

OCTOBER 2023

News on the Ninth

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Nursery



The children have loved exploring the woods during our weekly visits. We found different types of apples growing on trees. We collected so many apples that we decided to make baked apples. First, we had to use a special tool to take the core out of the apple, then we filled the hole with yummy sultanas and cinnamon. We could smell the apples as they baked in the oven. Delicious!

Reception



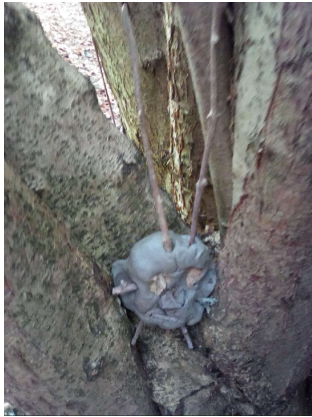
We have enjoyed a brilliant first month in Reception! We have been able to explore all the different areas of our new classrooms and garden and are getting to know our class routines. We have visited the orchard for the first time and we learnt how to keep ourselves safe in the orchard as well as how to take care of living things in the orchard. Following a road safety visit, we have been practising our road safety skills in the garden, remembering to look both ways before crossing the road



and finding a safe place to cross.

Year 1

Year 1 had an outdoor learning day in the orchard. We were learning to make animal homes using tripod structures and create art using natural resources. The children worked together to complete the challenges. We all had a great outdoor learning experience!



Year 2



Year 2 have enjoyed a day learning forest school skills in the orchard. They enjoyed building dens, whittling, lashing and frapping and learning how to tie different types of knots. What a fantastic day!

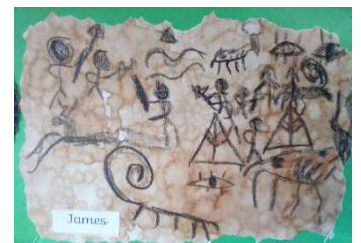


Year 3

We have been learning about the Stone Age this term. One week we learnt about cave paintings and re-created our own.



First, we practiced our drawings on some paper. Then we did the real thing on paper stained by tea to get the aged effect.



Year 4



For the past two weeks, Year 4 have been going swimming each morning. Whilst there the children have been developing their stroke techniques, water survival skills and confidence within the water. We have started our main History unit about the Romans which focuses upon Romans in Britain.

Year 5



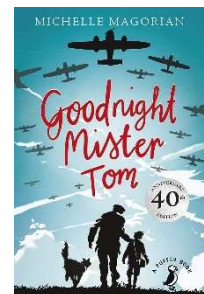
Year 5 enjoyed creating a Greek meal, learning the skills of cutting, slicing, grating, frying and baking. We produced some amazing moussakas which we tasted in the afternoon.

They have also learnt about democracy in The City States of Athens and Sparta, education in Ancient Greece and Greek Gods and Temples.



Year 6

In History, Year 6 have been really enjoying learning about World War II and understanding what life was like for people on the Home Front. Lots of our learning across the curriculum has linked to this topic; we started reading *Goodnight Mister Tom*, set during WWII, which will influence our writing tasks this term. As well as this, in Art, we are studying L.S Lowry and we will be planning and designing our own artwork using Lowry as our influence. We have also enjoyed exploring the orchard this term in our Wanderlust activity. We were given the freedom to explore nature and create poetry or artwork based on our observations.

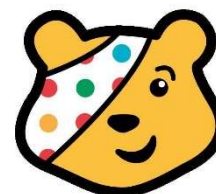


Parents' Evenings

Teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents/carers on Tuesday (10th) and online on Thursday (12th). Feedback regarding parents being able to meet teachers online was previously very positive which is why we have continued to provide this offer. However, more and more parents are now requesting face to face meetings therefore we will invite all parents to book face to face meetings for our next parents' evening in February.

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

KEEP YOUR KIDS
SAFE Online



In October our theme will be "Online Relationships". At home, please could you have a discussion with your child about the following:

In EYFS, it could cover how we use different technology to communicate. In KS1, how to be kind, considerate and appropriate when communicating using technology and what is not appropriate to share online.

In Lower KS2, the importance of giving and gaining permission before sharing things online; how the principles of sharing online is the same as sharing offline e.g. sharing images/videos.

In Upper KS2, how to be kind and show respect for others online including the importance of respecting boundaries. Also, how to appropriately respond to unpleasant posts from friends/ peers.

Online Safety Newsletter

Hopefully you have already received the Herts for Learning Autumn Newsletter for parents/carers.

Some of the information includes online grooming and gaming communities.

School Council news



Following hugely successful food bank collections last year, we will once again be supporting this worthy cause. We will be collecting donations on Monday 30th October, sorting them into categories and ensuring they swiftly get to where they are most needed. We are, of course, eager to collect as much as possible, and any items are gratefully received. The food bank have given us a list of items which would be particularly helpful for families and these are:

Cereals (children's ones), coffee, tea, toilet rolls, rice pudding, honey, jam, toiletries (deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, shower gel, toothpaste, soap), nappies sizes 3 to 5, washing powder and fabric conditioner.

