



January 2024 News on the Ninth

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Happy New Year

We warmly welcome you back to school this term. We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break. A huge thank you for all the heartfelt Christmas wishes, cards and presents we received at the end of last term. We are looking forward to lots of exciting events this spring.

Christmas events

It was wonderful to welcome parents and carers into school for our Christmas performances. The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 did a superb job with their acting, singing and dancing, and we hope you have made some fantastic memories. Thank you also to the PTA for organising the mince pie and mingle sessions before each performance.

Our school choir performed at the Isabel Hospice's Lights of Love service on Sunday December 10th at Mill Green Golf Club. The children sang beautifully and made us very proud!

The PTA Christmas Festive Fun was a great hit too and lots of fun was had by all. Thank you for supporting this event.

Online Safety Theme

January's Online Safety focus is 'Self Image and Identity'. At home, please could you have a discussion with your child regarding this area.

In EYFS and KS1, it could be discussing what to do if something happens that makes them feel sad, worried, uncomfortable or frightened.

In Lower KS2, we have been discussing how people can represent themselves in different ways online and not to fully trust everything as how it appears.

In upper KS2, discuss how to make responsible choices about having an online identity.

Device / App Parental controls

Almost all apps and devices now offer controls for parents. Parental controls on devices can offer different types of protection -from filtering out adult content in search results, to preventing your child from buying things when playing games. You can find instructions on how to set controls on the manufacturer's website, or to find specific guidance for your device, network or platform, visit the 'Internet Matters' website. Control settings will apply whether the device is being used in your home or outside. It's also easy for controls to be switched off, so make sure your child understands why the settings are in place.

Emotional Literacy focus

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 have organised fun activities for classes to complete during discussion time to support our learning.

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme** this term. This is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. At Commonswood, children are taught to speak out if they are worried. This is actively encouraged and praised. All children select their trusted adults and record these on their helping hands (see a copy of this in homework books).

The ***Speak out. Stay safe.*** programme is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

We will be Talking PANTS during assembly next week. Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Please ask your child about this at home. For further information and support, download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

Leading Parent Partnership Award

Our school is working towards gaining an award for parent partnerships. This is externally assessed. The first step was to gain parents' views about the school's communication and engagement with stakeholders. Thank you to those of you who completed the online survey about this in December. A working party of parents, representing year groups throughout the school, has been formed and will be instrumental in helping us to implement change. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Clubs

Clubs will start week commencing 15th January 2024 and the last week of clubs will be week commencing 18th March 2024.

There are no clubs running week commencing 12th February 2024 due to learning review meetings. In order to offer places to as many children as possible, the booking limit for clubs is one club per child.

School run clubs will need to be booked via School Cloud. Please log on to <https://commonswood.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to fill in your details and book.

The booking system went live at 4pm on Monday 8th January and will close at 4pm on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

Clubs run by Premier Sports will need to be booked and paid for directly by copying and pasting the links below to your internet browser:

Football Y1-2 [After School Football Club – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://premier-education.com)

Football Y3-6 [After School Football Club – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://premier-education.com)

| KS1 CLUBS Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|------------------|---|---|
| Years 1 & 2 Gymnastics Club – Free Club 20 places Parents, please collect from Nursery entrance at 4.15pm | Years 1 & 2 Construction Club – Free Club 10 places Parents, please collect from Nursery entrance at 4.15pm | | Years 1 & 2 Lego Club – Free Club 15 places Parents, please collect from Nursery entrance at 4.15pm | Years 1 & 2 Football Cost - £4 per session - Run by Premier 20 places Parents, please collect from Nursery entrance at 4.15pm |

| KS2 Clubs Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|--|
| | Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Theatre Club – Free Club 15 places Parents, please collect from KS2 playground at 4.15pm | Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Gymnastic Club – Free Club 20 places Parents, please collect from KS2 playground at 4.15pm | | Years 3,4,5 & 6 Football Cost - £4 per session – Run by Premier 20 places Parents, please collect from Nursery entrance at 4.15pm |
| | Years 3 & 4 Speed Stacking Club – Free Club 10 places | | | |

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| | Parents, please collect from the Office entrance at 4.15pm | | | |
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Reception Applications for September 2024

Applications for Reception classes must be completed by 15th January 2024. If you need any help or guidance to do so, please speak with our office staff who will be pleased to assist you if you do not have access to online facilities. May we remind parents of Nursery children that a new application must be made for admission to Reception classes, and no priority is given to children already attending Commonswood Nursery.

