



MARCH 2023

News on the Ninth

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Nursery



The children were so excited to hear that we had ducklings and some eggs in the incubator. We went to visit them and got to hold and stroke them, "They are so soft and fluffy." The children were on their best behaviour, "We have to be so quiet, so we don't scare the ducklings". We read about ducklings in our nature book and learnt how the mummy duck teaches them to swim and feed. We learnt that ducklings have webbed feet to help them to swim.

Reception

Reception thoroughly enjoyed World Book week. We had a workshop on the story 'The Greatest Giant in Town', which is leading on to our Talk 4 Writing topic Jim and the Beanstalk. We have also



been sharing our favourite stories, some new ones, and some very familiar stories. We also started something called 'Helicopter Stories' during World Book week. This is where the children wrote or told their own story and then the other children in the class acted it out on a stage in the classroom. It was great fun and the children told amazing stories!



Year 1

In Year 1 we were very excited to explore some real Victorian artefacts! We thought about what they might be used for, and after we found out we compared them to what we might use now. We were especially interested in the glove stretcher and the iron poker!

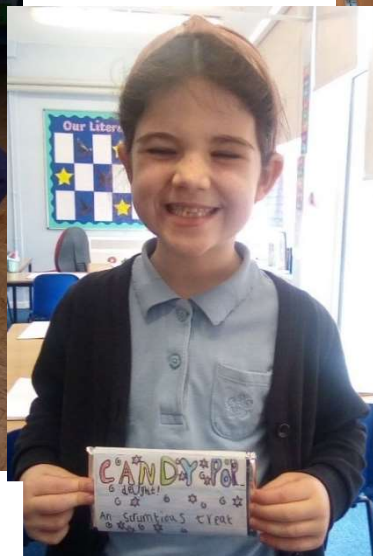


Year 2

Year 2 have been reading Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' for our 3 o'clock book. During book week, we took part in an exciting drama workshop which brought the story to life! We then designed our very own chocolate bar inspired by Wonka's 'Scrumdilyumptious Bar'. To create the name of our chocolate bar we played on words, then wrote a catchy slogan for our advert to entice customers to buy our creation. We even won golden tickets!



Verucca Salt



Grandpa Joe

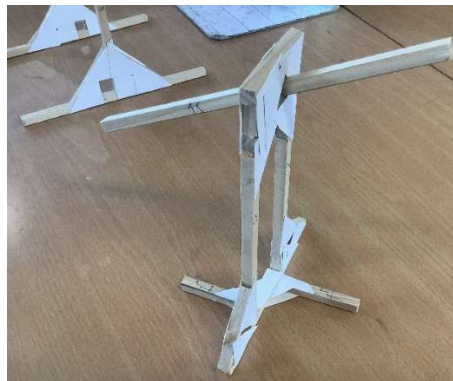
Year 3

The science dome came to visit! Year three had a superb time in the science dome. It was an immersive experience where we learnt about the eye and light colours. We watched different videos and at one point it was as though the stars were falling on us!



Year 4

In our DT unit, we investigated how Egyptian shadufs worked we then designed and made our own. We had to measure and saw the wood accurately and learn how to stick them together to form a stable structure.



Year 5

Year 5 became 'Mini Medics' this half term. They completed a course where they were taught first aid, how to assess a casualty (DR ABC – Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, CPR), how to perform effective CPR on a manikin and how to put an unresponsive casualty into the recovery position.



Year 6

Year 6 spent the day at the Science Museum in London. We explored the Wonderlab, where we were able to interact with experiments and tests that looked at Matter, Light, Forces and many other scientific topics.

We watched a Wonder Show, where people at the museum showed us different experiments including how glow sticks work but on a giant scale!

Our final visit was to an exhibit to do with Flight. We even spotted two World War Two planes that we had learnt about: a Spitfire and a Hurricane. The children were very excited about this!



Online Safety

March's Online Safety focus is 'Privacy and Security'. At home, please could you have a discussion with your child regarding this area.

In EYFS and KS1, it could be discussing what is 'private' information and 'adults they can trust'.

In Lower KS2, discussions about keeping passwords to themselves and types of private information which they should not share online.

In upper KS2, discussing what to do if they think passwords are not secure and 'seeking' consent when popups / terms and conditions appear.

School Council news

This year, the School Council have chosen to support our local food bank. The children are going to be collecting donations on **Monday 13th March**, sorting them into categories and ensuring they swiftly get to this worthwhile cause. We are, of course, eager to collect as much as possible, and any items are gratefully received. The food bank have given us a list of items which would be particularly helpful for families and these are:

Cereals (children's ones), coffee, tea, toilet rolls, rice pudding, honey, jam, toiletries (deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, shower gel, toothpaste, soap), nappies sizes 3 to 5, washing powder and fabric conditioner.

Please give all donations to your child to bring to class when they arrive at school. Thank you.



**Well Done! we raised a total
of £609.34 for the Asthma &
Lung UK Charity.**



SPLASHTACULAR SWIMMING RESULTS

YEAR 5

Year 5 swimming went with a splash this term! An impressive 94% of our pupils in Year 5 have met the expected standard for the end of Year 6! Pupils are expected to competently swim 25 metres and achieve their water safety certificate. All of our Year 5 pupils improved their confidence in the water and as you can see, many splashed it out of the pool!!

