



# News on the Ninth October 2022

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## Welcome meetings

Thank you for attending our year group welcome meetings. If you could not be there on the day, the teachers' Powerpoints are available for you to view on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.

## Friends of Commonswood



There was a good turn out to the first meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and many wonderful events are currently being planned. Please take note of these in the diary dates section at the end of this newsletter. Further details of each event will be emailed separately. If you didn't attend the last meeting, you are more than welcome to come along to the next one. We will be discussing all the things that will be happening on the lead up to Christmas, and more helpers would be wonderful!

The next meeting will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm and we will also be voting in a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to put yourself forward for one of these positions, please let Mrs Manning know, either in person or in an email via the school office.

## School Council news

We have had a big thank you from Asthma and Lung UK for all the fundraising we have been doing. We have also been awarded the accolade of Clean Air Champions. Well done to last year's Year 6 for their fundraising efforts during enterprise week (hopefully this message will get to them!).



## Harvest festival

Thank you for all your donations for the local food bank. We collected a mighty mountain of food! This is much appreciated.



## Parent Teacher Consultations



A letter was emailed to all parents/carers last month, asking for you to state a preference for in person or online meetings for parent consultation meetings this term. If you requested a face-to-face meeting, you had priority booking for one of these times. Any free slots were then made widely available. If you haven't yet booked a time to meet with your child's teacher, please see the letter containing the School Cloud booking link. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## Another invite to see you child's books

After some very positive feedback, we are once again inviting parents into school to see their children's books. If you had an online parent teacher consultation, this will give you the opportunity to see for yourself what your child has been learning. Please see diary dates for days and times.

## Online Safety Theme

In October our theme will be "Online Relationships". At home, please could you have a discussion with your child about the following:

In EYFS, it could cover how we use different technology to communicate.

In KS1, how to be kind, considerate and appropriate when communicating using technology and what is not appropriate to share online.

In Lower KS2, the importance of giving and gaining permission before sharing things online; how the principles of sharing online is the same as sharing offline e.g. sharing images/videos.

In Upper KS2, how to be kind and show respect for others online including the importance of respecting boundaries. Also, how to appropriately respond to unpleasant posts from friends / peers.



## Online Safety Newsletter

Hopefully you have already received the Herts for Learning Autumn Newsletter for parents/carers. Some of the information includes online grooming and gaming communities.

## Online safety workshop for parents

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 2:30, we will be holding a workshop for parents on how to keep your children safe online. Please email the office in advance if you would like to attend.

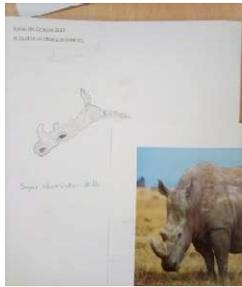


### Odd socks day for anti-bullying week

Once again, we are supporting the Anti-bullying Alliance's odd socks day to help spread the word that bullying is not tolerated. On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, children are invited to wear odd socks to school with their uniform. We are not collecting money for this, but if you would like to donate, the Anti-Bullying Alliance has a Just Giving page.

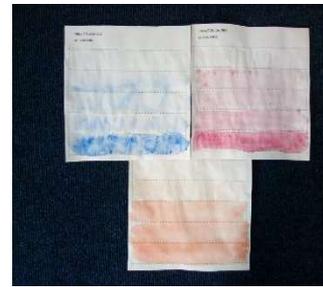
### Children In Need

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November is Children In Need. We will be holding a non-uniform day and Pudsey accessories are very welcome (no onesies please!). If you would like to donate to this cause, please do so via the Children In Need website.



### KS1 Art Workshops

KS1 took part in art workshops with Mrs Moss. Year 1 focused on their sketching skills and the importance of adding detail while Year 2 created tints of colour using watercolour paints which linked to their study of the artist Paul Klee.



### 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 have learnt about some woodland creatures too, we took some clay to the woods and used it along with natural resources to make our own hedgehogs. Talk 4 Writing has also been fun, we have learnt the Owl Babies story using words and actions.

### Reception

We have had a very busy first month in Reception! We have enjoyed exploring in our orchard and have spotted some apples growing on the trees, as well as some spiders in their webs. We have also enjoyed learning our story, The Little Red Hen. We have practised telling it in lots of different ways, using costumes, toy animals, mark making and artwork.

### Year 1



In History, Year 1 have been learning about Great Explorers. We learnt about Christopher Columbus and his voyages to America. We created posters to show everything we have learnt about him, including what he brought back from America, how he travelled there and where he thought he was!

## Year 2



Year 2 Have been busy learning all about the Great Fire of London in our History lessons this half term. The children have enjoyed 'hot seating' as they interviewed each other as different significant people who are linked to the events in 1666 such as Samuel Pepys and King Charles II.



## Year 3

As part of our Stone Age learning we visited the orchard to be cave men for the day! We learnt about the different tools Stone Age people used and then went to make our own. We found sticks, branches and rocks then used our knot tying skills to create tools for different purposes. We made spears, bow and arrows, fishing rods, spades – all sorts of everyday tools! We also loved finding different rocks to link back to our science learning!



