

# News On the Ninth

www.commonswood.herts.sch.uk

01707 880420

admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk

The summer term has been incredibly busy in school already, and there is still much more to come! As this is the final newsletter of the year I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to parents, carers, relatives and volunteers who have given so generously of their time to support staff and children throughout the year.



## Farewell

We have had a pretty stable staffing team over recent years and it is always sad to lose colleagues. This year we have three teachers departing the school. Jemma Hall has been commuting from Luton for the past 3 years and the long journey each way has finally proven too much. She has been appointed to a teaching position in a Luton School and will be leaving at the end of term. She has recently undergone minor surgery and is still recovering; however, she expects to be able to join us for Parents' Consultations and has already completed her set of class reports. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that she will return to teach her class.

Kathryn Armstrong has been with us since 2002 and as she now has two young children she has decided to concentrate her time on her family and undertake occasional supply teaching work. She has had a great impact during her time with us and will be missed by staff and children alike.

Claire Buckley recently married a member of the armed services who has recently been posted to the far north of Scotland. Too far to commute I'm afraid, so Claire will be on the move as well. She started her teaching career at Commonswood in 2004 and has made amazing strides as a teacher and is currently leader of KS2, as well as running sports teams, school journeys and much more besides.

I trust that you will join with me in thanking these valued colleagues for their tremendous contributions to the life of the school and your children's education over recent years, and wish them all well for their futures.

**GOODBYE!**

## REMINDERS

**End Of Term  
School finishes  
at 12.30pm on  
Friday 23rd July.**

**Infant Milk  
Orders need to be  
placed by Friday  
16th July. The cost  
for the Autumn  
term is £15.40.**

## New Staff

Antonia Poole lives locally, is an experienced teacher and has been working in Enfield for a number of years. She will join us in September and teach a Year 4 class. We have been unable to recruit a new part time teacher to

Current Teacher	Class Name	New Year	New Teacher
N/A	Acer	N	Jacky Farmer/ Frances Amoss
Jacky Farmer pm	Oak	R	Anna Kress/Jackie Harrison
Jacky Farmer am	Chestnut	R	To be appointed in Autumn for Jan
Nicola Stanley	Almond	1	Alison Rogers
Anna Kress/Jackie Harrison	Elm	1	Carole Frater
Carole Frater	Cedar	2	Alison Clapp
Alison Rogers	Maple	2	Teresa Frost/Reemal Patel
Teresa Frost/Reemal Patel	Birch	3	Nicola Stanley
Alison Clapp	Willow	3	Karen Reville
Jemma Hall	Sycamore	4	Antonia Poole (new appointment)
Leena Chawda	Holly	4	Julia Kiely
Julia Kiely	Redwood	5	Gill Seymour/Ann Burd
Paula Spencer	Ash	5	Leena Chawda
Gill Seymour/Kathryn Armstrong	Magnolia	6	Steve Burt
Karen Reville	Cherry	6	Paula Spencer

work alongside Gill Seymour, so Ann Burd will take on this role for the coming term whilst we try to recruit once more. Nicola Stanley will be moving to Year 3 in place of Jemma Hall and also be taking over as KS2 Leader. We will recruit another teacher for our Reception class during the Autumn as only one Reception class will operate during the autumn term taught by Anna Kress and Jackie Harrison.

A full list of our new staffing arrangements for the coming year is shown in the table.

**ParentPay**  
Is the safest and easiest to pay for meals, trips and uniform. Ask at the office for your log in details.

**Road Crossing  
Patrol Times**  
8.20-8.55am  
2.55-3.30pm  
On Howlands at junction with Sheepcote.

**Autumn Term  
Dinner Cost**  
£1.90 per dinner from September.

## Non Uniform Day

Thanks you for supporting last weeks non uniform day. All the proceeds will be made available to our next school council to fund their wish list. In total £157 was donated.

## Teddy Bears Picnic

The Nursery's year comes to an end on their last day in school with a Teddy Bears Picnic. Lets hope that the weather stays fine as some of the children will be moving on to other settings to start their formal school experience.



## Skern 2010

Final payments for Year 5, soon to become Year 6, adventure week to Skern Lodge are now due. If you have not already paid in full it is essential that payment is received before we break up so that your child's place can be assured.

