



# News on the Ninth

## February 2025

Email: [admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk)  
Telephone: (01707) 880420

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, the children have been working incredibly hard and learning lots of new things. We look forward to seeing you all later this week at our Learning Review Meetings where we can share your child’s successes and their next steps in learning.

In last month’s newsletter we published the term dates for 2025/26. Shortly after, we received notification from the Local Authority, that they had made an error with the dates. We have now ammended the dates, in light of this error, please see below.

2025 / 2026			
Autumn	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Staff Inset Day
	Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	Term Commences
		27 <sup>th</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half Term
	Friday	28 <sup>th</sup> November	Occasional Day
	Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> December	Term Ends
Spring	Monday	5 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Inset Day
	Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	Term Commences
		16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
	Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> March	Term Ends
Summer	Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> April	Staff Inset Day
	Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	Term commences
	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
	Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Staff Inset Day
		25 <sup>th</sup> May – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
	Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff Inset Day
	Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Term Ends



## Parent Forum



Why not come along to the Parent Forum on **19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 8.50am?**

We aim to review the Special Educational Needs policy.

Please contact the office by 3pm on 17<sup>th</sup> March if you wish to attend the forum as this will help us to organise an appropriately sized room for the meeting.

## World Book Day

As you will be aware from the previous letter sent out, we have exciting arrangements planned for World Book Week, which will be celebrated from **Monday 3rd March – Friday 7th March 2025**.

During the week, children's author, poet, and screenwriter Rebecca Colby will be visiting our classrooms and will be sharing her expertise through interactive workshops for Years 1 – 6. Rebecca will also visit Reception and Nursery for a story time featuring her own books!

We will be holding a non-uniform day (with optional book character dress up) to mark World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**.

On that day, children are welcome to come into school in non-uniform. If they wish, they can come to school dressed as their favourite fictional character. Homemade costumes are always welcomed and celebrated at Commonswood.

## Nursery Applications for September 2025

If your child was born between 01/09/2021 – 31/08/2022 they are eligible to start our Nursery in September 2025. Applications forms for Nursery admissions are available from the school office ([admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk)). Application forms can be submitted from now until 4pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

We do have some Stay & Play sessions available for you and your child to come along and spend some time in the Nursery prior to applying. Please contact the school office in order for you to book a place. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

## Friends of Commonswood (PTA)

Welcome back to everyone from the PTA. We certainly needed a rest after the busy end to the term in December!! We were involved in a number of events which we hoped you enjoyed with your children. The Christmas fair was fun and very well attended, thank you to all that came and enjoyed it with us. The total raised at this event was £2020.37 🎉

2025 sees more events planned. This term we will have a preloved uniform sale and then on Friday 28th February a 'Noughties' themed quiz night in the school hall. A flyer is attached - you can book as a team or as an individual or small group and join up with others on the night. All information about events and ways to book can be found in the PTA section of the school website Commonswood Primary & Nursery - Friends of Commonswood (PTA)

If you have any suggestions on events you would like us to include then please let us know via email [commonswoodpta@yahoo.com](mailto:commonswoodpta@yahoo.com) or via one of the PTA committee in your class group. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

## Online Safety Theme – Managing Online Information

At home, please could you have a discussion with your child regarding this area.

- For EYFS / KS1, please have some discussions around how internet can be used to find information and the digital technologies which allow us to do this.
- For Lower KS2, discussing how information online may not be real (particularly now AI can generate fake images / videos as well)
- For Upper KS2, discussing the differences between a ‘belief’, an ‘opinion’ and a ‘fact. and how and where they might be shared online, e.g. in videos, memes, posts, news stories etc.

## Safer Internet Day 2025

This UK annual event takes place on 11th February, with learning based around the theme ‘Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online’.

This ties in closely with our Online Safety Theme detailed above.

In school, the children will have an assembly making them aware of what to be cautious of and will complete a class based activity.

A ‘Tips for parents and carers’ has also been produced to help keep you aware of potential dangers and how to help safeguard your children.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>

## Emotion of the half term

Emotion focus for next half term:

### Sadness

This half term, we will be learning about ‘sadness’: how it feels, what causes it and how it might look in someone else.

