



News on the Ninth

OCTOBER 2018

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Nursery



Nursery children are settling in and becoming more familiar with the routines and expectations. We have begun the Autumn term with the topic 'All About Me'. Children have loved talking about their posters which are up around the classroom. They have been interested in creating themselves through various forms of media, such as paint, skin tone crayons and collage materials after looking at their reflections.



Reception

We have had a fantastic first month in Reception! Our topic has been All About Me. We have been investigating our appearances and senses. Looking closely at similarities and differences between ourselves and others, we even painted portraits of our friends. We have also been learning the story of *The Little Red*

Hen and the children have enjoyed retelling the story and acting it out.



Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have learnt all about our senses. We found out that senses help us stay safe!

Year 2



In Year 2 literacy we have been learning to write instructions. We followed a recipe to make our delicious food. After that, we wrote our own instructions. It was lots of fun!



Year 3



In Year 3 we have been using the book, 'Iron Man,' by Ted Hughes for lots of our learning. In maths, we went outside to draw a life-size picture of the Iron Man.

Year 4

The first few weeks have seen us busy inside and outside of the classroom. In science we have been learning about the characteristics of living things and exploring the different habitats around the school site. As part of our topic work, we have been finding out about where Egypt is and what it is like and have been deciding what aspects of Ancient Egypt we would like to explore.

To help provide some inspiration for our story writing, we have visited the Nature area – going on our own adventure. On the way, we past a dangerous troll bridge, a cave, waterfall and found lots of unusual markings and footprints.

Year 5

In English, we have been looking at an exciting book, “How to be a World Explorer”, and we are busy writing our own guides of how to survive in our chosen biome. We are writing instructions, fact files and descriptions of the terrain, climate and wildlife. We are all very excited about learning all about the Ring of Fire, tectonic plates and volcanoes in Geography. In Art, we are drawing landscapes in the style of American artist Georgia O'Keefe. Our work in all three subjects will run parallel and we can use what we are learning across all three. We cannot wait to show you our finished results.

Year 6 make community links

While most of Year 6 were at Skern, the remaining children visited John Lewis to find out why the haberdashery department are asking members of the public to make poppies. The children discovered that, to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI, the store is looking to create a hanging window display of handmade poppies. The poppies can be knitted, crocheted, or sewn and John Lewis have a set of instructions to help anyone who would like to be involved. On their visit, the children were shown around some of the store, taught how to make poppies with felt and sequins and were even given a yummy lunch. Back at school, they have taught years 3, 4 and 5 how to make the poppies too and all the finished items will be displayed in the haberdashery window by Remembrance Day. After this, all poppies will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

As always, the children demonstrated impeccable behaviour and were excellent ambassadors for our school. If you get a chance, go and have a look at the window display in November. You should see our poppies there.



Skern Surfing, rafting, climbing and abseiling were just a few of the activities children got to enjoy at Skern Lodge. Throughout the week, children had to work in pairs or teams to complete activities and challenges. During a river kayak session, one pair ended up in a kayak sat facing each other and simply going nowhere. When the river carried them to the bank, one of them got out (presumably to turn around) and the boat carried on downstream – both seemed to find this hilarious – this did not aid the quality of the rowing. Don't worry – we sorted them out and I think I have photos. When it got to Friday, we all decided we wanted to stay another week... Well, the children did.

Commonswood House Captains

After a close fought competition between the year six children and some excellent election speeches, we now have some brand-new House Captains, ready to lead their House to victory. The results are as follows:

HOWARD: Andrew and Lily

OSBORN: Lara and Victor.

CHAMBERS: Annie and Ema.

DE-SOISSONS: Nate and Maya.

Congratulations to them all, let the competition begin!

Sporting News

Tag Rugby Festival – Year 5



Some of our Year 5 children took part in a festival at a local rugby club, led by Saracens Rugby Club. The team had to play against some strong local teams but showed resilience and determination in every match they played. Well done to those children involved, you represented the school very well and we are proud of what you achieved!

Bikeability

It has been possible for us this year to arrange a bikeability course for Year 5 and Year 6. Unfortunately, there are limited places, but we are awaiting confirmation of another course which will be held in the Spring term. Further information will follow once confirmation has been received.



For those booked on to the session, due to take place w/c 19th November, please ensure that your child has a road worthy bike, or they will not be able to complete the course and no refund can be given.

It is advisable to take your child's bike to a local bike repair shop, where they can carry out the necessary checks to avoid disappointment.

