

Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #05

March 2024

Dear Families,

It's been another busy month at Combs Ford Primary School. We enjoyed welcoming families into school for Mrs Oakley's *Phonics Screening Check Information Sessions*, Miss Vanderzanden and Mrs Freeman's *Accelerated Reader Sessions*, Year 4's *Whitwell 2024 Meeting*, and the *School Council Cake Sale* – we've never seen a queue so long! We'd like to thank all of our families who've sent in books for the World Book Day Book Swap Shop – more details on how we're planning to celebrate reading below.

As I wrote the February Briefing, our Young Voices choir was heading to the O2 where they joined more than 9000 other children to perform at the O2 Arena. They had a fantastic time and were brilliant ambassadors for our school. Thank you to the families who made the journey to London to act as our fan club!



We thank you for your continued support and are always happy to receive feedback on what you think we're doing well and what you think we need to improve. You can do this by talking to your child's class teacher or TA, speaking to the Senior Leaders on duty before school, or by phoning (01449 613 112) or emailing (admin@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk) the school.

Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

News

School Kitchen Maintains 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating!







Congratulations to Mrs Keeble, Mrs Green, Mrs James and Mrs Knights on continuing to their 5 star [Food Hygiene Rating](#) from the Food Standards Agency – we know you're the best school cooks ever!



Mrs Bowden

Mrs Bowden will be leaving us for pastures new on Tuesday 12th March. Mrs Bowden joined us as a Lunchtime Supervisor in 2015 and worked as a Teaching Assistant before taking up her current role as a our Nurture Lead. We will miss her greatly and wish her all the best in her new adventure.

Looking Back...

Suffolk Mind's Mental Health Kitbag	Year 5 Bikeability	EYFS Celebrate Chinese New Year
<p>Suffolk Mind worked with our Key Stage 2 children in February. They shared lots of new skills for the children's 'Kitbag' to aid their mental health. Suffolk Mind told us that the children's engagement and learning was excellent!</p> <p>Why not ask your child what's in their 'Kitbag'?</p> 	<p>This week 24 of our Year 5s have taken part in Bikeability Cycle Training with Suffolk County Council. They've learned about bike safety checks, stopping, using gears, steering, looking behind, signalling, passing vehicles and side roads, turning left, a 'stop', a u turn and much more.</p> 	<p>EYFS celebrated Chinese New Year on the Friday before half term – they found out about celebrations and finished with a fabulous feast.</p> 
School Council Bake Sale!	Valentines Day Cards	Safer Internet Day
<p>The School Council held an incredibly successful cake sale in the library after school on the last day of term and raised £181.30 for 'The Rainbow Trust' – our chosen charity for the year.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who supported them by donating and buying cakes and to Mrs Oakley, Mrs Lehocz, Mrs McCarthy, Miss Plowman and Mrs Voice who helped them with the organisation.</p> 	<p>Our children worked very hard in the library at lunchtimes to make a very impressive 102 Valentine's Day cards to send to Bupa UK residents. It was a big challenge, but they managed to complete them all ready for the big day! Every card was made with care and love. We know that all the lucky recipients enjoyed opening their cards – we have received a thank you card to say so!</p> 	<p>This year's Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 6th February. The theme was, "Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online."</p> <p>You can find Top Tips for Parents and Carers to help you support your child to stay safe and happy online. The top tips are about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring change by modelling how to be safe online. • Making a difference by having regular discussions about the online world. • Managing influence by researching the content and games your child enjoys the most. • Navigating change by knowing where to go for further support. 

Looking Forward...

There's a full calendar of events below, but here are some of the highlights for this month.