Please discuss this emotion with your child at home.

An important point for children to understand is that all emotions are temporary. They will not remain forever.

Talking to someone about how you feel and sharing your feelings, can help you to feel happy again. By exploring the reason that you feel sad and making a plan to deal with the source of your sadness can help you to feel more positive. Sometimes, sadness will be covering another emotion too.

The following website offers parent advice and access to free stories that help children to understand and cope with feelings of sadness.

[Helping kids understand and cope with feeling of sadness \(storyberries.com\)](https://www.storyberries.com)





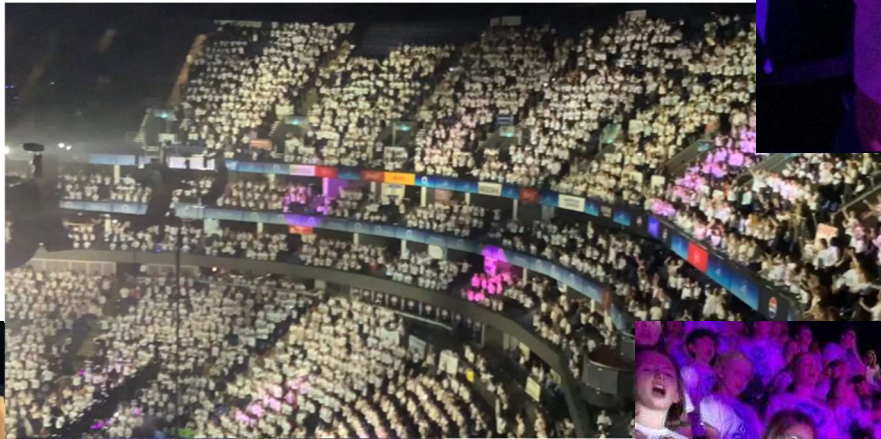
## Choir

Last month, the Commonswood Choir took part in an amazing experience - singing alongside over 9000 other children as part of the Young Voices 2025 Choir at the O2 arena.

They had a fantastic day, rehearsing with the live band and singing celebrity vocalists. By the evening, the parents had arrived, the children were ready and the atmosphere was electric. They became the performers and sung their socks off.

It was a very special occasion and one that I'm sure they will remember for years to come!

A huge thank you to Miss Buckley!



## Travel Award

We are proud to say that we have managed to retain our Outstanding Travel Plan status for the second year.

We appreciate all your support by walking, cycling, scooting and car-pooling wherever possible.



## Nursery

We are enjoying learning our new Talk 4 Writing story, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We have made bridges and used the story sack characters to retell the story. During our visits to the woods, we have looked for moss and learnt that it absorbs water. We have also explored the 'thick, oozy, mud', stomping and splashing in it, making muddy hand prints and then using it as a medium to paint with.



## Reception

In reception, the children have loved exploring the orchard during our weekly visits. During bird week, we tried hard to identify different types of birds using our 'bird identification sheet'. The children were very keen to create bird feeders in our outdoor area to encourage these birds to visit.

We also enjoyed celebrating the 'Lunar New Year' by creating a class stir fry. In groups, we learnt to cut the vegetables into small pieces using a knife. The children were excited to try their stir fry using chop sticks!



## Year 1

In Science we asked the question – Does it rain more in winter or spring?

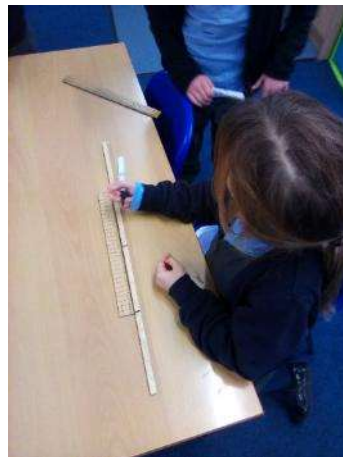
We discussed our ideas based on what we already knew and then created our own rain gauge. The data was collected over a period of a week and the findings collected in a chart. Finally, we looked at the results and made conclusions on the results.



## Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy in their Design and Technology lessons creating photo frames. So far the children have designed, measured, cut (using a saw) and glued their frames together.

