



News on the Ninth

September 2024

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Welcome back and can we start by saying a big thank you to all of the gifts and lovely messages which were received at the end of the term.

We hope that you and your families have had an exciting and lovely break from school and are ready for a busy term ahead. It usually takes just a few days to get back into the daily routines and by now the children have settled back into their usual patterns.

A very busy term lies ahead as you will see from the diary section and I am certain that it will be enjoyable and successful once again.

Spotlight on Success

We are delighted to share with you our results for the last academic year. Once again, the hard work by pupils has paid off with them achieving very high standards. School results are going from strength to strength with outcomes typically better than national statistics. We are proud of all of our pupils for their super learning and thank you and all the staff for all the hard work in achieving this.



End of KS2 SATS results

	% at expected standard or above		% working at greater depth	
	School	National	School	National
Reading	87	74	33	Not yet available
Writing	83	72	11	
Mathematics	85	73	33	
Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar	85	72	50	
Reading, Writing, Maths Combined	76	61	9	

This is provisional data and may change when officially released by DfE

Parent Partnership Award



At the end of the Summer Term we were awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA). We wanted to further develop working in partnership with all parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for the children in all aspects of school life.

Our thanks to the parents and members staff who have contributed to this process through giving their views and offering suggestions.

Sports Award

With the incredible work of Mrs Scott and Mr Marshment and the support of the rest of the team, we have achieved the Gold award for school games. This requires a high level of attendance at sporting events, intra-class competitions within PE lessons, providing equal access for boys and girls and listening to / responding to pupil voice. Our thanks to you for supporting our external events and helping to promote participation.

Travel Plan Award

Our school travel plan aims to:

- encourage the school community to travel to / from school by means other than a car
- educate and promote safe travel
- actively seek ways to improve travel, the road and safe parking

With your support we have achieved an Outstanding level accreditation for our travel plan.



OUTSTANDING TRAVEL PLAN 2024

New Website

Just before the summer holidays, we launched our new school website which has a more modern look it. From parent feedback, we have organised information about the school and children's education into easy-to-navigate sections for both parents and children.

Within the school calendar, the dates of the different events which are taking place can be seen. When letters are sent out regarding these, a copy of these will also be attached to the calendar for your reference.

Learning



**Developing
imagination**





Exploring



Active Learning



Challenging Ourselves



OUR SCHOOL HAS ACHIEVED THE

LPPA

Leading Parent Partnership Award

Developing positive relationships with parents

2024 - 2027



Accredited by  OPTIMUS EDUCATION



Studying





OUR SCHOOL HAS ACHIEVED THE

LPPA

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Using technology





Examining

Meet the teachers

Do come along to our parent meetings to meet the teachers and find out about the year group curriculum. They are scheduled on different days to avoid clashes for parents with more than one child.

Nursery	Mrs Farmer	Home visits took place in the summer term		
Reception	Mrs Coe, Miss Ingamells and Mrs Lindsay-Hill	2.30pm	Wednesday 25 th September	Infant Hall (Enter via the main gate and through the Nursery door)
Year 1	Miss Birch and Mrs Scott	2.30pm	Monday 9 th September	
Year 2	Miss Buckley and Miss Jones	2.30pm	Wednesday 11 th September	Junior Hall (Enter via the junior gate)
Year 3	Miss Bull and Miss Richards	2.30pm	Friday 13 th September	
Year 4	Miss Saunders and Miss Tavernier	2.30pm	Monday 16 th September	
Year 5	Mrs Hewett and Mrs Moss	2.30pm	Wednesday 18 th September	
Year 6	Mrs Barnard and Mrs Bertorelli	2.30pm	Friday 20 th September	

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings, however, if you are unable to attend, the teachers' Powerpoint presentations will be available to view on our website after all the meetings have taken place.

Secondary School Applications

Parents of Year 6 pupils will have received the 'Moving on 2025' booklet. The online system is now open for September 2025 secondary school applications. Further details and details for open evenings can be found online at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions. All applications need to be made online and received by 31st October 2024.



Harvest festival

Once again, the children will be taking part in our annual Harvest festival assembly. On **Monday 23rd September** we will be celebrating seasonality and recognising how fortunate we are to have such varied and nutritious foods.



We will be building a mountain of donations with the children bringing their contributions into the assembly ready to be collected by the local food bank. If you are able to contribute, **children will need to bring their food donation to their classroom** first thing in the morning.

Some examples of donations are:

Dried foods such as pasta and rice, tea, coffee, tinned food – please ensure all food is within the best before date.

Emotion of the half term - Fear

As the new school year begins, fear of the unknown can be felt along with excitement for the future.

This half term our children will continue to learn about how fear feels in their bodies and new ways to cope when feeling afraid.

Please talk to your child about how fear is a normal feeling and that we all feel scared at times.



This link below will give you more information on how to support your child with their worries at home.

