



FEBRUARY 2024

News on the Ninth

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Nursery

In nursery we have been learning to rhyme. We have been making our own silly soup – soup made from rhyming ingredients and reading lots of rhyming stories.



Reception

We have had a great start to the spring term in Reception. To begin our new Talk4Writing text - Cops and Robbers - we became police investigators to find clues on who had stolen Jennie Jigsaw from our garden! We wrote wanted and missing posters for Grabber Dan and Jennie Jigsaw and letters to Officer Pugh to help him catch Grabber Dan. Eventually we found Jennie Jigsaw hidden in the orchard. We have created some brilliant story maps, retelling Grabber Dan's story and even included new 'villainous' characters in our own versions of the story. This has inspired us to learn about different people who help us through their jobs, such as police officers, doctors, nurses, fire fighters and more! We were very lucky to be visited by parents who told us all about their interesting jobs where they help people too. A big thank you to all our visitors!



Year 1

As part of our Geography learning about our local area, we used an aerial map to locate parts of our school. We noticed how different the school looks from above. We used these map reading skills to plot a journey around our local area, drawing our own maps and adding compass points and a key. Year 1 are looking forward to using these maps on our local walk next week.



Year 2



In Year 2 the children have been busy designing and making a photo frame in our design and technology lessons. We have begun the process by analysing existing photo frames, designing our own and have now begun to measure and saw the wood for our own frames. We are very excited for how our final photo frames will turn out!



Year 3



In English we have been looking at the features of non-chronological reports. We looked at how to collect notes and create sub headings. Linking our report to our History topic, Ancient Egyptians, we spent time collecting facts.

The children then planned out what they were going to include in their final report. We then spent time writing these reports making sure we included all the features of a non-chronological report, such as: title, introduction, subheadings, paragraphs, 'did you know?' facts, pictures and captions



Year 4

In Year 4, we have been learning about persuasion. We started the unit learning the structure of the text. To help us, we created a class text map and came up with actions to help us remember the key phrases. Later in the unit, we used this to help us with our own writing when we tried to persuade someone to visit a place which we like.



Year 5

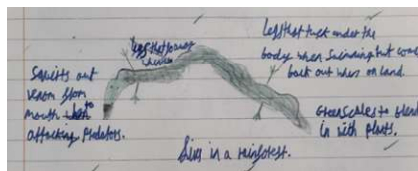
Year 5 became 'Mini Medics' this month. They completed a course where they were taught first aid, how to assess a casualty (DRABC – Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, CPR), how to perform effective CPR on a mannequin and how to put an unresponsive casualty into the recovery position.



Year 6

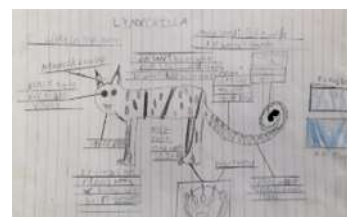
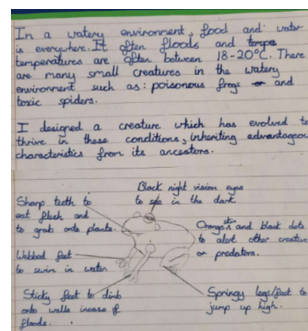
Year 6 have started lots of new and exciting topics across the curriculum. In Geography, we have been learning about South America. We have been using atlases to locate different countries on this continent and exploring cities in Brazil by using 6 figure grid references.

In Art, we introduced The Aztecs – after researching the different forms of Aztec art, our aim over this unit is to design and create our own Aztec masks!



In Science, we are looking at 'Evolution and Inheritance'. We started this unit of study by learning which features we have in common with

people in our family. Then we moved onto studying how animals and plants have adapted to live in their habitats before designing our own creature which could survive in extreme conditions.



Tottenham Football Coach Sessions



Over the past few weeks, the children in KS1 and lower KS2 have had the opportunity to develop their football skills by learning alongside coaches from Tottenham Hotspur football club. They spent time developing the range of skills that build to play the sport, with a key focus on working as a team. These

sessions will be continuing after half term so that all children in KS1 and KS2 benefit from their expertise.



Active Travel Ambassadors (ATAs)

Our six ATAs have been crusading to make positive changes to the pavements in The Commons. The children took photos of cracks in the pavements, muddy grass verges and unsafe areas and have written to Grant Shapps MP about the situation. We are hoping that he will read our letter, see our photos and help us in our campaign for safer travel to and from school.

Update on Air conditioning installation

As the next phase of school site development, we are currently installing air conditioning into classrooms and central areas across the school. The junior block has now been completed.

This means, that while air conditioning is installed in each classroom, classes have been relocated to the modular classrooms to avoid disruption to learning. To avoid moving our youngest children, their rooms will be completed over the half term break.

