



November 2023

News on the Ninth

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Nursery

We have been learning about autumn. We looked for leaves and noticed how they had changed colour and are beginning to fall from the trees. We read the story 'Leaf Man' and used leaves to create our own pictures. During Black History Month we learnt what a difference people such as Rosa Parkes and Maya Angelou have made in our world.

Reception

In Reception, we have been learning and retelling the story of the Little Red Hen, as well as telling our own versions of the story where she planted an apple seed, grew an apple tree and baked apple pie. This inspired us to bake our own apple pies! We carefully peeled and chopped the apples to put inside. They were delicious!



We also celebrated Black History Month and learnt about lots of interesting figures including: Louis Armstrong, Mae Jemison and Florence Joyner. We even watched Josephine Baker dancing and practised some of our own dance moves.

Year 1



In Year 1 we have been learning about Animals including humans. We looked at some real fish, we named the body parts, compared

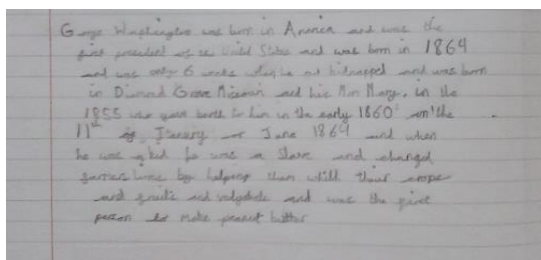


them to other animals and used our observational skills to draw them. We discussed what an animal needs to be classified as fish. They were very smelly!

Year 2

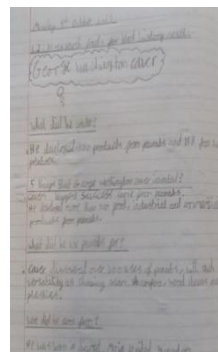
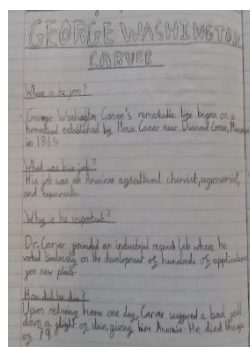
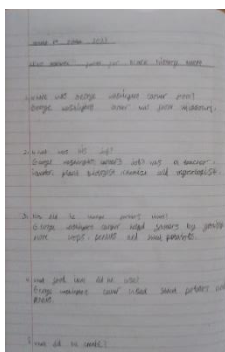


During Black History Month Year 2 researched the life of Mary Seacole. We found out a lot about her life and how she was a significant person. We then wrote some non-chronological reports about her life.



Year 3

In Year 3 for Black History Month, we have been learning about George Washington Carver. We researched, using iPads and laptops, about his life, his work and the impact his work has had. We then created fact files based on our research.





We have also been researching and tasting Stone Age food and made our own Stone Age Stew. We learnt that root vegetables are tastier than we thought!

Year 4

In Year 4, as part of our Romans unit, we visited Verulamium Museum where we took part in an artefacts workshop and learnt about Roman life. We saw the hypocaust (underground heating), mosaics and roman coffins. For Black History month, we learnt about Barrack and Michelle Obama.



Year 5

For Black History Month Year 5 focused on the life and work of Lonnie Johnson. We were surprised that he had been involved in so many projects – The Galileo and Cassini projects for NASA, had been in the Air Force and was the creator of the Super Soaker Water Gun.



We also participated in a road safety 'Distractions' workshop, where children learnt about keeping safe when they are out walking with a focus on how mobile phones are a distraction to all.



Year 6



Last month, to celebrate Black History Month, children researched and produced posters on Lilian Bader. Lilian Bader was the first black woman to join the RAF and children learnt about the hardships and prejudices Bader faced growing up.

Before half term, all year 6 children got to experience a fun and very action-packed week- whether it was at SKERN or at school. The children (and staff) that went to SKERN had a brilliant time surfing, rafting, tunnelling and much more. We were all really proud of the team work and perseverance all the children demonstrated during the activities as well as overcoming many fears and challenges through the help of encouragement from their friends.



The children who didn't go on the residential trip to Skern participated in a variety of activities in school including making clay sculptures, cooking, and sports such as basketball and curling. They also went on two trips; one to Standalone Farm and one to the Hatfield Bunker which is a WWII museum set in a real-life bunker underneath Hatfield police station.



Children In Need

Friday 17th 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.



Odd socks day for anti-bullying week.



Once again, we are supporting the Antibullying Alliance's odd socks day to help spread the word that bullying is not tolerated. On Monday 13th 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. Odd Socks Day first

started in 2017 as a way to deter bullying in school. With the rise of technology and the added pressure children face on social media and at school, the Anti-Bullying Alliance created the day to remind people that it's good to stand out. By expressing oneself without fear of judgment reaffirms the idea that being who you are is more than enough. If we can appreciate someone else's odd socks, we can also appreciate each individual's differences.

Online Safety

In November our theme will be "Online Bullying". At home, please could you have a discussion with your child regarding this area.