They are very excited to be able to see the final result!



## Year 3

We were very lucky in Year 3 to have sports coaches from Monks Walk school come in to teach us curling! We practiced and developed our technique to make sure we got our curling stones on the target. We also learned different techniques to get our opponents stone off the target too!



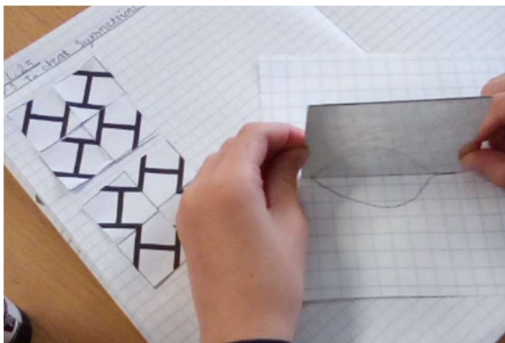
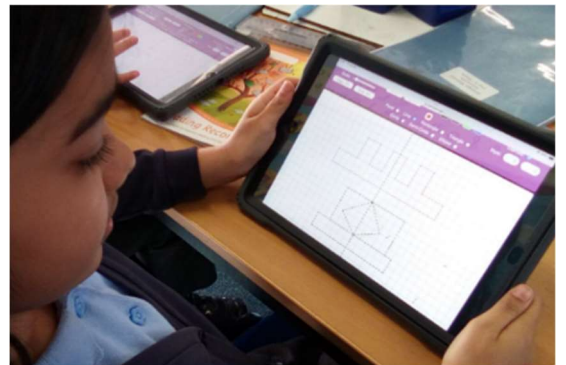


We have also been writing non-chronological reports on some incredible jobs we knew about, or made up. We based our non-chronological reports on the book we read called, 'Incredible Jobs You've Probably Never Heard Of'. We then wrote our non-chronological reports neatly to put into a class book.



## Year 4

In English we have been learning about newspaper reports. We have been learning to use fronted adverbials, conjunctions and correct tenses and created wonderful newspaper reports about a dog called Molly. In Maths we have used our skills to create and continue symmetrical shapes and patterns, and in PE, created repeating patterns for dance on the theme of 'spies'. In our drumming lessons we have been learning to respond to musical patterns.



## Year 5

Year 5 showcased our oracy skills in our class assemblies. We had written biographies about a person that inspired us last term and this was adapted to create a script we used in the assemblies. We picked out interesting and key facts they we wanted to share, as well as explaining why the person was inspirational to us.



## Year 6

Year 6 have started lots of new and exciting topics across the curriculum. In Geography, we have been learning about South America; we have been using atlases to locate different countries on this continent and exploring cities in Brazil by using 6 figure grid references.

In Art, we introduced The Aztecs – after researching the different forms of Aztec art, our aim over this unit is to design and create our own Aztec masks! We really enjoyed practising our drawing and sketching skills to recreate the Aztec calendar.

In Science, we are learning about 'Light'. We started this unit of study by identifying the different parts of the eye and understanding how we see things. We then conducted our own investigation into how we could change the size of a shadow.



## Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2025 took place from 3-9 February 2025.

The theme for 2025 is focus is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. We want children and young people to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.



**KNOW YOURSELF,  
GROW YOURSELF**

**Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK**

**This year's Children's Mental Health Week theme is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.**

**The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs.**

Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel **JOY** and what may cause us **SADNESS**. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way. During Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2025, please join us in some activities to help us explore our different emotions and grow ourselves. There is something for everyone, and we hope you enjoy this journey of self-discovery!