We know that hot temperatures make it difficult for pupils to concentrate. By regulating the temperature of the classrooms, pupils will be able to concentrate even when temperatures outside are soaring. Pupils will also be able to safely take part in PE lessons in the air-conditioned halls throughout the hot weather.

We expect the work to be completed by the end of February which gives us plenty of time before the summer heat.

Anti-Abuse Curriculum

In order to embed the Anti-Abuse Curriculum into our teaching, each half term we are focusing on one theme which we will discuss in our classrooms during Snack and Discussion time. This half term, we focused on **Resilience and Wellbeing**. Some objectives linked closely with our PSHE topic (Dreams and Goals) as well as our discussion on the Emotion of the Month. Here are just some of the things we have been discussing across the school:

- When I make mistakes or have a bad experience, I have strategies to move forward positively.
- I know that I need to pay attention to my emotions and take care of my mental wellbeing.
- I have aspirations for the future, and I know how to plan to achieve those aspirations.
- I know how to help myself and others to calm down when angry or distressed.
- I know that everyone experiences ups and downs in their life: everyone struggles sometimes but talking about problems helps.

At home, why not speak with your child about their dreams and aspirations for the future. Reinforce the message that it is ok to make mistakes and normal to experience ups and downs – having ways to cope with these struggles and moving forward positively is what is most important.

Online Safety

February 8th was Safer Internet day which had the slogan “Together for a better internet”. Our previous monthly theme of ‘Self Image and Identify’ and our discussions around this have fed nicely into the Safer Internet Day work.



February's online safety theme is "Managing online information"

For EYFS / KS1, please have some discussions around how internet can be used to find information and the digital technologies which allow us to do this.

For Lower KS2, discussing how information online may not be real (particularly now AI can generate fake images / videos as well)

For Upper KS2, discussing the differences between a 'belief', an 'opinion' and a 'fact. and how and where they might be shared online, e.g. in videos, memes, posts, news stories etc.

School Council

At the end of last term School Council asked the children which clubs they would like for the spring term. There were lots of ideas and far too many for us to accommodate! This term the School Council is getting involved with fundraising for Isabel Hospice and helping to sell books in our book sale which is happening today. We are hoping that everyone will support this event and we will let you know how much we have raised.

Severe Weather Plan

We will text parents/carers via School Gateway if the school is closed due to severe weather or for any other unexpected/unforeseen circumstance. Please ensure you have downloaded the School Gateway app and enable push notifications. We will also update the school website.

Nursery Applications for September 2024

If your child was born between 01/09/2020 – 31/08/2021 they are eligible to start our Nursery in September 2024. Applications for Nursery went live in January 2024. We do have some 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. Please email the school office to request a Nursery application form admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk

School Dinners

Herts Catering Ltd have informed us that there will be an increase in the cost of KS2 dinners from 1st April 2024. Junior meals will cost £3.30 per day. The minimum payment for KS2 school dinners on Arbor should be £15.00. Please ensure your child's dinner account has sufficient credit before dinners are ordered.

Medication in School

Please be advised that lip balm/vaseline, etc is not advised at school so please refrain from letting your child bring these items to school. If your child has a medical condition and has these items prescribed, please take them to the office and we will ensure they are administered correctly.

School Choir



On the 29th January choir took part in O2 Young Voices 2024 at the O2 Arena in London. They sang with approximately 9000 other children as a massed choir. The children had practiced for weeks learning all of the songs and when it came to the day they all sang out beautifully!

The show was enjoyed by both the children and their adults who



came to watch. A fantastic day was had by all and the children have gained a treasured memory!



Outstanding School Travel Plan

All schools are expected to have a school travel plan to outline how they teach road safety and encourage families to engage in safe and sustainable ways to travel to school. Our school travel plan not only includes all this, but it also records our communication with the council about the repairs which are needed to our road and pavements, our commitment to encouraging clean air and our in-depth knowledge of the issues surrounding road safety. As a result, we have gained OUTSTANDING for our work this year and we are immensely proud!



Emotion focus for this half term:

Happiness

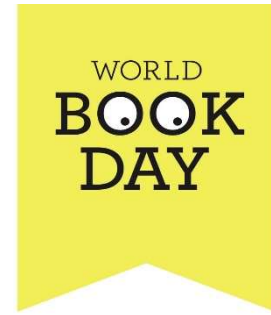


This half term, we will be learning about 'happiness': how it feels, what causes it and how it might look in someone else.

Please discuss this emotion with your child at home.

Our Wellbeing Committee are supporting us in teaching children how to spread kindness through the school by reading a story about Anti-Bullying to KS1.

