News on the Ninth

October 2021

Email: admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk
Telephone: (01707) 880420

Covid-19 Outbreak management

We have an outbreak management risk assessment which sets out the procedures for school if we have an outbreak of Covid-19. In this event, we may need to go back to bubbles, separate playtimes and lunchtimes and so on. We will inform you if this is the case. It is vital we work together to ensure that children displaying symptoms are not brought into school and get tested and isolate as soon as possible.

While we are all enjoying greater opportunities to mingle, we do ask that you continue to communicate with school via email or by phone rather than popping into the office. We are experiencing staff shortages at the moment so please continue to support us in remaining fully operational.

Nursery

The children have loved exploring the woods during our weekly visits. We found different types of apples growing on trees and then listened to a story about a 'Very Helpful Hedgehog' while we had our snack in the story circle, under the trees. We learnt that there are so many different types of apples, we tasted some, we also learnt that the middle of an apple is called the core.

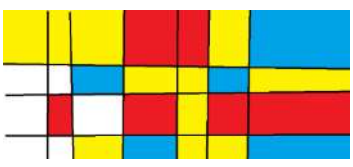
Reception

We have enjoyed our first wanderlust walks and visits to the orchard. We are becoming experts in putting on our wellies and doing up our coats ourselves! We have explored and found a pond, apples and even saw a deer! We can't wait to see what we will discover next.

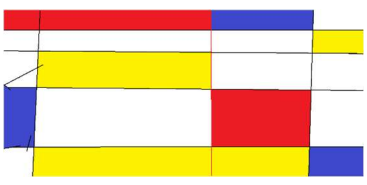
Year 1

In Year 1 we were excited to visit the orchard to spot seasonal changes. We found lots of different colour leaves and apples on the ground. We spotted squirrels stocking up on pine cones.

Year 2



Year 2 are learning about 'computer art' this half term in our ICT lessons. We used a range of tools on paint to create Piet Mondrian style inspired artwork. It was great fun!



Year 3

After picking apples in the orchard, we made apple crumble! We practised our peeling and cutting skills – we were very good! We also linked in our maths by weighing the ingredients and reading the scales.

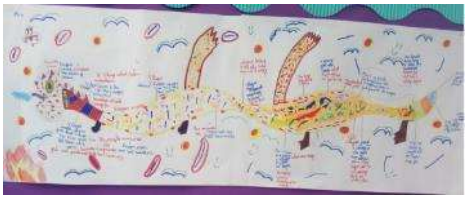
Year 4

This week we have been writing a non-chronological report about a dragon we have created. We have had to generate ideas relating to its appearance, habitat, diet and other important facts about our creature.

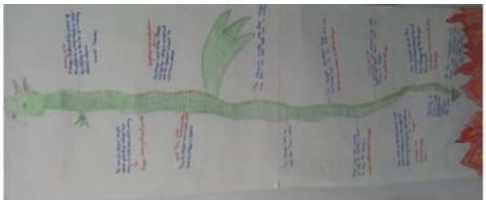
Year 5

We have had a great start to year 5.

The children are showing that they are ready to learn and have embraced our new learning eagerly.

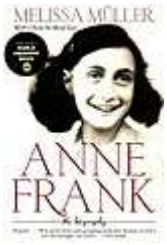


In English we are using a story called “Dragon Slayer” to stimulate our writing. We have already had some great dragon descriptions being written and the children have analysed the story, creating fantastic story maps.



Mountains and Volcanoes is our overarching theme of learning for this term. We have already investigated mountain environments in Geography and how mountains are formed. We will soon be moving on to learn all about how Volcanoes erupt and have a go at creating our own erupting versions in class.

Year 6



Year 6 have been learning about Anne Frank as part of our learning about World War Two history. We have read some of her diary entries and considered her life in hiding, comparing her suitcase to an evacuee's and how different it is to things we would pack today.

How do I know if my child is achieving well at school?

You wave goodbye to your children every morning and see them bounce into school, but what do they do all day?

If you would like to know what your child is learning about, please see the curriculum information on our school website. There you will find curriculum maps for each year group (these give the headlines of what is being taught) and curriculum overviews (these contain some of the knowledge and skills in each subject area). You will be aware of current learning by looking at your child’s homework, which is the best way of seeing which areas of the curriculum are being covered on a weekly basis.

At Commonswood we follow the National Curriculum, but within this, teachers plan learning to meet the needs of each cohort and follow the interests of the children. This means that some texts and subject matter may be studied by year groups from one year to the next, but this is not necessarily the case. Our curriculum is reviewed on a termly basis to ensure that children are learning progressively throughout the school and are able to remember previous learning.

