



News on the Ninth

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A huge thank you to our dedicated PTA members and their helpers for all their hard work in fund raising over the year!

We would like to also say a big thank you to the PTA for all their hard work organising the Summer fete which was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that attended the Summer fete on the 1st July. We raised £4000!

Reminder Gate/Start Times in September

From September, our school day will be changing – please see the new school day gate and registration times below:

Nursery am	8.30am	11.30am
Nursery pm	12.20pm	3.20pm

	Gates open	Official registration time	Collection time
Reception, Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2	8.30am	Gates Locked 8.40am	3.10pm

End of Year Reports

You will be receiving your child's end of year report this week and will see that all the children have contributed their own thoughts about the past year at school. I have really enjoyed reading each and every one of them. I hope you find the reports informative.

Staff Changes

It's the time of year when we have to say a fond farewell to some treasured members of staff. Miss Ali is leaving to work abroad in an all-year sunnier climate and Miss Alderson is leaving at the end of the term to embark on new ventures. In addition, Mrs Lindsay-Hill, Miss Hockey and Mrs Hewett will be taking maternity leave. We are certain that you will join us in wishing them well.

Attendance Trophy

Well done to Cedar class & Pine class who won the attendance trophy for KS1 & KS2 this half term.

Clubs



Thank you to all the teachers who ran lunch time and after school clubs this year. **95%** of Year 1 to Year 6 children attended at least one club!

Nursery



This half term, nursery enjoyed learning about clouds, wind, storms, sunshine, and shadows, during their Wanderlust time in the woods. We looked at clouds through viewers, used stick streamers to blow in the wind, used stormy colours to paint with and watched as our shadows moved along with us.

Reception

We have been reading *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* as our Talk4Writing text and exploring different elements of the beach. Towards the end of June, we enjoyed a trip to Chalkwell Beach. Once we arrived, the children ate their packed lunch, had a paddle in the sea and found shells, seaweed and made sandcastles before a long trip back to school - the children were all SO patient!



Year 1

Year 1 had an excellent time on our trip to Epping Forest Field Centre on 23rd June! We played games to learn how pollinators spread pollen and seeds, looked at what seeds need to germinate and explored the different parts of a plant. We even got blindfolded and needed to use our other senses to meet a tree! We had a wonderful time and the children were, as always, a credit to the school.



Year 2



Year 2 had a lovely time exploring 'The Great Outdoors'. We had a busy day in the orchard learning how to tie constrictor knots, using hacksaws, den building and whittling. In the afternoon we gathered around the campfire and toasted marshmallows to make delicious s'mores.



Year 3

Year 3 visited the University of Hertfordshire to enjoy the sculpture walk. It was amazing to see real Barbara Hepworth and Andy Goldsworthy sculptures after learning about them in lessons. We had a lovely time in the sun sketching our favourite sculptures.



Year 4

Recently, the children took part in pedestrian safety training. They were taken out of the school in small groups to walk along local streets. Whilst out, they were taught how to stay safe on the pavements and how to safely cross roads. Back in the class, we also learnt more about road safety and how to reduce the chance of putting ourselves in a dangerous situation.

Year 5

On Friday 23rd June, Year 5 went to Knebworth House in Stevenage as part of their History learning topic about the Tudors. In the morning we went on a tour around the house and tried different activities. In the afternoon, we went on a Tudor Trail looking for clues to prepare a banquet for Queen Elizabeth I.



Here we are being greeted by our guides in costume in the Tudor banqueting hall.
“It was awesome – all the old paintings and artefacts.”

“Queen Elizabeth I visited the house with 500 people to serve her! The house had to prepare all their sleeping arrangements and prepare all their food – and the house had to pay for it all!”



“The library had a hidden door – it looked just like a bookcase.”

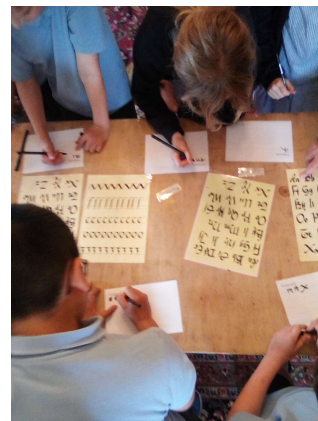
“Boys learned sports and fighting. Girls learned maths so they could keep the money and pay the bills.”

