



News on the Ninth

October 2024

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The past month seems to have flown by and Christmas does not seem too far in the distance. Walking around the school, it is lovely to see the children fully settled into their new classes and engaged with their learning.

Message from Chair of Governors

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to tell you a bit about the role that Governors play at Commonswood School.

My name is Julie Noakes and I am the Chair of Governors at Commonswood School. I've been a Governor at the school for around 15 years and have been Chair of the Governing Board for 11 years. I became a governor whilst I was at home with my young children as I wanted to get involved in education but needed a role which fitted around childcare. I've loved being a part of the school leadership team and seeing the school go from strength to strength over the years.

The role of the Governors is to be an independent body overseeing how the school is run. We are there to offer support, advice and challenge to the leadership team in school. Governors are involved in a range of strategic decisions including oversight of finances, premises, curriculum, staffing, policies and a range of other issues. We try to get into school to see teaching in action and to speak with children and staff as much as we can, although many of us, myself included, have busy day jobs. Most recently Governors have been involved in strategic decisions like recruiting a dedicated speech and language therapist, purchasing a minibus to ensure that all children can participate in sports without relying on asking parents to help transport them and recruiting our new Deputy Headteacher.

If you would like further information about becoming a school governor, either at Commonswood or another school, please feel free to contact me via the school office.

Julie Noakes

Chair of Governors

Harvest festival

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the harvest assembly with a donation. I think everyone was impressed at the quantity of food.



Road Safety Awareness

During the Autumn Term, each year group will take part in a road safety awareness workshop led by a travel officer from Hertfordshire County Council.

Reception - A story followed by a discussion around travelling safely in a car.

Year 1 – A story followed by a discussion around walking / active travel and the green cross code.

Year 2 – Scooterbilly which involves basic scooter maintenance, using safely and crossing the road.

Year 3 – Road safety – covering safer crossing places, making active journeys and the Green Cross Code.

Year 4 – Pedestrian safety. A practical session walking along local paths to identify potential hazards and how to cross local roads safely.

Year 5 - Discussion around the distractions that pupils will encounter as they move toward more independent travel, e.g. mobile phones and headphones

Year 6 - Road safety quiz/discussion, including the following topics: Active travel, in-car safety, highway street design and Engine idling.

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 raisins and cinnamon. We could smell the apples as they baked in the oven. Delicious!

Reception

Reception have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our two mud kitchens and have been making a variety of dishes for each other - including chocolate cake, soup and a roast dinner. The children have been sharing the resources and making sure they are suitable dressed in mud suits and wellies.



Year 1

In science this half term we have started to learn about our 5 senses. So far, we have looked at sight and sound. The children have really enjoyed having the opportunity to engage in scientific discussions and taking part in lots of activities to investigate these senses.



Year 2

During our History learning of the Great Fire of London, Year 2 has had a very special visit from a fireman with Hertfordshire Fire Service. The children were able to discuss the differences between firefighting in 2024 to the equipment used in 1666 during the Great Fire.

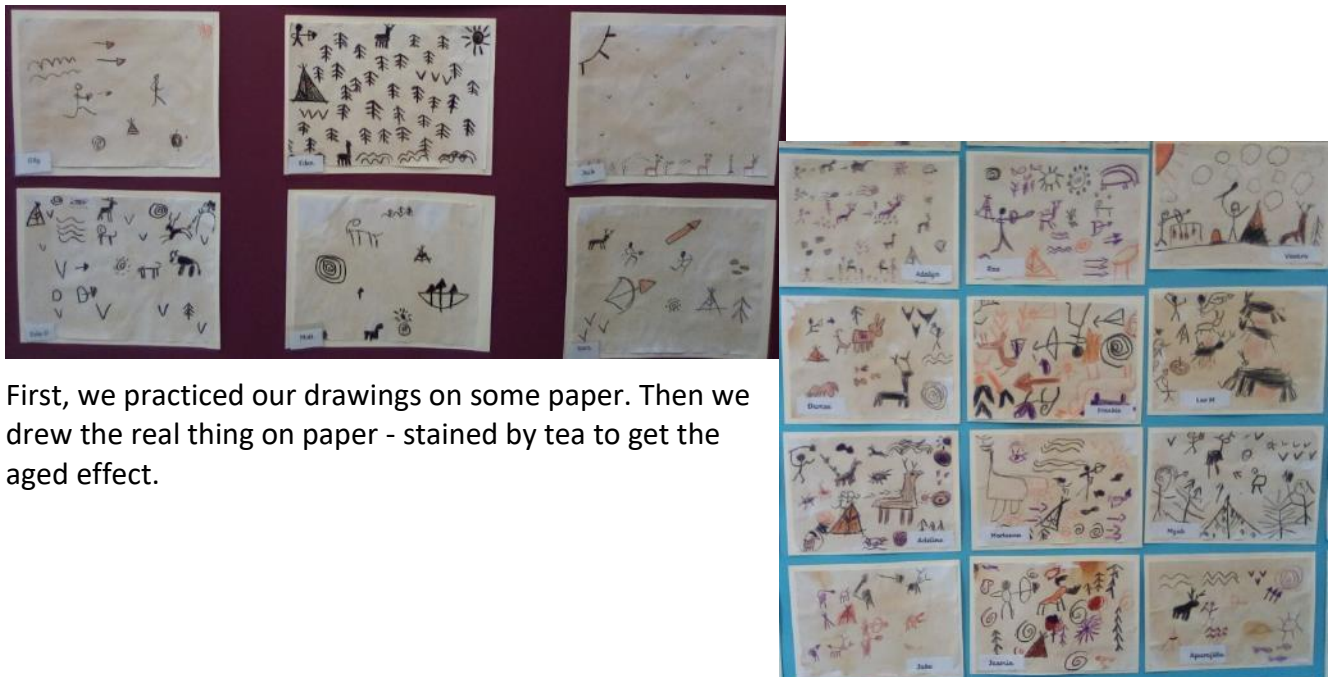
They also thought about what a fireman would have worn in 1666 compared to a fireman now. Miss Buckley even dressed up as a fireman to show all of the different pieces of equipment that a fireman has to wear. She discovered that together all of the equipment can be very warm and quite heavy!

