



NEWS ON THE NINTH

JUNE 23

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Welcome back to the last half of the summer term, we hope you have all had a restful half term break.

Nursery

The children were very excited to take part in our Nursery trip to Paradise Wildlife Park. The children enjoyed traveling on the coach, they noticed lots of things when looking out of the windows. After walking around the dinosaurs, 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, as they were laying by the viewing window. Seeing a real sun bear was very exciting, lots of the children remembered the name from learning about different types of bears during our 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' Talk 4 Writing, last autumn. All of the children behaved so well during our trip, we are so proud of them.



YEAR R

Reception have been learning about minibeasts and insects. We were very excited to watch our caterpillars grow and develop during May.



We watched them closely, talking about what we had observed and made lots of predictions about what might change. We noticed that they formed a chrysalis, then turned into a butterfly! At the end of the half term, we released our butterflies and watched them fly away to a new home.



YEAR 1

Year 1 had a lovely time in the Orchard on the last day of half term. We used whittling knives to sharpen sticks, went pond-dipping and learnt how to safely make a fire! We had lots of fun exploring what creatures are living in and around our pond. We especially enjoyed singing some campfire songs in the afternoon!



YEAR 2

Year 2 went on their school trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, where we linked our history learning of Florence Nightingale with our science learning of materials and plants. We had a great day and took part in many different workshops!

The children learnt about Victorian life, and how in the time of Florence clothes were cleaned, as well as making their own 'rag rug'. The children then learnt how a brick was made in Victorian times and took part in making their own brick wall, where they also discussed materials and how to make items waterproof.

The children had a fantastic day!



YEAR 3

Year 3 have been learning about clocks and how to tell the time. We have enjoyed playing games and testing each other on our time telling skills!



This week we played a game which used our skills in addition and subtraction. Each player moved through a mathematical maze to see who could get closest to 1000.

YEAR 4

Just before the half term, Year 4 went on a local area walk. This was part of our Geography unit and our Archbishop of York award. We had a focus to identify why our local community isn't perfect and what, if possible, we would like to improve or change. We created a sketch map of the area to help record our findings.



YEAR 5

Year 5 enjoyed a day of Greek cooking, learning the skills of cutting, slicing, grating, frying and baking. We produced some amazing moussakas which we tasted in the afternoon. For homework over the holiday, some of us tried the recipe at home to treat our parents and carers to a homemade meal.



YEAR 6

In Year 6, we have been doing lots of work around narrative writing. We watched a video called 'Dreamgiver' about a boy that is sucked into a dream by accident and then wrote a narrative with dialogue about this. We enjoyed doing lots of work on setting and character description. With our PSHE learning, we have had a charity (Future Living) coming in give us sessions about healthy relationships with the people around us. This has included talking about respect, personal space and consent. We have had lots of good discussions in these sessions!



BONJOUR

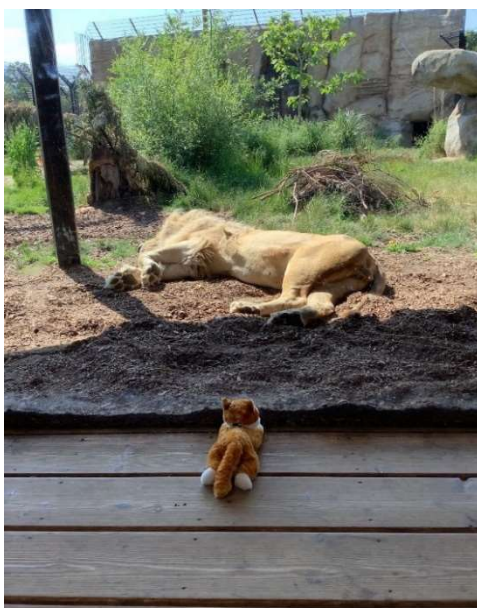
French Club' visit Commonswood

Year 5 recently had a special visit from the 'French Club' at Stanborough School. The Year 7 pupils presented a range of fun activities and games on the theme of 'Sports', which Year 5 eagerly took part in. After successfully matching the French sport names to their English equivalent, we learnt how to say which sports we liked to play and why we liked them. We finished with an entertaining quiz on France and its culture.

We will soon be learning how to play the French sport of 'Pétanque' during Sports week!

Young Carers

Our Young Carers visited Paradise Wildlife Park and had a roaringly good time. Even though the penguins didn't want to come out and say hello, the tiger showed off a big jump and a stretch, and the meercats gave us a good stare! The children behaved beautifully and had a wonderful time.





YEAR 3 SWIMMING

Year 3 swimming went with a splash this term!