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 will go 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

Learning review meetings (Parent / teacher consultations)

Following the request for face to face meetings, February's learning review meetings will all be held in person at school.

Tuesday 13th February 3.20pm – 5:50pm

Thursday 15th February 3.20pm – 6.00pm

Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

World Book Week

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!

Please find below this Month’s reading recommendations!

EYFS

Nursery – All Join In by Quentin Blake

Reception – Funny Bones by Allan Ahlberg

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – Cinnamon by Neil Gaiman

Year 2 – Hattie and Olaf by Frida Nilsson

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – The Accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin

Year 4 – Edie and the Box of Flits by Kate Wilkinson

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

Year 6 – Nightfall in New York by Katherine Woodfine



Thank you to the parents who attended the parent forum on 5th December 2023 which focused on Preventing and Dealing with Racist Incidents.

The purpose of the policy:

All members of the school community (pupils, staff, governors, parents and visitors) have a right not to experience racism in school, whether or not this is directed at them. Commonswood Primary & Nursery School values all children and seeks to ensure that they learn that challenging hurtful behaviour and discrimination is an important part of their education.

Racism is evident in wider society therefore inevitably will occur in schools. Commonswood Primary & Nursery School will work actively to:

- Develop a climate which is intolerant to racism
- Ensure an atmosphere in which all pupils feel valued and listened to and have confidence that their concerns will be addressed

Pupils are taught about racism, that it is unacceptable and that it diminishes all. As a school we recognise and value diversity by ensuring that:

- All pupils have an equal and strong sense of belonging within the school community
- Racist incidents, are dealt with effectively and recorded and reported to the Governing Board
- Pupils from different ethnic and faith and cultural backgrounds mix and get on well with each other

Discussions with parents resulted in further clarification of the education provided to pupils to prevent racism.

This includes regular lessons from our anti-abuse curriculum because not only do we want to educate children not to be abusive, we also want children to stand up against abuse. This statement has been added to the policy.

‘In addition to the personal, social, health education (PSHE) curriculum, pupils learn an anti-abuse curriculum. This comes under 7 main headings. We teach each aspect through a whole school focus approach.

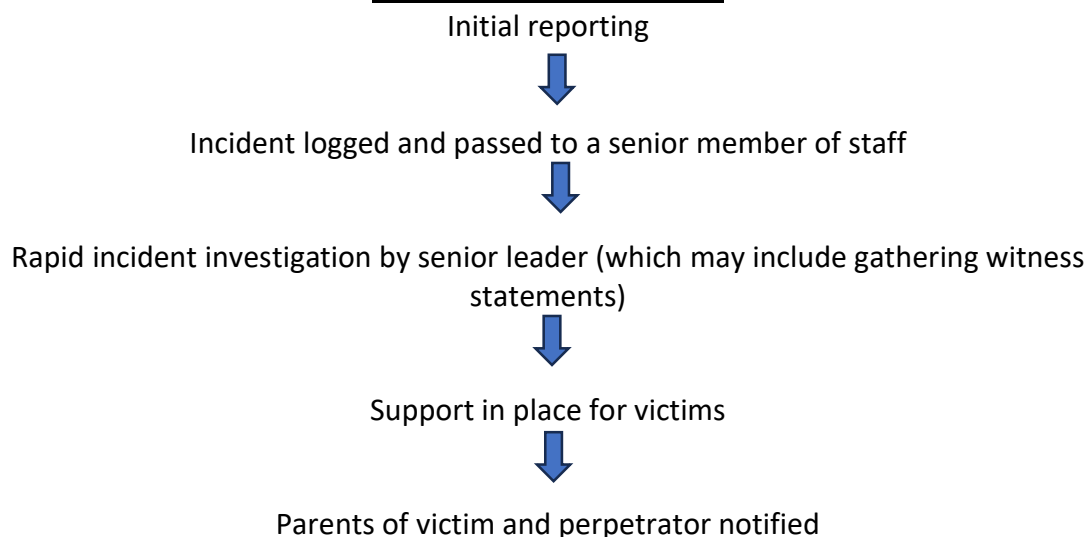
- Identity
- Resilience & wellbeing
- Character & personal values
- Diversity & community
- Keeping safe, knowing what is not okay & restoring safety
- Body & relationship safety
- Critical thinking ‘

Each month, we have a whole school focus where age-appropriate discussions will take place to cover this learning.