“They wrote with quills and ink.”

“Their handwriting was called calligraphy.”

“Calligraphy was tricky because you really had to concentrate and some of the alphabet was different.”

“I can imagine that if we did it with real ink, it would be messy and blotchy.”





"The armoury was awesome. We saw suits of armour and spears and swords."

"The people must have been a lot smaller then."

"They tied tassels onto the ends of their spears to soak up the blood!"



"We got to dress up in Tudor costumes. Smart eh?"

"The clothes were really heavy and hot. That's because they had no central heating."

"They didn't wash! They didn't trust water so they used lavender oil to smell nice."

"They had no teeth – that's why they did not smile in their portraits. Their teeth were rotten as they had no dental care."



"Thanks to Mrs Lanyon, we were the first school ever to name all the Tudor musical instruments!"

"Apparently Queen Elizabeth I loved dancing but got in trouble because she showed an ankle once."

"One of our clues was hidden in the maze in the gardens. I got lost so had to go back to the start."



“We looked for the potato plants in the kitchen garden. The family would grow all their own vegetables.”

“Rich people did not eat many vegetables, they ate meat.”

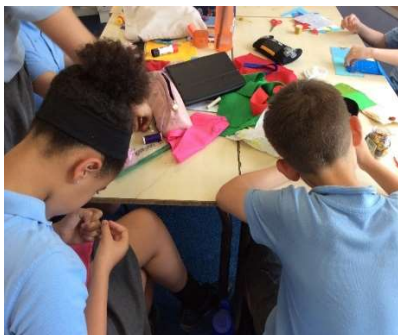
“The rich ate deer and swans, they also ate sparrows and blackbirds.”

“The Tudors used herbs as medicines and to flavour their food.”

Year 6

Year 6 have been working very hard on their sewing skills during our DT learning. We designed a case for a device against a given design criteria and then spent some time practising different stitches, such as over stitch, backstitch and running stitch.

We have been using different materials to create our cases, making sure we are working independently to practise all of our learnt skills. They are starting to look fantastic!



Sports Day

Thank you to all of the parents who attended sports days and to everyone that emailed in to thank us. Each event was a huge success! Thank you to the dedicated staff, especially our sports team, Mrs Scott and Mr Marshment.



Gardening Club

Congratulations to our gardening club. The fruit and vegetables are growing at rapid speed!

The whole school community have been enjoying watching the allotments flourish and the club members are starting to enjoy the fresh produce. A huge thank you to Mr Bensted for his help and guidance!

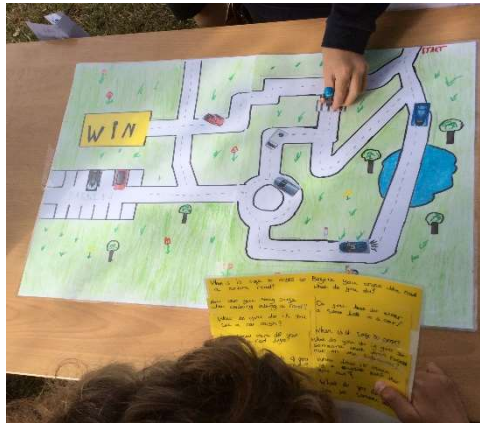


Year 6 Enterprise

The Year 6 children had Enterprise selling day on Thursday, which was really successful. The children spent a week and a half creating a business idea that they then turned into a game. Lots of different prizes were made and bought, and the children spent time making posters to advertise their stall.

The Year 6s really enjoyed talking to the younger children about their games and helping them with their money counting skills too!

Overall, the Year 6 children really gained a lot from the experience and came away having made a profit on their stalls - all money raised is going to be given to the local foodbanks.



French Culture Day



The whole school is celebrating 'French culture day' on Friday 14th July. Every class will be taking part in activities about France, learning about a famous French person and creating a piece of art that is worthy of being displayed in 'Le musée du Louvre'.

