for that
(other retailers and shops of course are available)

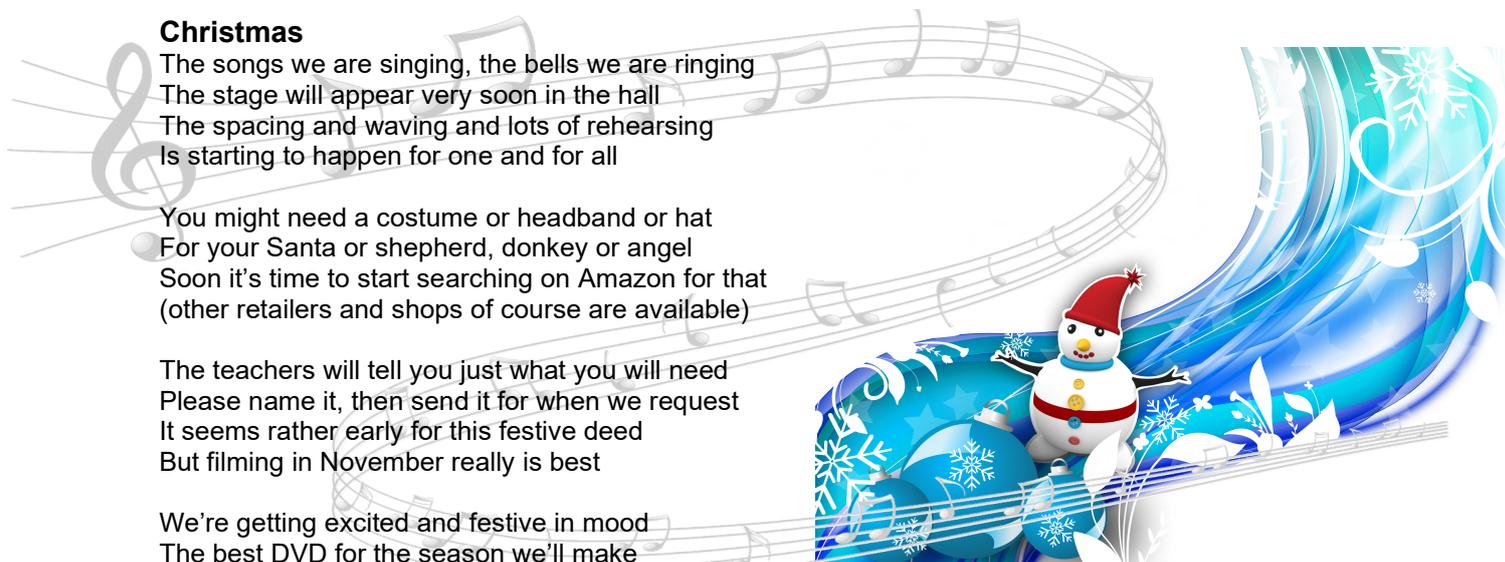
The teachers will tell you just what you will need
Please name it, then send it for when we request
It seems rather early for this festive deed
But filming in November really is best

We're getting excited and festive in mood
The best DVD for the season we'll make
We're working so hard to prepare our large brood
We want this to be special, so care we will take

Note to parents – if your child currently does not have permission to be filmed for school plays, on this occasion, we will contact you to see if you would like to change this.

Reception 2021

The admissions process for Reception 2021 opened on the 2nd November 2020. Please apply via www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions the closing date to apply is 15th January 2021 .



DIARY DATES

November	
11th	Remembrance Day – children are permitted to wear their youth organisation uniforms for the day. Poppies are on sale. There will be a non-religious assembly for years 1-6 in classrooms via Teams. A minute's silence will be observed at 11am.
13th	Children In Need – wear Pudsey accessories, donations can be made via School Gateway
16 th – 20 th	Anti-Bullying week
16 th	Odd Socks Day – please wear normal school uniform just odd socks!
30 th	Occasional Day – children do not attend
December	
11 th	“Silly/Christmas Jumper Day” for Save the Children – wear a colourful or Christmas jumper, donations can be made via School Gateway
14 th and 15 th	Christmas dinner days – see additional letter
18 th	End of term 12.30pm – staggered gate times for collection from the usual pick up points: Important information Nursery children do not attend Reception - 12:10 Gate 1 Year 1 - 12:20 Gate 1 Year 2 - 12:30 Gate 1 Year 3 - 12:20 Gate 3 Year 4 - 12:10 Gate 3 Year 5 - 12:30 Gate 3 Year 6 - 12:20 Gate 3
January	
5 th	Term commences – children start the school term

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020/2021

Autumn Term

Wednesday	2 nd September	Staff Inset Day – Children do not attend
Thursday	3 rd September	Term Commences for Children
Friday	23 rd October	Staff Inset Day – Children do not attend
Monday	26th October – 30th October	Half Term
Monday	30 th November	Occasional Day – Children do not attend
Friday	18 th December	Term Ends 12.30pm

Spring Term

Monday	4 th January	Staff Inset Day – Children Do Not Attend
Tuesday	5 th January	Term Commences for Children
Monday	15th –19th February	Half Term
Friday	26 th March	Term Ends 12.30pm

Summer Term

Monday	12 th April	Staff Inset Day – Children Do Not Attend
Tuesday	13 th April	Term Commences for Children
Monday	3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Monday	31st May – 4th June	Half Term
Wednesday	21 st July	Term Ends 12.30pm
Thursday	22 nd 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.

Governors' policy does not allow term time holidays to be authorised unless there are exceptional 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), Mrs N Scatchard (Deputy Designated Person) & Mr S Burt (Deputy Designated Person for eSafety), Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Noakes