## 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>

## School Diary

February	
10 <sup>th</sup>	No clubs this week
11 <sup>th</sup>	Learning Review Meetings 3:30 – 6:10
13 <sup>th</sup>	Learning Review Meetings 3:30 – 6:10
14 <sup>th</sup>	Local Walk Y1
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Half Term
24 <sup>th</sup>	RE Workshops
25 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y6 – Spruce
26 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y6 - Sycamore
28 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Quiz night
March	
Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Book Week Poetry workshops
5 <sup>th</sup>	Royal Albert Hall Gala
6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book day
10 <sup>th</sup>	Great Big Dance off Y4
11 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y5 – Palm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y5 – Pine
18 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y4 – Magnolia
19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Forum – 8.50am review of Special Educational Needs policy
19 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y4 – Maple (with some year 3 children)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Last week of clubs
25 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y3 – Hawthorn
26 <sup>th</sup>	Local library visit Y3 – Hazel
26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 assembly @ 8:50
31 <sup>st</sup>	Rock Steady Concert
April	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Local library visit Y2 – Cherry
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Local library visit Y2 – Cedar
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 3 assembly @ 8:50
4 <sup>th</sup>	Term Ends



7 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Holidays
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Staff Inset Day – Children do not attend
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Term Commences
<b>May</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Staff Inset Day – Children do not attend
26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
<b>July</b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Children’s last day of term



**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**

## Polite Reminders

Please be reminded not to park your vehicle across resident driveways or in front of garages. Thank you.

## Free Parenting Courses

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your co-parent, and your children. Learn skills to navigate changes in your relationships, develop positive communication skills and learn practical steps that you can bring into your child's life to help them cope during and/or after a separation or divorce.

**Parenting When Separated:** A 6-week group-based course for separated parents that focuses on the emotional impact of separation and supporting communication between co-parents.

Upcoming course dates:

- Online course every Wednesday between 29 Jan - 12 Mar 2025 excluding half term, 10am - 12:30pm
- Face to Face course at The Otley Family Centre, Otley Way, WD19 7TB Every Friday between 17 Jan - 28 Feb 2025 excluding half term, 10am – 1pm

Parenting When Separated Referral Form ([hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk))

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/5SHI7N/>



**Parenting SEN Children Through Separation:** A 6-week group-based online course for separated or separating parents and carers of neurodiverse children seeking guidance, support, and strategies for co-parenting more consistently.

Upcoming course dates:

- Monday between 24 Feb - 31 Mar 2025, 7pm - 9pm
- Every Tuesday between 25 Feb - 1 Apr 2025, 9.30am - 11.30am

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=1v8xmMHAKWkdxzUTU-XK07CPv9ipgBDIY6wX\\_2Taa1UOEYwWTISNzg2TUpaQVNROFg4M1owR1BQMSQIQCN0PWcu](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=1v8xmMHAKWkdxzUTU-XK07CPv9ipgBDIY6wX_2Taa1UOEYwWTISNzg2TUpaQVNROFg4M1owR1BQMSQIQCN0PWcu)

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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory)



In partnership with Hertfordshire Council, British Cycling is excited to offer FREE Cycling City Hub and Academy sessions for children across Hertfordshire!

Held at both the Welwyn Gosling Track and St Albans Pump Track, these sessions are the perfect opportunity for students aged 7-14 to build BMX and velodrome cycling skills in a fun, safe environment.

What: Skill-building cycling sessions, BMX and Velodrome skills Who: Confident riders, ages 7-14 When & Where: St Albans Cycle Hub: Tuesdays, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM , Welwyn Gosling Park: Wednesdays, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Cost: Free! (Bike rentals available at St Albans; Welwyn riders, please bring your own) New sessions will also be launching soon at The Sele School, Hertford and Edwinstree Middle School, Buntingford.

Don't miss this chance for students to enjoy professional coaching and foster a love for cycling! Sign Up via <https://group.spond.com/SMDKB> (or use code SMDKB if you're already on Spond). For more info, contact Iffat Tejani at [cityacademyherts@britishcycling.org.uk](mailto:cityacademyherts@britishcycling.org.uk)



**WHEN:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February



Time- 9am to 3pm



 **WHERE:** Commonswood Primary School

 **WHO CAN JOIN:**  
Boys and Girls in Year 1 to 6

 **COST:** £25 per day

 **BOOKINGS:**

Bookings will start on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January via [www.justcoachingacademy.com](http://www.justcoachingacademy.com)

 **What's Included?**

- Fun Drills and Challenges
- Mini-Tournaments
- Skills Development in Passing, Shooting, and More
- A Safe and Encouraging Environment
- **ONLY 32 SPACES AVAILABLE!!**