Years 3-6 will also be visiting 'Le Café Français' (in school) to taste French pastries! Bon appetit! If your child has any dietary requirements they will need to bring in their own snack as we cannot guarantee that the pastries are allergen free.

The children, if they wish, can come to school on Friday 14th July wearing clothes that are blue, white and red, the colours of the French flag (Le drapeau tricolore français -bleu, blanc, rouge). They will need to wear sensible shoes too.

Please find below 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

Safety Reminder

Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) – are not permitted on the school site. When walking dogs with your children to school, please be mindful of small children and people with a disability who could easily trip and fall when approached by dogs.

Online Safety

internetmatters.org has produced '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 is 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.

Lost property



Please label your child's belongings with a name and class in permanent ink in order for property to be swiftly returned to them. If your child has lost any items of school

uniform, please check the lost property boxes which are currently overflowing. Any unclaimed lost property will be disposed of at the end of the term.

Year 6 Presentation Assembly

Parents of Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the Year 6 leavers' assembly at 9am on 19th July.

Pupils will receive their yearbooks followed by the much loved bell ringing ceremony.

Parents are welcome to bring cameras on this occasion to take photos in the courtyard.



Swimming next term

As part of our Physical Education lessons, the school has arranged for children in Year 4 to have swimming lessons at Hatfield Swim Centre taught by a trained swimming coach. The last year has shown fantastic results with children going swimming each day over a two-week period.

Maple & Magnolia classes will be swimming week commencing 18th September 2023 and week commencing 25th September 2023.

Year 6 Swimming

A huge congratulations to the following Year 6 swimmers:

5m – Pariza

25m and water safety – Saleem and Jessie

33m and water safety – Daisy

66m and water safety – Darci and Roxy

School Uniform

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 shirt
- Plain grey skirts or pinafores (or pale blue gingham dresses in the Summer term- no playsuits)
- 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 – trainer socks are not permitted. No logos.
- Black shoes – no logos or coloured soles or coloured laces. No laced shoes in Reception. For safety, shoes that do up rather than slip-on are recommended.
- Boots are not part of school uniform.
- Wellington boots can be worn in wet weather to and from school but children must change into school shoes on arrival
- Nursery and Reception children require wellington boots and a waterproof coat every day as we regularly visit our Forest School.
- Hair ties should be the school colours – long hair should be tied back

Physical Education Clothing (PE)

All pupils are expected to participate in PE lessons. Children need to dress safely for PE. They should wear plain, **close fitting**:

- Navy blue shorts – no logos
- White tee shirt – no logos
- Black plimsolls for indoor PE and velcro trainers for outdoor PE
- Hair tie for long hair
- Please provide a pair of white/black/grey socks for PE if tights are worn

Children may not wear replica kits or expensive branded clothing, earrings or watches for PE. A bag for PE and games kit should be provided. Please ensure all clothing and bags are named.

Aprons

Food technology is a vital part of the school curriculum. A Commonswood apron is available to purchase from Smarty Schoolwear or online at smartyschoolwear.co.uk. One size fits all. Please name all school items.

Book Bags

Children are asked to carry their reading book to school each day. The reading book needs to be protected from the weather. Book bags are available from Smarty Schoolwear or online at smartyschoolwear.co.uk.

Children are asked to use drawstring bags for all items as these remain on pegs. Backpacks tend to fall off pegs. Pupils must not bring large backpacks to school as there is insufficient storage available.

Jewellery

Jewellery, including earrings, bracelets, rings and necklaces, may not be worn in school as it can cause nasty injuries in PE lessons and on the playground. If your child has pierced ears, children may wear **plain** studs which must be removed or taped for PE. **Please note that the school will not take responsibility for any loss.** Make-up, nail varnish, hair dye and multiple piercings are not appropriate for primary school pupils and are not permitted.

Meeting new teachers

As in previous years, children will have the opportunity to spend the morning in their new classrooms with their new class teacher on Thursday 13th July when the Year 6 children visit their secondary schools. Please drop your children off in the usual way as they will meet their next teacher later in the morning.