## Year 5 Showbuild

Yet again Year 5's Showbuild was a resounding success this year. The All Out Theatre team had visited earlier on in the term and worked with the children to come up with ideas for the script. This gave the children one week to learn all the lines, songs and dances! The play was based on a story set in Welwyn on the Marsh during medieval times. Everyone was amazed by the brilliant performances, costumes and scenery. Year 5 would like to thank the team behind the scenes which worked so hard to create all the props and costumes.

## Gold for Commonswood

I would like to thank all the children who attended Athletics Club. Their enthusiasm and commitment was fantastic!

Every year primary schools around Welwyn Garden City get together, to hold this event at Gosling Sports Park.

With 20 schools attending you can imagine how busy and exciting this event was. For some it was their first time, and others were veterans, but all our athletes represented the school with excellent behaviour and sportsmanship cheering their team mates on. Our children tried their very best, and never gave up. For some events, like high jump and long jump, it was the first time these children had taken part.

Harry C	1 <sup>st</sup> place ball throwing
Bintu F	1 <sup>st</sup> place 70m
Marwan A	1 <sup>st</sup> place 70m & 4x100m relay
Alex S	1 <sup>st</sup> place 4x100m relay
Cavell S	1 <sup>st</sup> place 4x100m relay
Henco B	1 <sup>st</sup> place 4x100m relay
Jack M	3 <sup>rd</sup> place discus
Caitlin L	5 <sup>th</sup> place discus
Robbie L	5 <sup>th</sup> place high jump

The results show just how far we can go with training and enthusiasm!

*Jackie Harrison*

## Thanks Dads!!!

Bring Dad to School Day was a resounding success! Thanks to everyone for your great contributions. There was some fantastic gardening; very exuberant sports participation; delightful play with your children and much, much more! Your children talk about this day for weeks before and after the event and it means so much for them to see you in school, so thanks again for finding the time in your busy lives to be here for them. Over 200 were able to get in, even if it was just for an hour or so.



## New Build

You are almost certainly aware that our new building is in place. It seems much larger than shown on the plans and has gone up extremely quickly! The fencing and fixed play equipment will be reinstated before we return for the autumn term.

The building will be used for Breakfast Club, After School Club and a Parent & Toddler Stay & Play Club. It will be used by our youngest children as a play base during the lunch period. Children can find it a challenge if there isn't enough to keep them busy and profitably engaged, especially during the winter months. We have had enquiries from local pre schools about using the facility for part of each day. It will also be available for lettings for events such as children's birthday parties. A suggestion has also been put forward that it could be used as a crèche when we are staging performances and similar events if there are sufficient volunteers offering to run such a supportive operation.

We have been able to install this building without touching a single penny of our main school budget. Every year schools receive a building grant to maintain and develop their facilities. As a large primary school ours is a pretty substantial amount of money. We have saved 2 years of grants to put this facility in place, thus it will not drain any funds destined to be used for the education of your children. It will enhance the wrap around care facilities that we can offer at Commonswood.

## Olympic Day

Year 5 classes were invited to attend the first National Olympic and Paralympics Sports Day at Sir Frederic Osborn School. Each class was given a country to represent for the day Magnolia represented South Africa and Cherry represented Australia.



There was a big emphasis on the five Olympic values which included friendship, hope, trust, harmony and respect. Throughout the day both staff and coaches were looking for children who promoted these values.

The children were then able to try various activities such as taekwondo, boccia, sprints, volley ball, quick sticks and tennis. Each activity was led by qualified coaches including two up and coming young athletes.

Both Magnolia aka South Africa and Cherry aka Australia enjoyed the day, culminating in an awards ceremony where a shield was to be awarded to the school that best displayed the Olympic Values.

Both classes showed positive values and good sportsmanship. Each child was presented with a certificate and medal and it was a proud moment when the first shield ever was presented to Magnolia class!

My thanks to the staff and many parents that ferried children to and from the event which itself was a resounding success.

## Year 6 Leavers Presentation

The final event for our Year 6 children will be the presentation of their Year Book on Thursday 22nd July at 9am. This innovation was chosen by our pupils in preference to a story book that we normally present. It has generated enormous interest, with the children compiling the Year Book themselves, containing entries written by every child. We shall also give each pupil a copy of the DVD shot during their production of "Alice...".

After this brief presentation children will take part in the annual ritual of ringing the large fixed bell in the junior courtyard, with parents invited to attend both parts of the ceremony.