You will want to know how your child is progressing with their learning. This will be discussed with you during parent consultations in the autumn and spring terms, and via a written report in the summer term. If class teachers have any concerns, they will contact you outside these times.

Harvest festival

We are able to hold a Harvest Festival assembly as a whole school this year. On Monday 18th October we will be celebrating seasonality and recognising how fortunate we are to have such varied and nutritious foods.

Many families are suffering hardship this year. So, we would like to offer our usual contribution to the food bank. If you are able to contribute, we ask the children to bring their donation to the assembly

Some examples of donations are:

Dried foods such as pasta and rice, tea, coffee, tinned food – please ensure all food is within the best before date.

Year 5 Parent consultation

Please let us know if you would like us to book Skern Lodge for October 2022 as the decision needs to take place by next week because it gets booked up very quickly. We are happy to investigate other residential trips however, we are aware of how well-regarded Skern Lodge is. While costs are roughly the same at each setting, the distance to Skern Lodge in Devon is a factor to be considered.

Healthy Packed Lunches

We know that it is quite a challenge to be inspired when providing packed lunches every day. The children have done a lot of learning in school about healthy swaps and looked at the Change4life website which gives lots of ideas and interesting food combinations.

If you would like to view our packed lunch guide, it is on our website under the Health and Wellbeing tab. We ask that children have a "main meal" part of their lunch, some fruit and/or vegetables and an optional snack. If children bring multiple snacks, we ask them to choose the one they would like to eat and take the rest home.

Children are not permitted to have sugary drinks and sweets in their packed lunches. They also do not need to bring a drink as there are jugs of water and cups on each table. If you require any guidance on what you could include in order to provide a healthy packed lunch, please take a look at the Change4life website or contact Sian Mills our Family Support Worker.

Gentle reminders

Thank you for sending your child to school with a water bottle for use in class. Please ensure the bottle is not made from glass and that it can stand up on a flat surface.

Children are not permitted to play on the climbing equipment in the Junior playground at the end of the day. This equipment is designed for a specific age group and is not safe for small children. We also may not have first aiders to hand in the case of any accidents. Please keep your children with you as it is very uncomfortable for staff when they have to ask parents to supervise their children.

Reminder that Friday 22nd October is a staff INSET day and children do not attend. The school's term dates are on our website. We look forward to seeing the children back at school after half term on Monday 1st November.

Clubs

We are delighted to offer a wide range of clubs for children from Year 1 to Year 6. Please ensure your child is committed to attending before you sign them up.

KS1 CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1 & 2 Ball Skills FREE CLUB COLLECT FROM NURSERY at 4.15pm	**Year 2** Dance FREE CLUB COLLECT FROM NURSERY at 4.15pm		**Year 1** Woodwork FREE CLUB COLLECT FROM NURSERY at 4.15pm	**Year 1 & 2** Football PAID CLUB – Total £28 COLLECT FROM NURSERY at 4.15pm

KS2 CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School Football Team Invitation Only COLLECT VIA KS2 PLAYGROUND at 4.15pm	**Years 3,4,5 & 6** Choir FREE CLUB COLLECT FROM OFFICE at 4.15pm	**Years 3,4,5 & 6** Dance club FREE CLUB COLLECT FROM NURSERY at 4.15pm	PAID CLUB – Total £28 COLLECT FROM OFFICE at 4.15pm	**Years 3,4,5 & 6** Football PAID CLUB – Total £28 COLLECT FROM KS2 PLAYGROUND at 4.15pm
	Years 5 & 6 Netball Invitation Only COLLECT FROM OFFICE at 4.15pm	**Year 4** Badminton FREE CLUBCOLLECT FROM OFFICE at 4.15pm		
		Years 3,4,5 & 6 Tag Rugby FREE CLUB COLLECT FROM KS2 PLAYGROUND at 4.15pm		

Attendance

Your child's attendance is vital particularly at this catch-up time.
Good behaviour and attendance are essential to children's educational prospects. Parents of children of compulsory school age (aged 5 and over) are, by law, required to ensure that their children receive a suitable education through regular attendance at school or otherwise.
The Department for Education collects each pupil's missed sessions (a session is half a school day) and the number of possible sessions available to them. The Attendance Improvement Officer monitors this and punctuality on a termly basis together with evidence of the work carried out to bring about improved attendance for those causing concern.