Open evening

Parents are invited to attend school after school on 13th July to take a look around the school – visit your child's class and the class that they will be in September.

2023/24 Class Arrangements

Current teacher		Current class		2023/24 Class teacher	2023/24 Class name September
			N	Mrs Farmer	Saplings
Mrs Farmer	N	Saplings	R	Miss Ingamells	Acer
Mrs Farmer	N	Saplings	R	Miss Burrough/Miss Coe	Alder
Miss Ingamells	R	Acer	1	Ms Rouse/Mrs Coe	Birch
Mrs Lindsey-Hill	R	Alder	1	Mrs Scott	Beech
Mrs Scott	1	Beech	2	Miss Buckley	Cherry
Miss Hockey	1	Birch	2	Miss Jones	Cedar
Miss Buckley	2	Cherry	3	Miss Richards	Hawthorn
Miss Jones	2	Cedar	3	Miss Bull	Hazel
Mrs Manning	3	Hazel	4	Mr Burt	Maple
Miss Ali	3	Hawthorn	4	Miss Smith	Magnolia
Mr Burt	4	Maple	5	Mrs Mitchell	Pine
Mrs Bennett	4	Magnolia	5	Mrs Moss	Palm
Mrs Barnard	5	Pine	6	Miss Bertorelli	Sycamore
Mrs Moss	5	Palm	6	Mrs Barnard	Spruce

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.

The 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 for another busy year at Commonswood in September.

With best wishes

GD Seymour

Diary Dates

July	
12 th	Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm, parents of those having lessons
13 th	Transition day – Year 6 attend secondary school and all children move up to meet their next teacher
13 th	Open evening – parents are invited into school to view the school including children's next classes. 3.10pm -4pm
14 th	French Culture Day – Children may wear red, white and blue
17 th	Year 6 Leavers Trip
18 th	Year 6 BBQ 4-6pm
19 th	Year 6 Bell ringing 9am
19 th	Last day of term for Nursery children
20 th	Last day of term 12.30pm finish
21 st	INSET day – Children do not attend
September	
1 st	Inset Day – Children do not attend
4 th	Term Starts – All children to attend – Please note the change to the school day
18 th	Year 4 Swimming – 2 weeks
21 st	Vaccination UK Year Reception to Year 6
October	
16 th – 20 th	Year 6 to Skern
23 rd -27 th	Half Term

School Times from September 2023

From September, our school day will be changing – please see the new school day gate and registration times below:

Nursery am	8.30am	11.30am
Nursery pm	12.20pm	3.20pm

	Gates open	Official registration time	Collection time
Reception, Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2	8.30am	Gates Locked 8.40am	3.10pm

2023 / 2024

Autumn	Friday	1 st September	Staff Inset Day - Children do not attend
	Monday	4 th September	Term Commences
		23 rd October – 27 th October	Half Term
	Friday	24 th November	Occasional Day - Children do not attend
	Wednesday	20 th December	Term Ends
Spring	Thursday	4 th January	Staff Inset Day - Children do not attend
	Friday	5 th January	Staff Inset Day - Children do not attend
	Monday	8 th January	Term Commences
		19 th – 23 rd February	Half Term
	Thursday	28 th March	Term Ends
	Friday	29 th March	Bank Holiday
	Monday	1 st April	Bank Holiday
Summer	Monday	15 th April	Staff Inset Day - Children do not attend
	Tuesday	16 th April	Term commences
	Monday	6 th May	Bank Holiday
	Friday	24 th May	Staff Inset Day - Children do not attend
	Monday	27 th May – 31 st May	Half Term
	Tuesday	23 rd July	Term Ends

Please note that the law does not allow for Headteachers to authorise term time holidays.

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

'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 Mrs Seymour, Mrs Manning or Mrs Scatchard via the school office.

Mrs Seymour (Designated Senior Lead), Mrs Manning (Deputy Designated Lead),

Miss Dean (Deputy Designated Lead) , Mrs Lindsay-Hill (Deputy Designated Lead) & Mr Burt (Deputy Designated Lead for eSafety)