



News on the Ninth

November 2024

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Welcome back and we hope you and your families had an enjoyable break. The nights are certainly drawing in and there is a definite chill in the air in the mornings. As the children start to wear their winter coats and bring their hats and gloves, please remember that boots are not part of school uniform.

Armistice day – 11th November

Years 1 – 6 took part in an Armistice Day assembly today. We met in the hall and explained the significance of the day. At 11am, we held a minute silence. The school councillors who finished their term today, marked the end of the silence by ringing the bell.





Anti-bullying week

Once again, we are supporting the Anti-bullying Alliance's Odd Socks Day to help spread the word that bullying is not tolerated. On Tuesday 12th November 2024, the 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.

Smart devices

An increasing number of experts, including the phone company EE, are recommending that that under-11s should only have access to "non-smart" devices that have similar capabilities as old brick phones. It comes amid growing concern about the effects of smartphone and internet usage on children's mental health and behaviour.

From the NSPCC website:

- **Almost 34,000 online grooming crimes against children in the last 6 years.**
- **1 in 4 online grooming crimes in the last 5 years were against primary school children.**
- **73% of crimes involved Snapchat and Meta (Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp)**

In addition, a survey by the charity 'Just Like Us' found that 78 per cent of pupils aged 9 to 11 reported they have heard homophobic language. Many of them having heard it on the social media platform **TikTok**, and that it was intended as a "joke".

Smart watches are not permitted at school.

Online Safety Theme – Online Relationships

In November our theme will be "Online Bullying". At home, please could you have a discussion with your child regarding this area.

- In EYFS, it could cover how unkind words make people feel.
- In KS1 – how to act and communicate nicely online and what to do if you feel upset by things online.
- In Lower KS2, different ways people might be bullied online and the importance of thinking carefully about how posted content / actions in a game may make others feel.
- In Upper KS2, how to report online bullying within different apps / websites and when it is appropriate to report to the police.

Parking and car sharing

A number of parents and local residents have approached us about the actions of some drivers at the beginning and end of the day. It has been reported that cars are driving onto the pavement of neighbouring streets sometimes whilst children are walking along them. This is forcing the pedestrians to walk on the road to pass them.



Whilst we appreciate that it is a very busy time, the last thing that anyone wants is a child to be involved in a traffic accident. We ask that you please drive and park with care and consideration.

Our recent children's travel survey showed a slight increase in the number of children to car share on the way to school. It would be wonderful to see this increase further and will certainly help to reduce car numbers.

Reception admissions

Please be aware that admissions for reception 2025 opened on 1st November and closes on 15th January. Nursery children do not automatically get allocated a place at Commonswood so parents must complete the online application through the local authority website. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>



Fun Run



Well done to all the children taking part in the fun run and thank you to everyone who sponsored the event. Donations are still coming in and to-date we have raised over £2000.

Nursery

We have been learning about Autumn. We looked for leaves and noticed how they had changed colour and are beginning to fall from the trees.

We read the story 'Leaf Man' and used leaves to create our own pictures.

During Black History Month we learnt what a difference people, such as Rosa Parkes and Maya Angelou have made in our world.



Reception

The children in Reception helped to peel and chop apples which we cooked and made into an apple pie. This was linked to our Talk for Writing text, The Little Red Hen, after the children had made changes to the story. Some children chose to have 'oodles of creamy custard' with theirs!



Year 1

In Literacy, we have been reading the story 'Puffin Peter' by Petr Horacek. We have used the text to predict, write simple sentences using full stops, capital letters, conjunctions and adjectives in our sentences. We used these skills to create a new ending for the story. We all enjoyed learning facts about puffins!