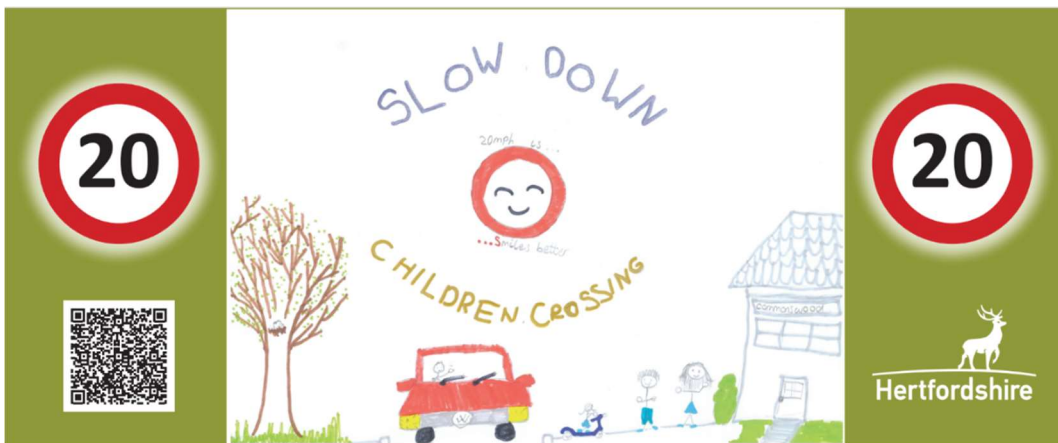
Please give all donations to your child to bring to class when they arrive at school. Thank you.

Travel News

In conjunction with the local authority, we have appointed six Year 5 children as Active Travel Ambassadors (ATAs) for our school. Our ATAs will be promoting active and safe travel to and from school, and they look great in a hi-viz!



Year 5 also entered a poster making competition to promote the 20mph zone in The Commons. Congratulations to Violet, who created the winning design. This will be made into a banner and displayed outside a number of schools in Hertfordshire which have 20mph zones. Here is how her poster will look on the banner.



Year 5 will also be participating in a photoshoot to promote 20mph safety. Look out for them in the local press in a few weeks' time.

KS1 Train

At last the KS1 train has arrived and it is a great hit! The children couldn't wait to plan their train journeys to all sorts of far reaching places. Thank you to the PTA and to all of the parents who contributed to the events enabling us to get this playground equipment!



Reporting Absences

Please report any absences by text message via schoolgateway by 9am

Forgotten items

We have had an increasing number of items being dropped off for children during the school day including lunch boxes, water bottles, coats and PE kits. Please ensure your child brings into school any necessary items with them and is ready for learning. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Clubs

Here are our clubs for the autumn term. All clubs start straight after school and finish at 4.15pm. Please ensure children are collected promptly. The last week of clubs will be w/c 20/11.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS1	Multisports	Spanish Club			Football – run by Premier Sports
KS2	Basketball	Choir Club Year 4 & 5 Curling Club	Netball Club Year 4 Badminton		Football – run by premier sports

Friends of Commonswood PTA

Please copy and paste the hyperlink below into your browser to access the PTA website page.

<https://linktr.ee/commonswoodpta>

Please scan the QR code for information on upcoming events



This Month's Reading Recommendations!

EYFS

Nursery – Britannica's Ready-For-School Words by Hannah Campbell

Reception – Alex and Alex by Ziggy Hanaor

Key Stage 1

Year 1 – The Bad-tempered Ladybird by Eric Carle

Year 2 – The Kiosk by Anete Melece

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 – King Kong by Anthony Browne

Year 4 – Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 – Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Year 6 – SeaBEAN by Sarah Holding



DIARY DATES

Oct 2023	
9th	Year 4 Indoor Athletics Stanborough 1.15-2.45
10th	School Football Team fixtures Monks Walk 3.45-4.45
10th	Individual Photos
10th	Parents Evening face to face
11th	Great Fire of London Day
11th	Netball fixtures Monks Walk 3.45-4.45pm
12th	Year 6 Road Safety
12th	Parents evening online
16 th -20 th	Year 6 Skern Trip
17th	Year 5 Road Safety Initiative
20th	Cake Sale PTA after school
23-27th October	Half Term
30th	Harvest Festival Assembly
30th	Year 4 Verulamium
31 st	In School Sibling Photos
Nov 2023	
1st	Isabel Hospice board game & puzzle sale in the Junior Hall. Secret shopping for parents 2.30pm – 3.00pm. After school family shopping 3.10pm – 3.45pm
1st	Pumpkin Parade

6th	Year 5 Golf at Mill Green
8th	Year 5 British Schools Museum
13 th -17th	Anti-bullying week – Odd socks day Monday 13th
13th	Year 5 Golf at Mill Green
15th	Reception & Year 1 Animal Workshop
16th	Year 3 British Museum
17th	Non Uniform Day for Children in Need
20th	Rock Steady Concert
21st	Year 6 RAF Hendon
24th	Occasional Day – Children not in school
30th	PTA Wreath Making
Dec 2023	
7th	Nursery Dress Rehearsal
8th	Nursery Performance
9th	PTA Festive Fun 11.30-3pm
11 th	Reception/KS1 Christmas lunch
11 th	5.30pm KS2 Christmas Concert
12th	8.45am & 2pm Mince Pie & Mingle
12th	KS2 Christmas lunch
12th	9.15am Reception Christmas Performance
12th	2.15pm Reception Christmas Performance
13th	9am Year 1 Performance
13th	2.15pm Year 1 Performance
13th	8.45am & 2pm Mince Pie & Mingle
14th	9am Year 2 Performance
14th	2.15pm Year 2 Performance
14th	8.45am-2.15pm Mince Pie & Mingle
14th	PTA Pre-Loved uniform sale
20th	Last Day of Term – School finishes at 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