## Governor of the Month ~ Michele Fraser

*It may soon be the end of the school year but at Commonswood there is no slowing down and I am spoilt for choice when I want to report on special events.*

*In June, 18 Year 6 pupils took the Eurostar and the TGV to Reims in the Champagne region of France. Not only did they work on a drama project with their French partners, they also had a taste of French school and family life and enjoyed French food in a restaurant. Thanks to Mrs Buckley's hard work and dedication over many months, I have no doubt that this early exposure to French culture will remain an unforgettable experience.*

*Not to be outdone, Year 5 made the most of "Showbuild" week. Working in teams, they provided all the ideas and characters for a play entitled "Knights'School". A script was produced, including songs and dance, and every pupil in the Year group worked tirelessly to rehearse the play for a whole week. I was very fortunate to be able to watch this most entertaining show. It was imaginative, witty and funny, and I was impressed with the talent and enthusiasm of the cast. But of course such successful events would not happen without discreet and efficient stage management by the dedicated Commonswood staff, who always manage to get the best out of pupils. Congratulations to everyone involved!*

Michele Fraser

## Reports & Parent Consultations

Parents evening booking forms are now displayed throughout the school. Please book early to obtain the most favoured slots and allow at least 10 (20 would be better) minutes between appointments, as despite our best efforts some meetings can over run.

Reports will be available to read just before you meet with your child's class teacher at next week's consultation evenings. Please arrive about 10 minutes before your appointment so that you can read the report before meeting the teacher and consider any queries that you may have. The envelope will also contain details about attendance and this is a key factor in children's progress and attainment.

Reception, Year 2 & Year 6 Teacher Assessment and SATs data will also be passed to parents during consultations.

## In School Volunteers

Lots of clubs take place during the year and all are run voluntarily by staff, parents and friends of the school. No doubt we shall need even more support next term and if you would like to assist or lead an activity please get in touch before term ends as we will need to arrange a Criminal Record Background check (CRB) to ensure that any volunteer is safe to work with children.

Both of our Walking Buses also are run mainly by parent volunteers, whose time is much appreciated. If you would be interested in helping, please call into the office. More Bus Conductors and Drivers mean more children can participate.

A big 'THANK-YOU' must also go to the volunteers who help run both clubs each week and give so willingly of their time and expertise. Without their commitment little would be growing!

## Year 2 Summer Show

This is the first time that we have introduced an infant summer show to mark the end of the children's time spent in KS1. The show is linked to their science topic 'Mini-beasts' and the children are already excited about performing to their parents. The show starts at 2pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July and is not really suitable for pre school children. If there is no alternative but to bring them please be prepared to take them out promptly if they become fractious as a class assembly last week was seriously disrupted by toddlers.



## Change-over Day

When children spend some time with their new teacher normally coincides with Year 6 visit to their new secondary schools which was on 8th July; however, we break up so late this year so it has been held over until Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July from 12.45pm - 2pm.

## International Festival

Having completed our entire planned curriculum we have launched our International Festival with children learning about language, culture, faith and perhaps best of all, the food from all around the world. This mini whole school project will last just 9 days as we move towards the end of term, and children will share their experiences next Thursday.

## Year 6 Summer Show

Last week saw yet another event which marks the right of passage for our Year 6 children as they near the end of their time at Commonswood. Fourteen superb songs lit up Claire Buckley's and Steve Burt's FANTASTIC production which lasted a tad short of 90 minutes. The entire audience of nearly 150 people stood applauding this magnificent production. A DVD was shot and will be given to all the children to mark their time at the school when presentation day takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 9am.

## France 2010

Many of Our Year 6 pupils spent a very interesting week with our partners' school in France. The highlight of the week was a day in the home of French students who come from a very affluent community in the champagne region. Excitement reigned on the final day with a national strike affecting much of the transport system throughout France. This meant getting up and out very early to catch the only train out of Reims for Paris before 7am!!!!!! It was very crowded but they made it back to Paris and Eurostar whisked the party back to the UK several hours earlier than originally planned. Our partnership with Adriatique School has now come to an end and we are seeking alternative arrangements for 2011.

## New Term

The new term starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Staff will be in school during the preceding week if you need to get in touch for whatever reason. However, we shall all be very busy as there is a full training programme for all staff so, if at all possible, please keep your queries until we are all back.

