



# News on the Ninth December 2021

## Planting a tree for the Queen's jubilee

Some of our Year 2 children helped to plant our new silver birch tree which has been donated to the school by Herts County Council in celebration to our Queen's platinum jubilee. You will have seen in the press that the Queen wants a green canopy of trees to be planted to mark the special occasion.

Our Year 2 children did a wonderful job planting the tree. They had to be very careful with it as it is a delicate sapling at the moment.



## Nursery

The children are becoming very excited as we prepare for Christmas. A Christmas tree appeared in the role play area which they have enjoyed decorating! We had a lovely time in the school grounds looking for winter trees. The children have learnt that some are bare and some are evergreens. We brought back some pieces of pine tree and explored making patterns in the playdough. We have also been very busy learning lots of songs for our Christmas show, we hope that you enjoy it!



## Reception

We have enjoyed sharing different celebrations with each other. We have recently learnt about how Diwali and Hanukkah are celebrated and now we are looking forward to Christmas. We have been busy practising our Christmas performance and can't wait for our adults to watch it at home! Our classrooms are now very glittery after all the decorating we have been doing. We have also been baking and decorating gingerbread men after reading and retelling the Gingerbread Man story.

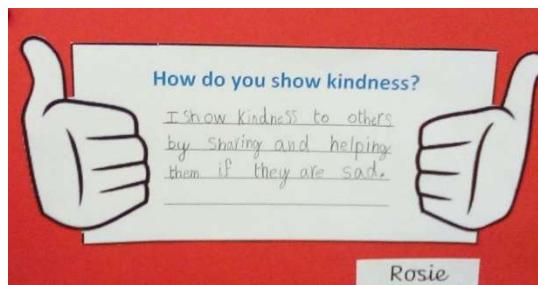


## Year 1

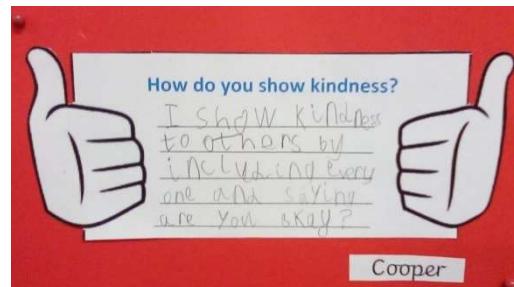
In Design and Technology we have been working towards making puppets. First, we explored what puppets look like, their properties and how they are made. We then went onto practise the sewing techniques needed, planned our own animal puppet and finally made our puppets.



## Year 2

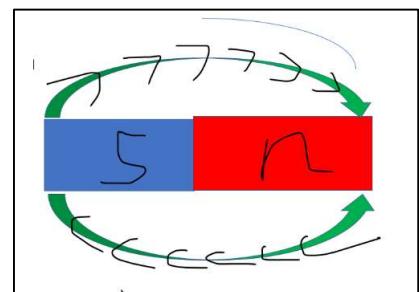
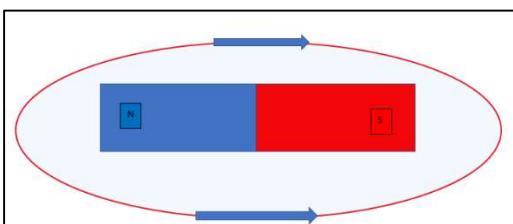
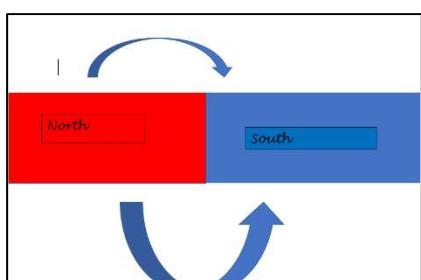


For anti-bullying week we reflected on the importance of being kind to others and thought about how we show kindness to everyone, everyday!



## Year 3

Over this half term, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We have used our IT skills to draw the magnetic field. In the next few weeks, we will be applying our skills to design and make magnetic games. We have also used our IT skills to research different games on the internet.



## Year 4

As part of our science topic of 'The Digestive System and Teeth', we have carried out an experiment to find out what effect different drinks can have on our teeth. To keep our teeth safe, we used eggs instead and found the results very interesting!



## Year 5

In preparation for the lantern parade on Saturday, Year 5 took part in a lantern making workshop. A framework was made by bending and twisting willow, before LED lights were placed inside and the framework covered in tissue paper, completing the lanterns.



## Year 6

Year 6 have combined their learning of WW2 with D&T cooking, making WW2 style vegetable turnovers. The skills of peeling and chopping were practised along with weighing, mixing and kneading dough.



## School Council news

On Remembrance Day, all the children took part in a virtual assembly via Teams to collectively learn about why people participate in Armistice Day.



