

Commonswood News on the Ninth



October 2017

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Skern

Year 6 pupils loaded their (large) suitcases and commenced their journey to Skern this morning. I am sure that they will be having a fantastic time the minute they arrive in Devon! A message will be sent out to parents as soon as we know they have arrived.

Parents' evenings

Parents' Evening appointments are available online. Do sign up and give yourself time to view your child's books and get from one teacher to another if you have more than one child in school. We do prefer for children to attend these meetings with you.

Parent workshops

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the parent workshops. I hope you found them really useful. Do contact us if you have any further questions.



Nursery Stay & Play

Mrs Farmer has organised stay and play dates in the nursery. Stay and play sessions run from 1.30pm-2.30pm and the dates available are 18th October, 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd November 2017

Come and join the fun **By emailing admin@commonswood.herts.sch.uk or Tel 01707 880420**

Nursery Admissions

The admissions process for nursery places is changing for the September 2018 intake. To apply for a place at our nursery you will need to contact the school office and request a nursery application form.

Healthy Packed Lunches

We know that it can be quite a challenge to be inspired when providing packed lunches every day. However, children are not permitted to have sugary drinks, crisps and sweets in their packed lunches. If you require any guidance on what you could include in order to provide a healthy packed lunch, please contact Sian Mills our Family Support Worker.



Reading Books

Please check your children's bookshelves (and under beds) for any school books that need to be returned to school. Our shelves appear to be rather depleted!

Book Donations

Have your children got any books in **good** condition that we could use in our Nursery lending library? If so we would be delighted to receive book donations.

Wellies

If anyone has any children's wellington boots at home that are no longer needed, please could we have them. I'm trying to gather a collection of these for the children to use when we visit the orchard area.

Underwear

If you have any clean underwear for boys or girls that you are able to donate to school these would be gratefully received.



Help needed

A few years ago, an orchard was created at the back of the school. Since then the children have used this area for outdoor learning and forest school activities. I would now like to continue to develop this space by creating an improved wildlife area and reinstating the pond so the children will be able to go pond dipping. Our previous pond has a hole in the liner and is overgrown beyond use. Our site manager, Mr Shields has already agreed to build a bridge to go across this new pond.

I am wondering if there are any volunteers who would be willing to come and offer some help. Our first jobs would be to dig out the current contents of the pond, cut back overgrown grass and have a general clear out of the area. I would like to start this on **Saturday 21st October**. If you are able to provide any help or know of anyone else who would be able to support, please pass your details onto the office. Any assistance from half an hour to a couple of hours would be most welcome.

Many thanks
Steve Burt



Maths Challenge

Exciting things are planning in maths for Friday 13th October. Good luck everyone!

Think 13

Most social networking apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Snapchat and Instagram require users to be aged 13 or older. If your child, aged 9, signs up now, by the time they are 14, these companies believe your child to be 18. Consider what inappropriate advertising they may be exposed to!

Do you know if your child uses any form of social media app? If so, please take the time to go through the security settings, to keep them as safe as possible. Also, discuss the types of appropriate messages which should be sent.

For more information about eSafety, please see the school's eSafety page.

Year 4 Roald Dahl Trip

On Tuesday 19th September, Year four went on a marvellous trip to Great Missenden to visit the Roald Dahl museum. Whilst there, we took part in a character creation workshop, learnt about Roald Dahl's life and got to explore what his writing hut was like. It was very exciting and we all returned to school with plenty of ideas for our own stories. For part of the day, we went to visit the church of St Peter and St Paul. We were shown around the inside of the church and had any of our questions answered. We also saw the BFG's footprints in the village.



Reception

Reception have really enjoyed listening and recalling the story of: 'The Gingerbread Man'. They also had the opportunity to bake a 'Gingerbread Man' of their own and wrote a list of the toppings they would like to decorate their biscuits.

Poppy Day

Poppies will be on sale across the school during the week beginning 30th October.



Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November, is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. Our school will be holding an assembly to mark this on Friday 10th November. On this day, we will take a quiet minute to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave Service men and women.

To mark the occasion, as in previous years, we will invite all children and staff who belong to youth organisations to wear their uniforms to school for the day.

Parent Governor election

Thank you for sending in your votes for the parent Governor election. As a result Mrs Emma Sparks has been duly elected.



Lost property

Please label your child's belongings with a name and class in permanent ink in order for property to be swiftly returned to them.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to all the parents and children who donated food to the food bank during our Harvest Festival on 2nd October. We were able to build a mountain of food during the assembly. The children sang the harvest song and we had a moment to reflect on how wonderful it is to have bountiful crops and also about the importance of sharing with others. The food was collected by a local food bank to be distributed to people in need within our own local community.



Parent Forum

The next parent forum takes place on 10th October at 2.30pm. Behaviour is on the agenda. Do come along if you would like to find out more about what we do at school.

Polite Reminder

Please remember to keep your children with you before and after school. Sadly unsupervised children do have mishaps. Children remain the responsibility of parents until the children enter the school. For health and safety reasons, children are not permitted on the climbing apparatus before or after school.

YOUR VIEWS

Would you like to contribute your views about the school to our school website?

If so, please email the admin team with a short sentence or two.

Vacancies

Could you be a Mid-Day Supervisor?



We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic, and sociable person with a sense of humour to engage with our children while they eat & play at lunchtimes.

If you are reliable, patient and able to work well as part of a team please call into the office for an application form.

Hours of work are from 11.30am – 12.50pm Monday – Friday

All appointments are subject to a full Disclosure and Barring service and ISA clearance


 SPACHERTS@GMAIL.COM WWW.SPACHERTS.ORG.UK

SAVE THE DATE

WELLBEING CONFERENCE

Knebworth Barns,
 Old Knebworth Lane,
 Knebworth SG1 2AX
 Friday 17th November
 9:30am - 2:30pm




MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SARAH HENDRICKX
 Specialist in Autism Spectrum Conditions

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ANNE WEBSTER
 NHS Clinical Lead, Improving Health and Quality

Additional Speakers:
 Donna Chamberlain - Clinical Psychologist and CBT Therapist
 Laura Burrage - Behaviour Specialist
 Emma Burden - NLP Practitioner

Places will be charged at £10 per person to include light lunch and refreshments.
 There will also be a few related stalls

Booking details to follow



If you would like more information on this event or the charity please contact the **SPACE** team at the above email address.



Alternatively, check our website or find us on **FACEBOOK** under the name of **SPACE**

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE - AUTISM, ADHD, RELATED CONDITIONS
 REGISTERED CHARITY ENGLAND AND WALES NO. 117 2178

Commonswood Primary and Nursery School Curriculum Enrichment 2017-18

As agreed at the parent forum a list of proposed visits and visitors have been included here to give parents a general idea of the enrichment opportunities across the school. These are of course subject to change and an estimation of cost.

Our curriculum is continuously being enriched with visitors who come into school and involve children in workshops as well as educational visits to venues outside the school grounds. We try to be mindful of the cost of these activities and we space them out throughout the school year so costs do not impact on parents/carers all at once. Here is an outline of the activities, trips and visitors you can expect for your child's year group this year. These costs are approximate and you will be informed of the exact prices nearer each event. We do rely on parents paying for these events as without sufficient funds events must be cancelled. As you can see, there is also a huge number of things on the list below which are free of charge to you. There will, of course, be additional whole school enrichment events through the year such as dressing up for book week, History day and fundraising days.