Have a great summer and let's hope it stays as lovely as it has been so far this year.

## Strings Day

For a number of years we have been teaching children in Year 3 to play a stringed instrument, from tiny modified violins to full size double bass. Lottery funding ran out a long time ago but we are determined to keep this project going for one more year and even longer, if possible, but that depends on what the Chancellor does to our budgets next spring. The finale this year culminated in a splendid concert, which took place on Tuesday afternoon, to a hall thronged with parents and friends, as well as year 2 children who will experience the delights of strings ensemble teaching from September. The event was interspersed with pieces from our individualists, who have continued to be taught by our peripatetic staff. It was a terrific show that all participants should feel proud to have taken part in.

Guitarists will also have their moment to shine and will perform during next Mondays assembly at 8.50am. Parents of our guitarist are invited to join us to see their progress under their tutor David Burden.



## World Cup

The real World Cup is heading to a conclusion over the weekend, however in school we are a few matches behind

Holly Slovakia	v	Sycamore Slovenia	the professional but the passion is similar. Only the group winners made it through to the play offs which started today, and will reach their finale on Tuesday - so long as
Redwood Cameroon	v	Ash Australia	the fine weather stays with us.
Magnolia Greece	v	Cherry Brazil	
Oak South Africa	v	Chestnut Honduras	



There has been a very sporting tenor to all the matches, with over 150 children taking part, as well as some great starts and rising talent amongst some of our younger players; a lesson for Fabio perhaps!

## Tennis Coaching

Over the last 3 weeks some Year 4 children have been receiving tennis coaching, which cumulated in 4 of these children being chosen to represent the school in the Welwyn Garden City Primary Tennis Competition run by the sports partnership at Sir Frederic Osbourn.

It was amazing to see just how far their skills had improved, and all played well winning some of their matches. However, the opposition was tough and we managed to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in our heat. Well done to our future Wimbledon stars: Brayden, Sarah-Jane, Danny & Lily.

Jackie Harrison

## Cricket Club

Thanks to Stuart Johnson from Hatfield Hyde Cricket Club for offering coaching sessions over the past month or so with the level of participation being very high for each session. Funding for this has come from our local sports partnership managed by Sir Frederic Osbourn School. It is hoped that similar funding will be available next year so that the programme can be offered throughout the summer term. The final session will take place on 13th July.



## Sports Day

A season of school sports days got off to a wonderful start last week with Reception & Years 1 & 2 leading the way on Wednesday, followed by both our Nursery classes on Thursday. It was great to see so many parents able to join us to cheer the children along and support staff as they managed the events by keeping score. There was a great balance between competition and cooperation, and the children seemed to enjoy the events tremendously. Congratulations to the Red team who had a narrow victory over the Yellow team. Photos will be on our web site by Monday. KS2 Sports Day will take place on Wednesday 21st July at 2pm.



## Rugby Club

Is also nearing its end for the year, with huge thanks due to Karl Laing for running this regularly with a really keen level of interest from our children.

## Mid-day Supervisory Assistant Vacancy

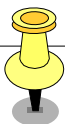
We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic and sociable person with a sense of humour to look after our children while they eat & play at lunchtimes.

If you are reliable, patient and able to work well as part of a team please call into the office for an application form.

Hours of work are from 11.30-12.50pm every day, and all appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Background clearance.

**Closing date Friday 16th July 2010**

*Commonswood is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*



## ~~Diary Dates~~

### July

- 5-15 International Festival
- 13 Parents Consultations 3.30-5.30 (not Willow)
- 14 Parents Consultations 3.30-7.30
- 15 Willow Parents Consultations 3.30-5.30  
Governors Education Committee 6.45pm
- 16 Year 2 Summer Show 2pm
- 18 Gardening Club Veg Fest Competition  
@ Onslow St Audreys School
- 19 Year 6 Legoland Trip 8.15-3.30
- 20 Children Meet New Teachers
- 21 KS2 Sports Day 2pm

- 22 Years 6 Leavers Presentation 9am  
Nursery PM Teddy Bears Picnic
- 23 Nursery AM Teddy Bears Picnic  
**TERM ENDS 12.30pm**

### September

6 Term Commences

### **PLEASE NOTE**

***There will be an extra teacher training day in the Autumn term, to be confirmed in September.***