[Childhood fears: Helping your child with fears and worries - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Online Safety



As we return to school, to help keep children safe online, this is an ideal time to re-introduce some rules and expectations of device use / internet access at home. The Online Safety section on the school website contain lots of practical advice (for parents and children) about setting controls, along with guidance regarding suitability of apps / games.

Some of our key online safety tips include:

- set limits to screen time during the school week,
- when playing online, have children in a communal space, not unmonitored in a separate room,
- for any app/game which allows online communication (including messaging), ensure filters and controls are set. There are links on the school website to help with this.
- if they have their own phone, have the expectation that you may view and read their messages at any point
- talk to them about what they should do if they see / hear anything whilst online which makes them feel uncomfortable



Online Safety Theme

Each month in school we have an Online Safety theme which we discuss during the children's snack time.

We would appreciate you also having conversations around the theme at home. This month the theme is **Online Reputation**.

For EYFS and KS1, discussing what information should (and shouldn't) be put online and understanding that this information is seen by others.

For Lower KS2, discussing what others may not be willing to share about themselves online and that information shared / comments made online can't easily be removed.

For Upper KS2, discussing that information online can be used by people to make judgements about individuals and why these may be incorrect.

Anti-Abuse Curriculum

In order to embed the Anti-Abuse Curriculum into our teaching, each half term we are focusing on one theme which we will discuss in our classrooms during snack and discussion time. This half term, we are focusing on **Identity**. Some objectives link closely with our PSHE topic (Being Me In The World) as well as our discussion on the Emotion of the Month.

Here are just some of the things we have been discussing across the school:

- I know that I will be healthier and happier if I am my authentic self
- I know who I am and who I want to be, but this can change
- I know that my history and heritage contributes to my identity, but I am not defined by them
- I know that friendships are not limited by gender, race/ethnicity or religion
- I have control over my own life and can make choices from many options
- I know how to protect my identity and reputation online and offline

Safety Reminders

Smoking - it is against the law to smoke on any part of the school site, so please avoid doing so here or in the immediate vicinity of our gates where young children can suffer harm from passive smoking.

Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) – are not permitted on the school site.

Cycles/Scooters - please dismount before entering the school site and leave cycles securely in the bike sheds and scooters in the scooter pods. Scooters and bikes may not be left overnight on school premises.

Climbing equipment - Please do not allow your children to go on any of the climbing frames afterschool.

Photos - it is not possible to take photographs on the school site whether inside or outside the buildings. This is designed to protect the small number of families affected by domestic violence or child protection concerns. This includes the use of mobile phones.



Clubs

Not only are after-school clubs fun, they also help boost children's self-esteem and self-confidence. We all want happy, self-confident children therefore we aim for all children from years 1 - 6 to join at least one club in each academic year.

By offering after-school activities our children get the chance to succeed in a range of different areas. Please encourage your child to join up to at least one club this year.

A letter will be coming out later this week with details of the clubs for the Autumn Term.

Attendance and changes to Penalty Notice Fines (PNF)

There is a new national framework for penalty notice fines (PNF) being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by school.

Please see the accompanying leaflet from Hertfordshire County Council for all the details.

The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.

Term time holidays have a negative impact on friendships and learning. Please avoid taking your child out of school. We are unable to authorise term time holidays. 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.

School Diary

September	
9 th	Year 1 Welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30pm
11 th	Year 2 Welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30pm
13 th	Year 3 Welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30pm
16 th	PTA AGM at 6:30pm
16 th	Year 4 Welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30
18 th	Year 5 Welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30
18 th	Year 5 - Multisports
19 th	Year 3 - Multisports
20 th	Year 1 outdoor learning day
20 th	Year 6 Welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30
23 rd	Clubs start this week
23 rd	Harvest festival
25 th	Reception welcome/curriculum meeting at 2:30
26 th	Year 2 Outdoor learning day
October	
10 th	Individual photos
11 th	Photos with siblings
14 th -25 th	Year 4 swimming – for some children
21 st	No clubs this week



22 nd	Learning Review meetings: 3.30 -6.10
24 th	Learning Review meetings: 3.30 -6.10
25 th	Year 2 Visitors – History off the page
November	
11 th	Y1-6 Remembrance assembly – children who are part of Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs can come to school in their club uniform
11 th	Vaccination UK
18 th	Last week of clubs
December	
9 th	Reception / KS1 Christmas lunch
9 th	KS2 Church service – children to arrive at 5.30pm
10 th	Nursery Nativity at 9:15am
10 th	KS2 Christmas lunch
11 th	Reception Nativity at 9:15am
12 th	Year 1 Nativity at 9:15am
13 th	Year 2 Nativity at 9:15am
13 th	Year 2 Nativity at 9:15am and 2:15pm
19 th	Christmas / colourful jumper day Last day of term at 12:30
January	
7 th	First day of term for children



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), Mr S Burt (Deputy Designated Person), Mrs D Lindsay-Hill (Deputy Designated Person), Miss K Dean (Designated Senior Person) Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Noakes