To finish the children reflected on how to be safe if there was a fire alarm and also how to be safe around water.



Year 3

We have been learning about the Stone Age this term in our history lessons. In one lesson, we learnt about cave paintings, and why stone age people made them. Then we created our own.



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

Year 4



In English, we have been reading and exploring some Roman myths. We used a talk for writing approach to help learn to retell an exciting event and will use this to help write our own myths.

We also spent an afternoon in the forest school building dens large enough for our group and practicing our knot tying.

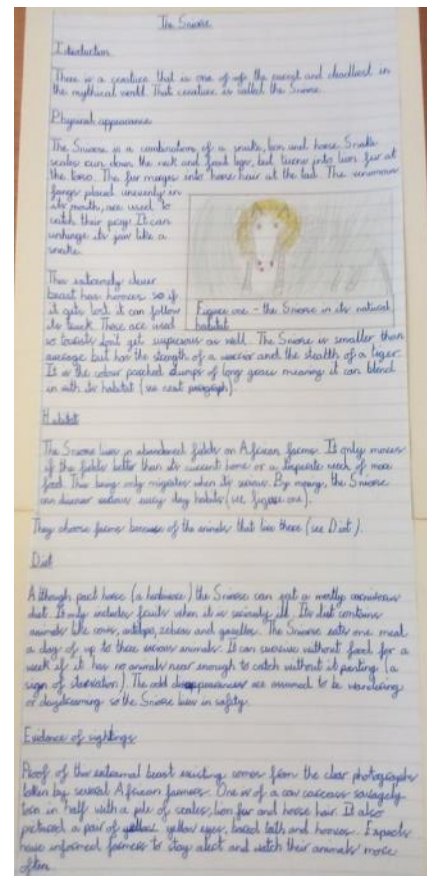


Year 5

In English, Year 5 have been looking at the features of non-chronological reports. The children created their own mythical chimera creatures and spent time planning out what they were going to include in their final report. They then spent time writing these reports making sure they included all the features of a nonchronological report, such as: title, introduction, subheadings, paragraphs, pictures and captions.



We also participated in a fun run at Monks Walk School, where the children all took part in either a competitive run or a fun run. Four children from Commonswood have qualified for the Year 5 District Cross Country Finals. We wish them luck.





Online Safety Theme – Online Relationships

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.

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



Attendance

As you will have seen, the law round children's attendance at school has been strengthened to ensure all children access their entitlement of a good education.

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 requires schools to inform the local authority of any pupils who are regularly absent from school (where absences amount to more than 10 or more days, either consecutively or irregularly and have been unauthorised). Schools are also under a safeguarding duty, under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to investigate any unexplained absences. This should be no less frequently than once per calendar month.

We must report all cases of 10-day unexplained/unauthorised absence and /or irregular attendance by completing a 10-day absence form. This should be no less frequently than once per calendar month. Irregular attendance is determined by a school. We must ensure that you make timely enquiries to establish the whereabouts of missing children.

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 requires schools to inform the local authority of any pupils who are absent from school where pupils are coded I (illness) and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness.

If your child is absent, we will:

- Telephone you on the first, and every subsequent day of absence, if we have not heard from you. However, it is your responsibility to contact us.



- If we are unable to make contact with parents by telephone, we will telephone emergency contact numbers, send letters home and a home visit may be made, in the interests of safeguarding.

The Local Authority will be informed if no contact has been made with parent/carers by the 10th day of absence (or sooner if deemed appropriate) as The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 Section 13 requires schools to inform the local authority. Schools are also under a safeguarding duty, under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to investigate any unexplained/unauthorised absences. At this point your child will be considered to be “absent from education”.

Lateness

Poor punctuality is not acceptable and can sometimes lead to irregular school attendance patterns. Good timekeeping is a vital life skill which will help children as they progress through their school life and out into the wider world.