- In EYFS, it could cover how unkind words make people feel
- In KS1 – how to act and communicate nicely online and what to do if you feel upset by things online
- In Lower KS2, different ways people might be bullied online and the importance of thinking carefully about how posted content / actions in a game may make others feel
- In Upper KS2, how to report online bullying within different apps / websites and when it is appropriate to report to the police

Online Games

Do you know what your child is saying when they play online? Do you know what is said to them? Unfortunately, not all children play games in a room where they are monitored by an adult. Children tend to get a bit excited when playing games online and because they cannot see their friends faces, their language can sometimes push the boundaries of what is appropriate. They are more likely to be rude, offensive or say things which hurt other's feelings as they cannot see the facial expression of others.

To keep your children and their friends safe, please:

- talk to them about appropriate language while online
- talk to them about negative experiences
- ensure they know how to block their friends who are rude
- where possible, monitor them whilst playing

Friends of Commonswood PTA

Cake Sale

Thank you to all year 1, 3 and 5s who brought cakes in for the PTA Cake sale. The PTA did a great job of organising this and raised an amazing **£ 301.89**



Pumpkin Parade

The pumpkins all looked amazing, well done to everyone who brought in a pumpkin for the parade.



Food Bank Collection



Thank you to all the parents and children who donated food to the food bank during our Harvest Festival. The local Food Bank were extremely grateful for the generosity of donations from pupils. The food will be distributed to people in need in our local community.

Isabel Hospice Puzzle & Game sale

We Raised just under **£600.00** for Isabel Hospice WHICH IS AMAZING for just over an hour of selling!



Emotion Focus for this half term:

Anger



We are excited to introduce our new half termly focus: Emotions.

This half term we will be learning about anger; how it feels, what causes it and how to deal with it in a healthy way.

Please discuss this emotion with your child at home.

Our newly formed wellbeing committee, made up of KS2 children, will be organising wellbeing activities to support everyone in school.

(see our separate communication for more information)

Road Safety

You may have seen us in the local press and on social media, promoting the new 20mph zone in The Commons. Here are our Active Travel Ambassadors with Cllr Bibby.



SAVE THE DATE!

The PTA's festive fun event will be held on **Saturday 9th December** between 12-3pm. Please check out PTA events to purchase tickets for the games, grotto and craft stalls. Tickets will also be available to purchase in the playgrounds in the coming weeks and on the day of the event (subject to availability).

We are also still looking for volunteers to help on the day! If you could spare an hour we would really appreciate it. Please head over to the PTA events page for more information and to sign up. The website address is: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendssofcommonswoodpta>



or please scan the QR code

This Month's Reading Recommendations!

EYFS

Nursery – Who's Hiding? By Satoru Onishi

Reception – I Really Want to Shout! By Simon Philip and Lucia Gaggioti

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Year 2 – The Legend of Spud Murphy by Eoin Colfer

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – Beast Quest by Adam Blade

Year 4 – The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Year 6 – The Railway Children by E Nesbit

DIARY DATES

Nov 2023	
13 th -17 th	Anti-bullying week – Odd socks day Monday 13 th
13 th	Year 5 Golf at Mill Green
14 th	Football match – Springmead 3.30pm-5pm
15 th	Reception & Year 1 Animal Workshop
16 th	Year 4 Pedestrian skills A.M
16 th	Year 3 British Museum
17 th	Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need
17 th	Basketball Yr5/6 P.M
20 th	Rock Steady Concert 2.30pm
21 st	Year 2 Scooterbility
21 st	Netball matches at Stanborough School 3.30-4.30pm
21 st	Year 6 RAF Hendon
23 rd	Year 4 Girls and Boys football at Ridgeway
24 th	Occasional Day – Children not in school
30 th	PTA Wreath Making
Dec 2023	
7 th	Nursery Dress Rehearsal
8 th	9.15am Nursery Performance
9 th	PTA Festive Fun 11.30-3pm
11 th	9.30am Reception dress rehearsal
11 th	10.30am Year 1 dress rehearsal
11 th	2pm Year 2 dress rehearsal
11 th	Reception/KS1 Christmas lunch
11 th	5.30pm KS2 Christmas Concert
12 th	8.45am & 2pm Mince Pie & Mingle
12 th	9.15am Reception Christmas Performance
12 th	KS2 Christmas lunch
12 th	2.15pm Reception Christmas Performance
13 th	8.45am & 2pm Mince Pie & Mingle
13 th	9am Year 1 Performance
13 th	2.15pm Year 1 Performance
14 th	8.45am-2.15pm Mince Pie & Mingle
14 th	9am Year 2 Performance
14 th	2.15pm Year 2 Performance
14 th	3.15pm PTA Pre-Loved uniform sale in Dining room
19 th	Last day of term for Nursery
20 th	Last Day of Term – School finishes at 12.30pm

VACANCIES

Midday Supervisory Assistant

We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic, and sociable person with a sense of humour to engage with our children while they eat & play at lunchtimes.

If you are reliable, patient and able to work to policy as part of a team, please apply!
Hours of work are for one hour over the lunch period Monday-Friday

All appointments are subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. To help us meet our high standards and inspirations of a fully diverse and inclusive workplace, we strongly encourage suitably qualified applicants from all backgrounds to apply. Please log on to www.teachinherts.com to apply.

School Cleaner

We are looking to appoint somebody who is proactive, positive and flexible to join our dedicated cleaning team in providing a clean and safe environment at school.

The post is for 12.5 hours per week (2.5hrs per day Monday-Friday 3.30pm-6pm) term time only initially on a fixed term contract.

The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check.

Please log on to www.teachinherts.com to apply.

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