Upcoming PE events



This coming week, all year 5 children will be attending a Fun Run at our local partnership secondary school, Ridgeway Academy. The fastest ten children will move on to a final, we wish them the best of luck.

Also, this week, we have a girl's football team going to Monks Walk school to take part in a festival. They are just some of the girls that are currently attending our girls' football after school club, a well-attended club.

Thank you to all parents that are arranging transport to and from these events, it is greatly appreciated.

School Clubs – Notice for parents

Just a reminder that parents are not permitted to stay and watch after school clubs due to child protection.

PE Kit

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day, this should include suitable footwear. If you are supplying your child with trainers and they are unable to tie shoe laces, please purchase trainers that have Velcro and not laces, as this aids their independence.

As well as the two hours of PE that all children are having each week, a number of classes are now involved in a Daily Mile. This is building up their stamina, whilst supporting their health and wellbeing.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Tuesday 23rd October 3.30pm ~ 5.30pm

Thursday 25th October 3.30pm ~ 7.30pm

Parent consultation evenings are almost upon us for the autumn term. The focus of these evenings will centre upon how well children have settled into their new classes. These meetings are only ten minutes in duration so please don't save up any major concerns. Always discuss with your child's class teacher any matters as soon as they arise. Books will be on display so please come along slightly earlier than appointed times to give yourself plenty of time to look through your child's books. Children are expected to attend as it gives them the opportunity to celebrate success and discuss

next steps in learning. Do bear in mind the age of your child when booking appointment slots as young children can get very tired at later appointments.

Appointments are available online. Do sign up and give yourself time to get from one teacher to another if you have more than one child in school.

Parent Workshop

Miss Ingamells and Mrs Freedman invite the parents of reception children to a phonics workshop on Tuesday 16th October at 9am. Do come along to find out about how we teach phonics and how you can continue learning at home. Resources will be available.

Keeping children safe using technology

Please remember that our e-Safety page on the school website contains lots of advice and information about how to keep your children safe when using technology.

There are links to useful websites which includes how to set parental controls on devices and apps, what to do if your child encounters problems and information about the range of potential risks.



Fortnite

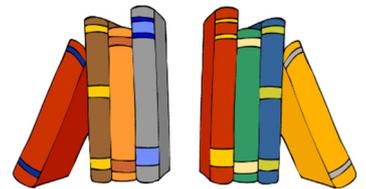


Despite being a 12 rated game, it is highly popular with many children throughout the school. Violence aside, this game exposes children to highly inappropriate language – both as typed messages and spoken word. One hundred players (of all ages) play together and whatever they say is completely unfiltered. The quantity of swearing and vulgarity which can be heard is appalling.

Through parental controls it is possible to turn off the speech, however it is not possible to stop typed messages from complete strangers appearing. It is recommended that you do not allow children under 12 to play the game. If you allow your child to play this game, please take the time to put on as many of the restrictions as their version of the game allows.

Reading Books

Please check your children's bookshelves (and under beds) for any school books that need to be returned to school. Our shelves appear to be rather depleted!



Trips and visitors

We pride ourselves on being able to enrich our children's lives through the provision of trips and visitors. These provide memorable experiences and bring the curriculum to life. I'm sure many parents can remember trips they went on when they were at school. These do of course incur a cost, which must be passed on to parents. Trips are calculated by adding together the cost of the trip and the coach. This is then divided up among the number of children going. Visitors coming into school to run workshops are good value for money as it saves paying for coaches and losing learning time due to travelling.

We charge for visitors in the same way, dividing the cost among the number of children participating. Parents are charged for their children only and do not subsidise other children. This means that if some parents do not contribute towards the activities, costs are not met and unfortunately such events will have to be cancelled. To enable these wonderful experiences to continue, we ask parents to please pay promptly using the online payment system before the deadline.

As requested at a previous Parent forum, teachers have put together an idea of the trips and visitors they plan to organise during the coming year. As you will appreciate, these are estimated costs which are subject to change.