To reflect the law, reference to Government legislation has been added to the policy.

In addition to the responding to incidents section of the policy, parents suggested a flow diagram be added. This is now included in the policy. This gives parents/carers a clear understanding of the actions taken if an incident were to occur.

Flow chart of actions taken





Ongoing monitoring of victim's wellbeing/Consequences/referrals and education in place for perpetrator



Ongoing monitoring of victim's wellbeing/Ongoing monitoring of perpetrator's behaviour/guidance for parents

Parents at the forum expressed their appreciation of anti-abuse curriculum and the rigor around the policy. They approved of the changes to the current policy.

Our Anti-Abuse progression overview can be found on the school's website

http://www.commonswood.herts.sch.uk/documents/yeargroups/progression/anti-abuse_progression_grid.pdf

DIARY DATES

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| January 2024 | |
| 11 th | Reception screening- School Nurse Team |
| 11 th | Year 1 Phonics and maths workshop for parents 2.45pm – please enter through the main entrance. |
| 15 th | Reception application deadline |
| 15 th | Clubs start |
| 16 th | Nursery 2024 Stay & Play session 1.45pm -2.45pm |
| 19 th | Nursery 2024 Stay & Play session 1.45pm-2.45pm |
| 23 rd | Nursery 2024 Stay & Play session 1.45pm-2.45pm |
| 29 th | Choir to the O2 |
| 30 th | Nursery 2024 Stay & Play session 1.45pm-2.45pm |
| 31 st | Year 3 Assembly for parents 2:15pm |
| 31 st | PTA meeting 7.30pm |
| February 2024 | |
| 6 th | Nursery 2024 Stay & Play session 1.45pm-2.45pm |
| 7 th | Year 5 Assembly for parents 2.15pm |
| 9 th | Isabel Hospice book sale for classes during the day and parents after school |
| 12 th | Years 3 & 5 Science Dome workshop |
| 12 th – 16 th | No clubs this week |
| 13 th | Parent/Teacher Learning Review meetings |
| 14 th | Year 4 Assembly for parents 2.15pm |
| 15 th | Parent/ Teacher Learning review meetings |
| 16 th | PTA Quiz night 7.30pm |
| 19 th – 23 rd Half Term | |
| March | |
| 1 st | Author visiting |
| 4 th – 8 th | Book week. Various workshops this week. |

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| 5 th | Ducklings arrive |
| 7 th | World Book Day – children dress in pyjamas/lounge wear |
| 11 th | Walk and wheel to school week |
| 11 th | Dance competition Gordon Craig theatre 3pm-8pm |
| 11 th | Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey |
| 14 th | Year 5 Mini Medics workshop |
| 21 st | PTA pre-loved uniform sale 3.15pm |
| 22 nd | Year 1 Epping Field Centre trip – details to follow |
| 28 th | End of Term 12.30pm |
| April 2024 | |
| 15 th | INSET children do not attend |
| 16 th | Term commences for children |
| 17 th | Reception Screening- School Nurse Team |
| May 2024 | |
| 6 th | Bank holiday |
| 13 th – 16 th | Year 6 SATs |
| 17 th | PTA Bingo night 7.30pm |
| 21 st | Nursery to Paradise Wildlife Park trip – details to follow |
| 22 nd | Year 2 Chiltern Open Air Museum trip – details to follow |
| 23 rd | PTA Doughnut sale 3.15pm |
| 24 th | INSET day – children do not attend |
| 27 th May – 31 st May Half Term | |
| June 2024 | |
| 24 th | Reception/KS1 Sports day (2pm) |
| 25 th | Nursery Sports day (10.30am) |
| 25 th | KS2 Sports day (1.30pm) |
| 27 th | Contingency day for Rec/KS1 sports |
| 28 th | Contingency day for Nursery/KS2 sports |
| July 2024 | |
| 4 th | New to Reception Parent Meeting 2pm |
| 11 th | Secondary transfer day – all children visit their next class |
| 13 th | PTA Summer Fete 12pm-3pm |
| 17 th | 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 | Year 6 BBQ |
| 23 rd | End of Term 12.30pm |

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