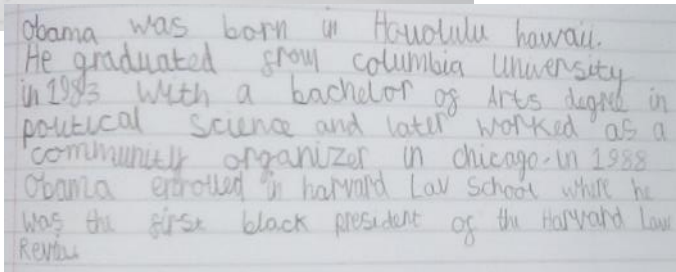
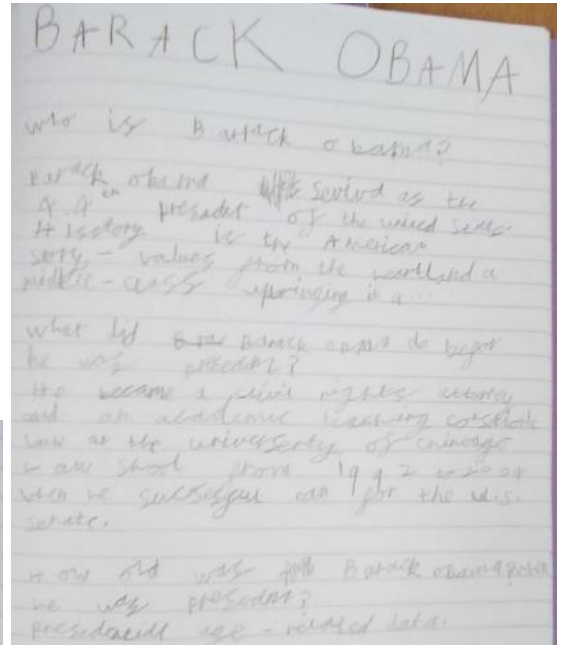
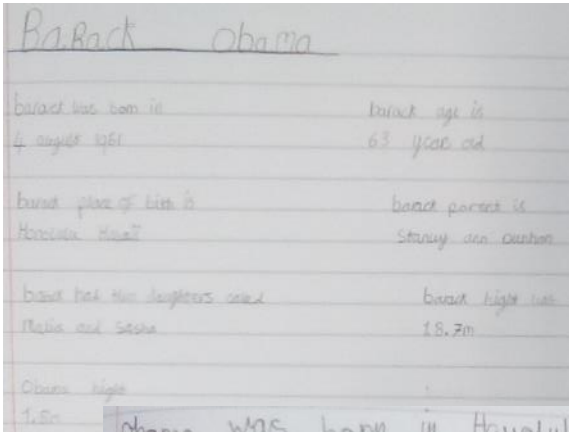
Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a visit from History Off the Page, which brought our learning about the Great Fire of London to life! The morning began with the children becoming apprentices on the streets of London, learning trades common to workers of the time, such as leatherworking, apothecary skills, sewing and more. Later, they excavated remnants of the charred city, searching for personal belongings and important legal documents to help with the city's rebuilding. It was a fantastic day of learning and discovery!



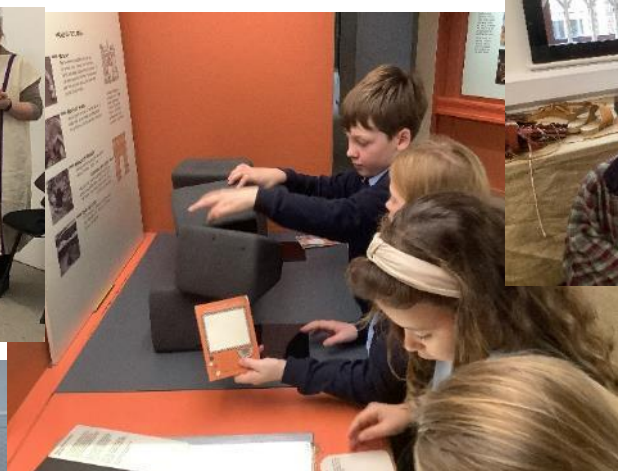
Year 3

For Black History Month, we have been learning and researching about Barack Obama. We researched, using iPads, following our own enquiry questions about his life, his presidency and why he was important and inspiring. We then created fact files based on our research,



Year 4

Linked to our unit on Life in Roman Britain, Year 4 went on a visit to Verulamium. Whilst there we visited the remains of a Roman Hypocaust, took part in a Roman market workshop and toured the museum. We had a great day and learnt a lot about the Romans.



Year 5

Linked to our unit on Ancient Greece, Year 5 enjoyed creating a Greek meal, learning the skills of cutting, slicing, grating, frying and baking. We produced some amazing moussakas.