Key Stage 1 Attendance Winners

= 1 winning week

Class	Attendance Awards Won
Beech	
Birch	
Cedar	
Cherry	

Key Stage 2 Attendance Winners

Class	Attendance Awards Won
Hazel	
Hawthorn	
Magnolia	
Maple	
Palm	
Pine	
Poplar	
Spruce	
Sycamore	

Safety Spotlight. Please help us to teach the children about keeping everyone happy and safe.

The school operates a VOLUNTARY one way system in The Commons (keeping the school on the left hand side) at drop off and pick up times. Please be aware that strangers to the road may not be aware of this.

Parking at the Woodside Centre is prohibited and could lead to vehicles being clamped. Please do not block driveways and garages as this can be a major inconvenience to our neighbours.

Photos and phones - it is not possible to use mobile phones or take photographs on the school site. This is designed to protect the small number of families affected by domestic violence or child protection concerns.

Smoking - it is against the law to smoke on any part of the school site, so please avoid doing so here or in the immediate vicinity of our gates where young children can suffer harm from passive smoking.

Dogs – are not permitted on the school site unless it is a registered guide dog.

Antibullying week

Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons, that **'One Kind Word'** has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week taking place from **15 to 19 of November 2021.**

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 the 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 to help raise awareness of bullying.

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.

School Council

We have given out some leaflets called "Don't be a road monster". These are about driving and parking safely. To keep us all safe, we would like drivers to:

- Notice where the yellow lines are and not stop or park on them
- Never block driveways
- Remember that pavements are for pedestrians

Thank you for being considerate to our community and helping to keep us all safe.

School Council

BEACON FAMILY HUB (Hertfordshire Victim Care Centre)

This service provides support for families where a child or young person (under 18) is exhibiting abusive behaviour that is deemed controlling, threatening or intimidating to other family members.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?
Direct support will include, but is not limited to, emotional support, practical support, signposting, healthy relationships work and advocacy.
Direct one-to-one work with the child or young person using a trauma informed approach.

Direct one-to-one work with the parent or any other impacted family member within the household through a Case Manager.
Restorative interventions with the whole family.

HOW TO REFER?
If you have a family that would benefit from the service, you can email them at BeaconFamilyHub@catch-22.org.uk for a referral form.

Family Support Worker

For those of you who do not know me, I am Sian Mills and I am 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.

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

Early Years, Yr 1 & 2	Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6
12.10.2021	19.10.2021
02.11.2021	09.11.2021
16.11.2021	23.11.2021
30.11.2021	07.12.2021
14.12.2021	

Christmas Dinner

This year we are repeating the success of having Christmas dinner on two separate days. This gives children longer to enjoy their festive lunch.

Diary Dates

12th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
14th	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop Tag Rugby Festival
15th	Year 6 return from Skern Lodge Young carers' drop in Tag Rugby competition
18th	Harvest festival assembly School nurses in for Flu Vaccine
19th	Parents Evening (via School Cloud) Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
21st	Parents Evening (via School Cloud)
22nd	Inset Day Children do not attend
25th-29th	Half Term Children do not attend
November	
1st	All Children return to school
2nd	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
5th	Young carers' drop in

8th	Magnolia class swimming for 2 weeks 10 – 11am
10th	Year 6 height and weight with the school Nurse team
11th	Armistice Day assembly
12th	Year 1 and 2 Rob's Reptiles visit Young carers' drop in
15th	Antibullying week Odd socks day
16th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
19th	Young carers' drop in
23rd	Basketball competition Parent/Carer drop-in clinic with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
25th	Football competition
26th	School nurses in for Flu Vaccine Young carers' drop in
29th	Occasional Day Children do not attend
30th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
December	
3rd	Young carers' drop in Last date to submit reasons for making late secondary application
7th	Parent/Carer drop-in meeting with Sian Mills 8:45 – 9:15am
10th	Young carers' drop in Dodgeball competition
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
16th	Dodgeball competition
17th	Young carers drop in
20th	End of term Nursery
21st	End of term
January	
5th	Inset day children do not attend
6th	All Children return to school

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2021/2022

Autumn Term

Wednesday 1st September	**Staff INSET – children do not attend**
Thursday 2nd September	**Term commences for children**

Friday 22nd October	**Staff INSET – children do not attend**
Monday 25th October – 29th October	**Half Term – children do not attend**
Monday 29th November	**Occasional Day – children do not attend**
Tuesday 21st December	**Term ends**

Spring Term

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

Summer Term

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