Following a minute's silence, School Council 2020-2021 rang the school bell 11 times. Following this ceremony, the children handed over to this year's School Council by presenting the new children with their School Council badges. Thank you to last year's School Council for all your hard work and welcome to the School Council 2021-2022.

## Non-uniform day



On the last day of term, we will be having a non-uniform day in aid of school funds. This is an opportunity for the children to wear Christmas jumpers if they wish, but there is no obligation to do so. We are asking for a contribution of £1 per family, payable on Gateway. Thank you.

## Staffing changes



You will already be aware from previous communication that Mrs Scatchard is leaving us after 16 years' service to Commonswood. Mrs Scatchard has made immeasurable difference to the lives of many children over the years as both a class teacher and a SENCo. We wish her all the best for the future, and she will be sorely missed. Mrs Dean will be taking over the SENCo role.

We are also saying goodbye to Mr Rock, who will be leaving Commonswood after 7 years of dedicated service. Mr Rock has been our subject leader for Computing and the Phase Leader for Upper KS2. We would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years and wish him well for the future. Mrs Hoskin will be the new class teacher for Palm class and we would like to welcome her to our team

## Swimming

Year 5 will be swimming next term. Poplar class will swim each day for two weeks commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Pine and Palm will swim for two weeks commencing 7<sup>th</sup> February and the 21<sup>st</sup> February (with half term week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February).

## Absences



If your child is feeling unwell, please report the absence by at least 9:15am using either email, text message via your Gateway account or leave a message on our answer machine stating your child's name, class and their reason for absence.

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home and book a PCR test.

## Reception Admissions for September 2022

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to Reception is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Parents will need to make an application by the closing date to ensure their application is considered as on-time. Children attending our Nursery must apply for a school place.

## Severe Weather Plan



We will text parents/carers via School Gateway if the school is closed due to severe weather or for any other unexpected / unforeseen circumstance. Please ensure you have downloaded the School Gateway app and enable push notifications.

## School uniform changes for September 2022

Our school uniform comprises:

- Smart, plain grey short or long trousers (not sportswear, leggings, jeggings, chinos or jogging bottoms except in Nursery)
- Sky blue polo shirts or shirts
- Plain grey skirts or pinafores (or pale blue gingham dresses in the Summer term – NO playsuits which are unsuitable as they require children to undress each time they go to the toilet)
- Navy blue sweatshirt or navy-blue cardigan (preferably with the school logo)
- Black, navy, grey or white tights or socks - Socks/tights **must** be worn for hygiene purposes
- Black shoes or plain black trainers – no logo or white/coloured soles or coloured laces. No laced shoes in Reception. **From September 2022 only formal plain sensible black school shoes must be worn. No trainers, boots or sandals.**
- Wellington boots can be worn in wet weather but children must change into school shoes on arrival.

## Family Support

We are pleased to say that our School Family Worker from the Welwyn Garden City & Hatfield Schools Partnership, will be in school on the morning of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 from 8.45am.

**They have a wealth of knowledge about issues that affect families and can offer a confidential service.**

If you would like to book a 15-minute slot with our School Family Worker please send an email to [s.mills@commonswood.herts.sch](mailto:s.mills@commonswood.herts.sch) and an appointment can be made.

## Diary Dates

December	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Young carers' drop in Dodgeball competition Filming of Year 1 and Year 2's Christmas show
13th	Reception, Year 1 and 2 Christmas dinner, KS2 to bring in a packed lunch
14th	Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Christmas dinner, Reception and KS1 to bring in a packed lunch Parent/Carer drop in with Sian Mills 8:45-9:15am
15th	NO roast dinner today. Dinner option is Sausages, Quorn Pattie or jacket potato with cheese
16th	Flu vaccine team in 8:30-12:30
17th	Young carers' drop in
20th	Nursery's last day of term
21st	End of term <b>Reception, Years 1 &amp; 2</b> Term ends <b>12.25pm</b> Collect children from the usual place <b>Years 3, 4 ,5 &amp; 6</b> Term ends <b>12.30pm</b> Collect children from the usual place
January	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Inset day Children do not attend
6th	Children return to school

## **SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2021/2022**

### **Autumn Term**

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Term commences for children
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October – 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term – children do not attend
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Occasional Day – children do not attend
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Term ends

### **Spring Term**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Term commences for children
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February – 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term – children do not attend
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Term ends

### **Summer Term**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Term commences for children
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank Holiday – children do not attend
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff INSET – children do not attend
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Half Term – children do not attend
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Term ends

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Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Term commences
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October Half Term	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Occasional Day Children Do Not Attend
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Term Ends

### **Spring Term**

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Term commences
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February Half Term	

Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Term Ends
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### Summer Term

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Term commences
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday – Children do not attend
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Half Term	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff Inset Day Children do not attend
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Term ends
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> 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), 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**