Pupils who arrive late disrupt lessons and if a child misses the start of the day, they can feel unsettled and embarrassed and risk missing vital work and important messages from their class teacher.

The times of the start and close of the school day for all pupils at Commonswood Primary & Nursery School:

Nursery: 8.30am -11.30 12.20-3.20pm

Infant and Junior Gates open: 8.30am

Main gate closes: 8.40am

End of the school day: 3.10pm

How we manage lateness

- The school day starts at 8.30am when children can begin to come into school;
- Registers are taken at 8.40am;
- Children arriving after 8.40am are required to come into school via the school office. A parent/carer they must sign them into our ‘Late Book’ and provide a reason for their lateness, which is recorded.
- At 9.10am the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time, they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site - ‘U’, but this will not count as a present mark and it will mean that they have an unauthorised absence.
- The school may contact parents/carers regarding punctuality concerns;
- From time to time a member of school staff will undertake a ‘Late Gate’ check, greeting late arrivals at the main entrance to the school.

If your child has a persistent lateness record, you may be asked to meet with Miss Dean but you can approach us at any time if you are having difficulties getting your child to school on time. We expect parents and staff to encourage good punctuality by being good role models to our children and, as a school we celebrate good class and individual punctuality. Unauthorised lateness could result in the school seeking advice and guidance from the Local Authority.

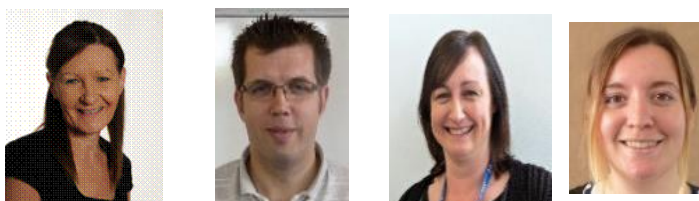


School Diary

October	
10 th	Individual photos
11 th	Photos with siblings
15 th	Year 2 - Scooterbility
16 th	Reception Safe Travel Workshop
16 th	Year 1 - Be bright travel workshop
17 th	PTA pre-loved uniform sale
21 st	No clubs this week
22 nd	KS1 Sponsored run
22 nd	Learning Review meetings: 3.30 -6.10
23 rd	KS2 Sponsored run
23 rd	Year 3 - Road safety workshop
24 th	Learning Review meetings: 3.30 -6.10
24 th	Year 6 Road safety workshop
25 th	Year 2 Visitors – great Fire of London workshop
25 th	PTA cake sale
28 th October – 1 st November half Term	
November	
5 th	Year 4 - Verulamium trip
6 th	Reception & Year 1 Animal workshop
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
12 th	Year 5 - Road safety workshop
18 th	Last week of clubs
18 th	Year 3 – History off the page visitors
December	
2 nd	Year 5 History workshop
2 nd	Year 6 RAF Hendon trip
6 th	Year 6 Health fair led by Nursing students
9 th	Reception / KS1 Christmas lunch
9 th	KS2 Church service – children to arrive at 5.30pm – this date has now been confirmed
10 th	Mince pie and mingle Nursery Nativity at 9:15am
10 th	KS2 Christmas lunch
11 th	Mince pie and mingle Reception Nativity at 9:15am
12 th	Mince pie and mingle Year 1 Nativity at 9:15am



October	
13 th	Mince pie and mingle Year 2 Nativity at 9:15am and 2:15pm
19 th	Christmas / colourful jumper day Last day of term pupils finish at 12:30pm
Christmas Break	
January	
7 th	First day of term for children
21 st	Choir to O2



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

Are you a family with children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities looking for local activities?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups, some activities will also include discounts for families registered on our Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND).

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory



OUR SCHOOL HAS ACHIEVED THE
Leading Parent Partnership Award
Developing positive relationships with parents

2024 - 2027



Accredited by OPTIMUS EDUCATION



Who's in Charge?

A FREE 7 WEEK COURSE FOR PARENTS/CARERS LIVING WITH A STRONG-WILLED CHILD

COURSE COVERS:

- ENTITLEMENT VERSUS RESPONSIBILITY
- CONSEQUENCES
- ANGER
- ASSERTIVENESS
- SELF-CARE
- COOPERATIVE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 7 X 2 HOUR WEEKLY SESSIONS

DATES:

Wednesday evenings
6th November - 18th
December

TIME: 18:30-20:30

LOCATION: Onslow St.
Audrey's school

To book a place, please use the QR code or go to this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/AjZkxFerQ>





AVA Against Violence and Abuse

A FREE 10 WEEK COURSE SUPPORTING CHILDREN WHO HAVE LIVED WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE

COURSE COVERS:

- VALIDATION OF CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES
- SAFETY PLANNING
- UNDERSTANDING ABUSE AND REDUCING SELF-BLAME
- APPROPRIATE VERSUS INAPPROPRIATE EXPRESSIONS OF EMOTION

PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 10 X WEEKLY SESSIONS

DATES:

Tuesday afternoons from 12th November 2024 to 28th January 2025

TIME: 15:30-17:15

To book a place, please contact your child's school for booking information