Aubergine is the main ingredient of a moussaka and lots of us tried it for the first time and enjoyed it. We 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 Art, we are studying L.S Lowry and have looked at important features which appear in his artwork. These include: a five-colour palette, perspective and matchstick men. We planned and designed our own landscapes inspired by L.S Lowry which we painted using water colour.

As part of Black History Month, we researched the life of Lilian Bader – a very important woman who overcame discrimination and racism to become one of the first Black Women to join the Royal Air Force. We wrote a biography about the important events of her life and the impact she has had in our society.



We also had lots of fun taking part in a Fun Run and an Archery experience led by a teacher from Monks Walk.

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 Diversity and Community. Some objectives link closely with our PSHE topic – Celebrating Differences.

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

- I know that we all have different families.
- I understand how to be a good citizen.
- I can learn from people who are similar to me and people who are different from me.
- I know how to show my acceptance of diversity and my respect for all people.
- I know that being part of a community comes with responsibilities to myself and others.
- I know the importance of the rule of law in British society and I abide by these laws ensuring that my expression of my personal views is not breaking the law.

Friends of Commonswood - PTA

Please use the QR code to access the Friends of Commonswood page on the school website.



We are starting to collect donations for our Festive Fun event. Please donate chocolate bars, boxes of chocolates, sweets, wrapping paper, jam jars, bottles of alcohol etc. There will be a wrapping room for children to choose a gift for their parent or carer and so items suitable for men and women for this would be great. A collection point at school will be available in the playground.

There will be a rainbow raffle - more details to follow.

We will need some help to make this a really great event - please volunteer an hour of your time using [PTA events Friends of Commonswood PTA](#)

Art Discussion

Once each half term we will be looking at a piece of artwork in our Celebration assembly on Friday. Before half term we looked at Swans Reflecting Elephant by Salvador Dali, a piece of Surrealist Art. We discussed what we liked and disliked about the piece along with what we could see, the mood it creates and any questions it raised. Children will have the opportunity to look at this piece again in class. Please have a discussion with your child about this piece.





Cost of Living Support

This winter, Hertfordshire County Council wants to make sure that advice and support is available to help every resident deal with the cost of living.

Please follow the link to contact details highlighting advice and services residents can access.



<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/comms-team/campaign-toolkits/cost-of-living/cost-of-living-flash-poster.pdf>

Unwanted coats

If you have any children’s coats which are no longer required and are of good quality, please bring them into the school office. We will give them to families in need.

School Diary

November	
12 th	Year 5 - Road safety workshop
12 th	Odd Socks Day – part of Anti Bullying Week
12 th	Year 4 Tri Golf event in school
15 th	Years 5 & 6 Film night to 5.30pm
18 th	Last week of clubs
18 th	Year 3 – History off the page visitors
20 th	Vaccination UK
21 st	PTA – Wreath Making
22 nd	Years 3 & 4 Film night to 5.30pm
29 th	Occasional Day – children do not attend
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 Please note that on Monday 9 th December, all KS2 children will need to bring in a packed lunch from home unless they are eligible for Free School Meals. If they are eligible for Free School Meals and you would like a school packed lunch to be provided please email the school by 10.00am on Friday 15th November 2024.
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 Please note that on 10 th December, Reception, Years 1 and 2 children will need to bring in a packed lunch from home on Tuesday 10th December. If you would like a



	school packed lunch to be provided and are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals, please email the school by 10.00am on Friday 15th November 2024.
11 th	Mince pie and mingle Reception Nativity at 9:15am
12 th	Mince pie and mingle Year 1 Nativity at 9:15am
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

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024: 'CHOOSE RESPECT' CALL TO ACTION

From playgrounds to parliament, our homes to our phones, this Anti-Bullying Week let's 'Choose Respect' and bring an end to bullying which negatively impacts millions of young lives.

This year, we'll empower children and young people to not resort to bullying, even when we disagree and remind adults to lead by example, online and offline.

Imagine a world where respect and kindness thrives - it's not just a dream, it's in the choices we make. Join us this Anti-Bullying Week and commit to 'Choose Respect'. What will you choose?



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024

Monday 11th to Friday 15th November

CHOOSE RESPECT
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

ODD SOCKS DAY 2024
Tuesday 12th November

#OddSocksDay #ChooseRespect



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

Made with PosterMyWall.com



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



LPPA

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>