This year we will be celebrating World Book Week, the week commencing Monday 4th March 2024 with World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024. Please be reminded that we would like the children to come to school dressed in pyjamas or cosy loungewear to celebrate world book day on **Thursday 7th March**. Pyjamas are of course connected to bedtime, which is the time of day when many of us read or are read to. We also want the focus of the day to be on reading and about books that inspire us, rather than finding or making a good costume which can be expensive. Children are asked to wear trainers (any colour) and not slippers on this day.



To celebrate world book day and promote a love of reading, Nursery – Year 6 will have a focus text that they will have read as their '3 o'clock book' with their class teacher. Each year group will take part in a drama workshop based around their chosen text, to bring their book to life! Please see below the texts that the workshops will focus on:

Nursery – Jack and the Beanstalk: Ladybird First Favourite Tales by Iona Treahy

Reception – The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson

Year 1 – The Highway Rat by Julia Donaldson

Year 2 – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Year 3 – The Twits by Roald Dahl

Year 4 – Charlotte's Web – E.B White

Year 5 – Street Child by Berlie Doherty

Year 6 – Wonder by Palacio. R.J.

This year will also see the return of the popular local author, Alice Hemming, who will be visiting all the classes in the school on Friday 1st and Monday 4th March. We look forward to a week of celebrating wonderful books and authors!

This Month's Reading Recommendations

EYFS

Nursery – Mr. Wolf's Pancakes by Jan Fearnley

Reception – Seahorses Are Sold Out by Katja Gehrmann and Constanze Spengler

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – I Can Only Draw Worms by Will Mabbitt

Year 2 – Bug Belly Froggy Rescue by Paul Morton

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – Flyntlock Bones – The Eye of Mogdrod by Derek Keilty

Year 4 – Desirable by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans

Year 6 – Absolutely Everything by Christopher Lloyd

	DIARY DATES
February 2024	
9 th	Isabel Hospice book sale
12 th	Years 3 & 5 Science Dome workshop
12 th – 16 th	No clubs this week
13 th	3.20-6.00pm Parent/Teacher Learning Review meetings
13 th	9.30-12.00am Tottenham Hotspur PE workshop Y4
14 th	2.15pm Year 4 Assembly for parents
14 th	Parent/ Teacher Learning review meetings Birch Class
15 th	3.20-6.00pm Parent/ Teacher Learning review meetings
16 th	7.30pm PTA Quiz Night
	19 th – 23 rd Half Term
27 th	9.30-12.00am Tottenham Hotspur PE workshop Year 5
March	
1 st	Author Alice Hemmings workshops for pupils across the school
4 th – 8 th	Book week
4 th	Author Alice Hemmings workshops for pupils across the school
5 th	Ducklings arrive
5 th	Book week workshop Nursery, Reception, Year 1
5 th	9.30-12.00am Tottenham Hotspur PE workshop Y6
6 th	Book week workshop Y2 Y3 & Maple
7 th	World Book day – Children wear pyjamas/loungewear
7 th	Book week workshop Magnolia, Y5 & Y6
11 th – 15 th	Walk to school week
11 th	3-8pm Dance competition Gordon Craig theatre
14 th	Year 5 Mini Medics workshop
18 th – 22 nd	Last week of clubs
21 st	PTA pre-loved uniform sale 3.15pm
22 nd	Year 1 Field studies trip
26 th	PTA cake sale
27 th	Year 1 Outdoor learning day
28 th	End of Term 12.30pm
April 2024	
15 th	INSET DAY children do not attend
16 th	Term commences for children
May 2024	
6 th	Bank Holiday
13 th – 16 th	Year 6 SATs
17 th	7.30pm PTA Bingo night
21 st	Nursery to Paradise Wildlife Park trip
22 nd	Provisional date Year 2 Chiltern Open Air Museum trip
23 rd	3.15pm PTA Doughnut sale
24 th	INSET DAY Children do not attend
	27 th May – 31 st May Half Term
June 2024	
11 th	10-11.30am Mill Green Golf event Year 3
24 th	2pm Reception/KS1 Sports day
25 th	10.30am Nursery Sports day

25 th	1.30pm KS2 Sports day
27 th	Contingency day for Rec/KS1 sports
28 th	Contingency day for Nursery/KS2 sports
July 2024	
3 rd	Year 4 Paris Olympic Event
11 th	Secondary transfer day – all children visit their next class
13 th	12-3pm PTA Summer Fete
17 th	3.10-4pm Parents are invited in to view pupil progress in books and visit child's next classroom
18 th	Year 6 performances for parents 9am /2pm
19 th	Year 6 bell ringing
19 th & 22 nd	Whole school multicultural days
22 nd	4-6pm Year 6 BBQ
23 rd	End of Term 12.30pm
3 rd Sept	Term commences for children

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