Year Group	Autumn Term	Approx cost per child, subject to change	Spring Term	Approx cost per child, subject to change	Summer Term	Approx cost per child, subject to change
Nursery	Diwali workshop	Free	World book day Author Visit Zoo	Free £2 £20		
Reception	Food Technology workshop	£3	World book day Author visit Minibeasts visitor	Free £2 £3	Shepreth	£15
Year 1	Religious education trip Science visitor Anti-bullying workshop	£3 £6 £1	Museum trip Food Technology workshop World book day Author visit	£18 £5 Free £2	Geography trips	Free
Year 2	Anti-bullying workshop History visitor Religious education visitor	£1 £8 Free	World book day Author visit Food Technology workshop	Free £2 £5	Zoo	£20
Year 3	Religious education trip Anti-bullying workshop Religious education visitor free	£15 £1 Free	World book day Food Technology workshop Author visit	Free £5 £2	Museum trip Vet visitor History visitor	£15 Free £5
Year 4	Anti-bullying workshop	£1	World book day Author visit Museum Indian dance	Free £2 £15	Mountfitchet castle Pedestrian skills	£13 Free
Year 5	Anti-bullying workshop Lantern workshop Religious education trip Religious education visitor	£1 Free £5 Free	World book day Author visit History trip Religious education visitor free	Free £2 £20 Free	Outdoor and adventure trip History day	£20 Free
Year 6	Anti-bullying workshop Skern Lodge (previously paid in Year 5) Health and wellbeing workshop	£1 Free	World book day Religious Education visitor Author visit	Free Free £2	Enterprise Food Technology workshop Youth connexions secondary transfer workshops	Free £5 Free

Poppy Day



Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November, is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. Our school will be holding an assembly to mark this on Friday 9th November. On this day, we will take a quiet minute to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave Service men and women.

To mark the occasion, as in previous years, we will invite all children and staff who belong to youth organisations to wear their uniforms to school for the day.

Parent Governor Election

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. We will shortly be sending home information on how you can stand for election.

Lost property

Please label your child's belongings with a name and class in permanent ink in order for property to be swiftly returned to them.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to all the parents and children who donated food to the food bank during our Harvest Festival on 8th October. We were able to build a mountain of food during the assembly. The children sang the harvest song and we had a moment to reflect on how wonderful it is to have bountiful crops and about the importance of sharing with others. The food was collected by a local food bank to be distributed to people in need within our own local community.

Parent Forum

The next parent forum takes place on 11th October at 2.30pm. The school's website and newsletters are on the agenda. Please contact the office by 3pm on 10th October if you wish to attend the forum as this will help us to organise an appropriately sized room for the meeting.



Polite Reminder

Please remember to keep your children with you before and after school. Sadly, unsupervised children do have mishaps. Children remain the responsibility of parents/carers until the children enter the school. For health and safety reasons, children are not permitted on the climbing apparatus before or after school.

Parking

Can parents/carers please be considerate when dropping off and collecting children. We have had a number of complaints from residents regarding parents/carers blocking driveways and garages. The zig-zag lines outside the school are 'no stopping' zones. Please drop the children off outside of these to avoid fines.



Reception September 2019

Tours have started for parents with children due to start reception in September 2019. Tours give parents the chance to view the school in action. Please contact the school on (01707) 880420 to book an appointment.

Building work

Work to replace the school's heating system has almost finished. The new system will be far more cost efficient which of course is hugely important in these times of budget restraints. All classrooms are now completed. The last phases of the work will now be completed out of school time.

Diary dates

OCTOBER 2018	
11 th	Parent forum 2.30pm
11 th	Portrait and sibling photographs
12 th	New reception parent's coffee morning with Sian
16 th	Phonics workshop for Reception parents 9am
19 th	Parent Teacher Association (FRIENDS of COMMONSWOOD) Annual General Meeting 2pm
23 rd	Parents' evening 3.30pm ~ 5.30pm
25 th	Parents' evening 3.30pm ~ 5.30pm
26 th	Staff training day (children do not attend)
29 th ~ 4 th November	Half term

NOVEMBER 2018	
9 th	Remembrance assembly
12 th ~16 th	Anti-bullying week
19 th ~23 rd	Year 5 & 6 Bikeability
19 th ~23 rd	Last week of clubs
DECEMBER 2018	
3 rd	Staff occasional day (children do not attend)
7 th	Year 1 Christmas carol concert
12 th	Year 2 Christmas performance 2.15pm
14 th	Morning nursery /Acer Christmas performance 10:00am
14 th	Afternoon nursery /Alder Christmas performance 2:30pm
17 th	Christmas dinner
17 th	KS2 Talent show
17 th	KS2 carol service at Our Lady's church
21 st	Attendance assembly
21 st	Term ends 12.30pm
JANUARY 2019	
7 th	Staff training day (children do not attend)
8 th	Term starts for children

YOUR VIEWS

Would you like to contribute your views about the school to our school website?

If so, please email the admin team with a short sentence or two.



Commonswood Primary & Nursery School is a Safeguarding School

'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 Mrs Seymour, Mrs Manning or Mrs Scatchard via the school office.