All of our Year 3 pupils improved their confidence in the water and as you can see, many splashed it out of the pool!!

A huge congratulations to:

5m and water safety – Bethany, Franklin, Guste, Muhhamad, Leon, Harry, Jack S

10m and water safety – George, Lucas, Taylor, Simeon

15m and water safety – Alexis, Darcie, Emma, Mohammed, Zoe

20m and water safety - Francesca

25m and water safety – Alice, Cooper, Harper, Jarek, Raya, Rosie, William A, Amelia, Ayansh, Beatrice, Elias, Ella, Georgie, Harry G, Harry F, Jack M, Josiah, Luca, Rome, Rose, Sofia

33m and water safety – Cody, Grace, Harper, Oscar, Summer, William L, Ayva, Martha, Sophie

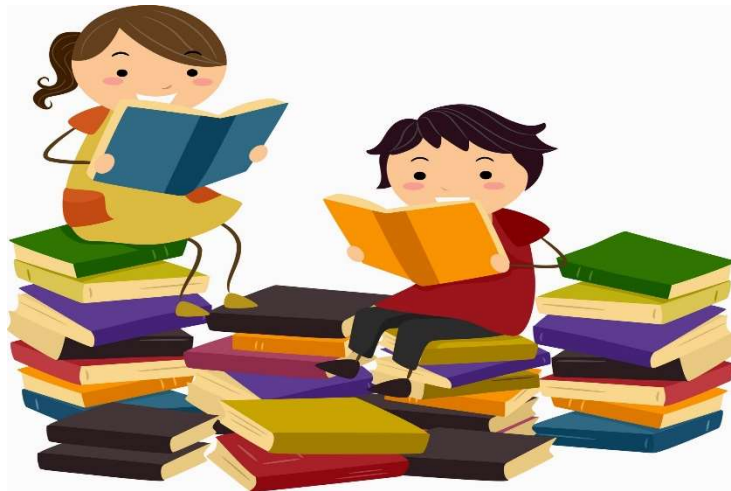
55m and water safety - Caitlin

66m and water safety – Chanin, Manual, Otis, Thomas



Book Sale

A huge thank you to the team from Isabel Hospice for helping the school raise funds for such a wonderful charity. The children enjoyed browsing and buying books all of which were great value for money. Thank you and well done to our Year 5 pupils for running the event. Thank you to all the parents for allowing your child to take part. Everyone had such a great time and we managed to raise a whopping **£531** for a such a worthy cause.



Every Day Matters

Please be aware that the children are still hard at work learning all the things needed to be successful. Each day missed means a missed phonics lesson, a missed maths concept, a missed writing concept, a missed science lesson.

Attendance during school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
Please notify your child's class teacher if you require support with your child's attendance.			

Maths challenge

To keep your maths braining learning and active, try having a go at this maths challenge.

Using a pack of cards, can you create the number 24?

Try thinking of other numbers you can create using a pack of cards.

Which numbers are harder to make and why?

KS2 - try having a go at this independently and try testing other people in your family to see whether you have different answers.

Using a pack of cards can you create the number 24?

Try thinking of other numbers you can create using a pack of cards.

Which numbers are harder to make and why?

MATHS CARD GAME

24



Can you make
24?



Clean Air Day, the UK's largest campaign on air pollution, is happening on Thursday 15 June 2023. The theme is - "Clean up our air to look after your mind this #CleanAirDay".

The campaign focuses on the fact that cleaning up our air is good for us in many ways: it not only benefits our physical health and the environment but can also protect our mental and brain health.

Rocksteady

The pupils taking part in the Rocksteady band practice are all looking forward to their first 'gig' on Wednesday 12th July at 2.30pm. Parents of those taking part are invited to come along.

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 year 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 issues 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 unpleasantness, 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.

Please find below 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	
15th	Year 3 Sculpture Walk at Herts Uni 9.30-12.00
20 th	Reception trip to Southend
23rd	Year 1 field studies council trip
23rd	Year 5 Trip to Knebworth
23rd	Year 2 Orchard Day
26 th – 30 th	Sports week
26 th	Reception and KS1 sports afternoon 1pm -3pm
27 th	KS2 Sports afternoon 1pm – 3pm
29 th	Reception and KS1 sports afternoon 1pm -3pm (contingency)
30 th	KS2 sports afternoon 1pm -3pm (contingency)
July	
1 st	Summer Fete
6 th	New to Reception Parent Meeting
7 th	Year 6 Enterprise
10th	British Museum Year 4 Trip
12th	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
14th	French Culture Day
17th	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
21 st	INSET day

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