A huge congratulations to:

5m - Riley

25m and water safety – Keyaan, Uskana, Luke, Peter, Khaldun, Alfie, Svaniik, Nataniel, Morgan, Samuel, Harry, Max, Mia, Theo, Alice D, Olly, Isaac, Spencer, Noah, Brooke, Jamie, Daisy SJ, Vinnie, Liam

50m and water safety – Dylan C, Anna, Lilah-Rose, Jaden, Joshua, Richard, Alice S, Tej, Thomas, Ella, Cody, Roman, Mia Skye, Zoe, Niamh, Amelia, Alex, Dylan O, Max, Shai

66m and water safety – Esmae, Ethan, Kaila-Rae, Daisy-Mae, Aurora

120m and water safety- Abdulsobur



Clubs

This week, week commencing 6th March 2023 is the last week of clubs.

Athletics Competitions

Commonswood School's under 11's girls and boys have been showcasing their athletic talents in recent competitions. The two events, which took place on 24th February and 3rd March, saw the young athletes put their skills to the test against other schools in the area.

On 24th February, both the girls' and boys' teams managed to finish in first place. The impressive performances of the teams were a testament to their hard work and dedication to their sport. With the support of their coaches and fellow teammates, the young athletes put in a tremendous effort, earning themselves well-deserved victories.

The competitions continued on 3rd March, where the girls' team once again proved their athletic prowess by securing another victory. The girls' team will now progress to the County finals, where they will compete against other schools in the region. The team's success is a testament to their skills and the hard work they have put in during training sessions.

Unfortunately, the boys' team finished joint first in the competition, but after consulting county athletics, it was decided that they would not be going through to the County finals. Despite this setback, the boys' team has been an asset to Commonswood School. Their hard work and dedication to the sport have been truly commendable, and they should be proud of their achievements.

Overall, the girls' and boys' teams have been a credit to Commonswood School. Their performances have been nothing short of outstanding, and their passion for the sport has been truly inspiring. The school is proud to have such talented athletes, and they are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for these young stars.

Thank you to the parents for arranging transport for the children.



Nursery Applications for September 2023

If you would like to prepare your child for school and your child was born between 01/09/2019 – 31/08/2020 they are eligible to start our Nursery in September 2023. Applications for Nursery are now live. We do have some additional Stay & Play sessions available for you and your child to come along and spend some time in the Nursery prior to applying. Please contact the school office in order for you to book a place. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Nursery application forms are available from the school office – admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk and from the school website.

Parent Forum

The next parent forum will be held at 9am on 27th April. The theme will be Special Educational Needs/Disabilities provision and policy.



Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

Are you ready for Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2023 starting on 20 March? It is time to get bikes and scooters ready for the event.

Please join us in encouraging healthy and active journeys to school to get us moving and help improve air quality.

Commonswood Choir

The Commonswood Choir recently had a fantastic trip to sing in the O2 London Arena, Young Voices Concert 2023. They sung along with 9002 other children, who made a massed choir. The whole day was an amazing experience and the children sung their heart out all day! An experience for all that they will never forget!



Please find below this Month's reading recommendations!

EYFS

Nursery – Poppy Pickle by Emma Yarlett

Reception – Hey, Water! By Antoinette Portis

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – King of the Classroom by Derrick Barnes and Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Year 2 – Salty Dogs by Matty Long

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – This Bee is not Afraid of Me edited by Fran Long and Isabelle Gallymore

Year 4 – Varjak Paw by SF Said

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – The Violet Veil Mysteries by Sophie Cleverly

Year 6 – A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson



DIARY DATES

March 2023	
14 th March	Nursery Stay and Play 1.30- 2.30pm
15 th March	Great Big Dance Off Competition – Gordon Craig Theatre
15 th March	Potential Strike Day
16 th March	Potential Strike Day
16 th March	Parent Coffee Morning
20 th – 31 st	Big Walk & Wheel Fortnight
22 nd March	Nursery Stay and Play 1.30- 2.30pm
28 th March	Bug Fest Visitor – Nursery & Reception
29 th March	Nursery Stay and Play 1.30- 2.30pm
31 st March	Term ends 12.30pm
April 2023	
17 th April	INSET – children do not attend
18 th April	Term commences - all children attend
19 th April	Rocksteady Music Lessons Resume
27 th April	Parent Forum 9.00am
May 2023	
1 st May	Bank Holiday
5 th May	King's Coronation Celebration – details to follow
8 th May	Bank Holiday
9 th – 12 th May	KS2 SATS Year 6
15 th May	Year 3 Swimming for 2 weeks
16 th May	Parent Coffee Morning
16 th May	Class Photos

29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term
June 2023	
5 th June	INSET – Children do not attend
6 th June	Term commences - all children attend
29 th June	Parent Coffee Morning
13 th July	Secondary School Transfer day – all children to visit new classes
13 th July	Open Evening for Parents – 3.10pm – 4.00pm
26 th – 30 th June	Sports Week – details to follow
20 th July	Term ends 12.30pm
21 st July	INSET – Children do not attend

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