## Year 4

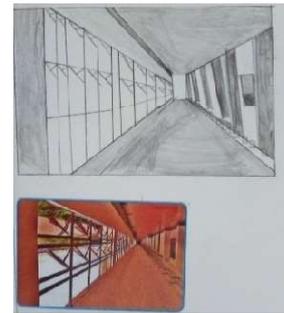


We have just started an English unit about information texts, where we have found out about 'Apple Giants'. We paid a visit to the orchard to gather apples and did some baking – to practice our peeling and chopping skills.

## Year 5

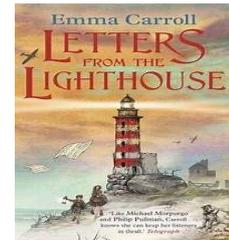


In Art, Year 5 have been studying landscapes and looking at perspective and how this is shown in paintings. We have copied images including perspective to practise this skill. In future lessons we will be creating volcano landscape paintings where we will focus on perspective to enhance our artwork.



## Year 6

Year 6 have been linking their English learning with their History unit and reading a book called Letters from the Lighthouse. It is based in WW2 and the children have been focusing on different characters' points of view (evacuees and parents), diary entries with empathy and character descriptions.



## Sports news

Wow! What an incredible start to the year we have had in our Sports partnership with Monks Walk. Many children already have taken part in school competitions such as Year 5 running festival, Year 6 cross country, TAP events, netball fixtures, athletics, Year 4 tag rugby festival and a girls sports festival. We also have indoor athletics and a tag rugby world cup to look forward to before half term, and after half term our football team will start playing fixtures.

A big well done to all the children who have represented our school and shown to be a class act and difficult to beat, all while being respectful and well behaved.

Thank you to the parents that have helped with transporting children to and from events, we couldn't do these events without you.

## Keeping safe in the dark



As our daylight hours dwindle, we start to talk to the children about staying safe when travelling to and from school. There are lots of different ways of adding something reflective to outdoor clothing, such as a reflective wrist/arm band, a reflective strip on your bag or coat, a bright or reflective hat, or a key ring attached to your coat zip. Ask your children to have a look at their coats. Do they have something reflective?

## Clubs – Autumn 2022

Here are our clubs for the autumn term. There are no clubs during the week of 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
All clubs start straight after school and finish at 4.15pm. Please ensure children are collected promptly.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS1	KS1 Gymnastics <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from Nursery door	Years 1 and 2 Computer coding club <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from main entrance		KS1 dance <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from Nursery door	KS1 Football @£4 per session Run by Premier sports Parents collect from Nursery
KS2	Girls football Run by Premier sports <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from main entrance	Rock steady band club Year 3-4 Parents collect from main entrance (this club is currently postponed)		KS1 ball skills <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from Nursery door	KS2 Football club @£4 a session Run by premier sports Parents collect from KS2 playground
	Boys football team <b>FREE</b> Invite only Parents collect from Junior playground	Choir club <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from Nursery door		KS2 Netball club – <b>FREE</b> Parents collect from KS2 playground	

The web link for parents to book Premier Sport football is:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/19289/?location=al7>

## Diary Dates

October	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest festival
11 <sup>th</sup>	Parent consultations
13 <sup>th</sup>	Parent consultations
14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 History off the page day
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 residential trip to Skern Lodge
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
November	
1 <sup>st</sup>	PTA Pumpkin Display (all day) and cake sale after school
7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Magnolia swimming – two week block
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Assembly – children belonging to youth organisations such as cubs and brownies are permitted to wear their uniforms for the day.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 and Year 5 Synagogue trip
14 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-bullying week. Odd socks day for anti-bullying week
18 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need – Non Uniform day
18 <sup>th</sup>	2pm PTA Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup>	2.45pm Year 1 Parent book view

22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.45pm Year 2 Parent book view
23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.45pm Year 3 Parent book view
24 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm Year 4 Parent book view
25 <sup>th</sup>	Occasional Day – Children do not attend
28 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm Year 5 Parent book view
29 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm Year 6 Parent book view
December	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	PTA KS2 Film night after school. Contact PTA for tickets.
12 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Concert at Our Lady's – children to arrive at 5.45pm for a 6pm start
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Nursery & Alder Christmas performance. PTA mince pie & mingle before the performance
13 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm Nursery & Acer Christmas performance. PTA mince pie & mingle before the performance
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am and 2.15pm Year 1 Christmas performance. PTA mince pie & mingle before the performance
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am and 2.15pm Year 2 Christmas performance. PTA mince pie & mingle before the performance
16 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Fair straight after school
21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of Autumn Term End of term – staggered gate times for collection from the usual pick-up points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception – 12.10 – Gate 1</li> <li>• Year 1 – 12.20 – Gate 1</li> <li>• Year 2 – 12.30 – Gate 1</li> <li>• Year 3 – 12.20 – Gate 3</li> <li>• Year 4 – 12.10 – Gate 3</li> <li>• Year 5 – 12.30 – Gate 3</li> <li>• Year 6 – 12.20 – Gate 5</li> </ul>
January 2023	
5 <sup>th</sup>	No Inset Day. Term commences - all children attend
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Choir to the O2
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Term ends
17 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET – children do not attend
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Term commences - all children attend
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half Term
5 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET – Children do not attend
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Term commences - all children attend
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Term ends
21 <sup>st</sup> 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**