Year group	Term	Trip/visiting company	Approximate cost per child, subject to change
Nursery	Spring	Author visit	£1.50
	Summer	Storytelling workshop Safari/Zoo Park trip	FREE £20
Reception	Spring	Author visit	FREE
	Summer	Storytelling workshop Cuffley Camp day trip Minibeasts visitor	£1.50 £15 £3
Year 1	Autumn	Anti-bullying workshop	£2
		Spanish vocabulary visitor	FREE
	Spring	Visit to sing Christmas songs to the elderly	FREE
		Religious leader visitor	FREE
		Storytelling workshop	FREE
		Visit from reptile/animal specialist	£4
Visit to The Commons Nature Reserve	FREE		
Author visit	£1.50		

	Summer	Museum visit Police officer visit	£8 FREE
Year 2	Autumn	Anti- bullying workshop History "Off the Page" visiting company Religious leader visitor	£2 £9 FREE
	Spring	Sustainability workshop Science trip Safari Park trip with educational workshop Author visit	FREE £15 £15 £1.50
	Summer	Storytelling workshop Drama workshop	FREE £10
Year 3	Autumn	Anti- bullying workshop Water company visitor	£2 £5
	Spring	Environmentalist assembly and workshop visiting company Celtic Harmony trip with instructor led activities Vet visitor	FREE £22 FREE £2
	Summer	Drama workshop Storytelling workshop St Alban's Verulamium trip with historian led workshop	FREE £16
Year 4	Autumn	Anti- bullying workshop Roald Dahl museum trip Water company visitor	£2 £15 £5
	Spring	Sports coach Drama workshop Storytelling workshop	FREE £2 FREE
	Summer	Mountfitchet Castle visit	£15
Year 5	Autumn	Anti- bullying workshop Lantern making workshop Sports coach	£2 Free FREE
	Spring	Drama workshop Storytelling workshop Gillwell Park visit	£2 FREE £20
	Summer	Greek day	FREE
Year 6	Autumn	Anti- bullying workshop Sports coach Skern Lodge residential	£2 FREE £360
	Spring	Lincolnsfield centre visit Drama workshop Storytelling workshop	£15 £2 FREE
	Summer	Crucial crew visit Religious leader visitor	£5 FREE

Trips and visitors

We pride ourselves on being able to enrich our children's lives through the provision of trips and visitors. These provide memorable experiences and bring the curriculum to life. I'm sure many parents can remember trips they went on when they were at school. These do of course incur a cost, which must be passed on to parents. Trips are calculated by adding together the cost of the trip and the coach. This is then divided up among the number of children going. Visitors coming into school to run workshops are good value for money as it saves paying for coaches and losing learning time due to travelling.

We charge for visitors in the same way, dividing the cost among the number of children participating. Parents are charged for their children only and do not subsidise other children. This means that if some parents do not contribute towards the activities, costs are not met and unfortunately such events will have to be cancelled. To enable these wonderful experiences to continue, we ask parents to please pay promptly using the online payment system before the deadline.

Diary Dates

October 17	November 17	December 17
9 th Year 6 to Skern Lodge 10 th 2pm Parent Forum 13 th Maths Day 13 th Skern trip returns 17 th Parents' evening 18 th Parents' evening Nursery & Alder 19 th Parents' evening 19 th Flu immunisation 20 th INSET children do not attend 23 rd – 27 th Oct half term 18 th Parents' evening 19 th Nursery Parents' evening 20 th Parents' evening 24 th – 30 th Half Term	10 th remembrance assembly children can wear youth organisation uniforms for the day 10 th Year 2 History off the page visit 10 th PTA Quiz night 13 th Anti-bullying week 30 th University of Herts Working with Year 6.	11 th Key Stage 2 Christmas carols at church 12 th Nursery Christmas performance(am) 13 th Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (am) 14 th Key Stage 1 Christmas performance (pm) 15 th 12 Reception Christmas performance (am & pm) 15 th Last Year4 swimming 15 th December 2017 19 th End of term – children finish at 12.30pm



Commonswood Primary & Nursery School is a Safeguarding School

'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 Mrs Seymour, Mrs Manning or Mrs Scatchard via the school office.

Mrs G Seymour (Designated Senior Person), Mrs S Manning (Deputy Designated Person), Mrs N Scatchard (Deputy Designated Person) & Mr S Burt (Deputy Designated Person for eSafety)