<p>Pre-Loved Uniform Sale</p> <p>Don't forget to join Mrs Lehocz and Mrs McCarthy for their Pre-Loved Uniform Sale on Friday 1st March from 3pm in the School Library.</p>	<p>Rock Steady Gigs</p> <p>If your child's a budding rock star, don't forget to put Thursday 21st March in your diary for the Rock Steady end-of-term gigs!</p>
<p>World Book Day – Thursday 7th March</p> <p>Mrs Oakley and Miss Vanderzanden have been planning an exciting World Book Day for the children which will be introduced in assembly on Monday 4th March. Hopefully, over half term, you've been able to take a photo of your child reading their favourite book in their own way and emailed it to the school council at schoolcouncil@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk.</p> <p>On World Book Day (7th March) we would like all of the children to bring in their favourite book – ideally the one in their picture. We're going to share these and create a display in each classroom showcasing our favourite books. There will also be time throughout the day for the children to read their books (or a different book if they finish it) when the reading bell is rung!</p> <p>We will also be having a whole school book quiz, writing a whole school story to go with a wordless picture book, a giant variation of Guess Who and lots more!</p> <p>Thank you for all the books that have been sent in for the Book Swap Shop. It's not too late to send one in if you haven't already.</p>	<p>Class Drop-Ins – Week Beginning Monday 18th March 08:45-09:15</p> <p>We would like to invite you to our second series of Class Drop-Ins. The drop-in will give you the opportunity to look at your child's work with them and allow you to see how they are progressing. The drop-ins are on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS: Wednesday 20th March • Year 1: Tuesday 19th March • Year 2: Wednesday 20th March • Year 3: Monday 18th March • Year 4: Monday 18th March • Year 5: Tuesday 19th March • Year 6:- Thursday 21st March <p>We will open the gates as usual at 08:30 so that you can then make your way to the door that your child usually uses to enter and exit school and use this to enter their classroom. Classroom doors will open at 08:45 and close at 09:15 so that the children can begin their day's learning. As the classrooms will be quite busy, there won't be opportunities for confidential 1:1 discussions with teachers. We will be offering Parent-Teacher Consultations in July.</p>
<p>Year 3 and 4 Play – Rock Bottom</p> <p>Year 3 and 4 are rehearsing hard for their performance of 'Rock Bottom'.</p> <p><i>"Meet The Cobblestones, just an ordinary Stone Age family of cave folk living on Stoney Street, Rock Bottom! But when cave boy inventor Bobby Cobblestone hatches his very first good idea, he's whisked off to work for none other than the beautiful celebrity Lady Lava! Unfortunately, BC is soon up to his Neanderthal neck in trouble when he discovers his new boss hides a dark secret that will rock Rock Bottom to its foundations. With mysterious monsters terrorising the town and a volatile volcano ready to blow its top, can BC become a little boulder and hatch a plan to save his family, his friends and his very own precious Rock Bottom? Only time will tell..."</i></p> <p><i>A cast of crazy cave folk join in the Neolithic naughtiness, not to mention a flock of prehistoric birds, two dippy dinosaurs, a vacuum-cleaning mammoth and a sabre-tooth tiger called Tiddles! With eight toe-tapping songs to get you rocking like a rolling stone and a puntastic script as sharp as a flint, one thing's for sure - the Stone Age rocks!"</i></p> <p>Performances are open to families of Year 3 and 4 children with 2 tickets available per family bookable on Arbor. Performances take place at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 20th March at 1:30 pm • Friday 22nd March at 9:30 am 	<p>Clubs</p> <p>Below are the clubs that are running throughout March. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 2 Dance Club – after school on a Tuesday with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership. <p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 2, 3 and 4 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:20 in the Main Hall with Mrs Ashton). • Music for Schools musical instrument tuition takes place on a Wednesday during school hours. <p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 2 Choir – 08:00 on a Thursday with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole. • Years 5 and 6 Dodgeball Matches (Main Hall at Break). • Rock Steady Music School takes place on a Thursday during school hours. <p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club – after school on a Friday with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership.
<p>Year 5 Updates</p> <p>As well as taking part in Forest School activities (see below), Year 5 have some great activities planned for April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming continues on a Monday morning for Elephants and a Wednesday morning for Bears. • On Tuesday 5th March Year 5 will be taking part in an interactive Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event. This is sponsored entirely by the MoD and features hands-on activities and workshops to explore real-world applications of STEM. • On Friday 8th March Year 5 will be visiting Jimmy's Farm. 	<p>Assessment Week: 11th – 15th March</p> <p>During assessment week the children will take paper-based tests from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). These tests are used across our Trust and are designed to be child-friendly, with an age-appropriate level of support provided through the tests. Children in Years 3-5 take tests in English (reading comprehension), maths, grammar and punctuation and spelling and children in Years 1-2 take tests in English (reading comprehension) and maths. Children in Year 6 will be taking mock SATs to prepare them for May.</p> <p>Teachers use the data they provide to support assessment of your child's attainment, help them to map progress, and enable them to identify areas of strength and areas for development.</p>

<p>Gymnastics Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training – after school on a Tuesday with Mrs Ashton. • Tuesday 26 March – Years 3 and 4 Key Steps Gymnastics Competition (Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre) with Mrs Ashton • Thursday 28th March – Year 5 Key Steps Gymnastics Competition (Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre) with Mrs Ashton 	<p>Non-Uniform Day</p> <p>Don't forget our next Non-Uniform Day in Support of The Rainbow Trust which takes place on the last day of term – Thursday 28th March.</p>
<p>Year 6 Updates</p> <p>It's a busy month for Year 6!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the 25th to the 28th March they will be going on their residential at Thorpe Woodlands. • The Year 6 teaching team will be hosting a families' meetings to discuss the SATs that the children will be taking from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May. The meeting will take place in the Main Hall at 6pm on Thursday 7th March. • The Year 6 Team are running the following Booster Clubs by invitation only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday: Maths Club in Sharks Classroom after school. ○ Tuesday: Writing Club in Wild Cats Classroom after school. ○ Thursday: Reading Club in Sharks Classroom after school. <p>If you have any questions about the above, please talk to a member of the Year 6 teaching team.</p>	<p>Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Sessions</p> <p>Miss Day is currently training for her Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders with Suffolk Wildlife Trust so that we can offer Forest School to all our children from September 2024. As part of her assessment for this she will be running an 'Introduction to Forest School Programme' for Year 5 children according to the Forest School ethos and principles which will be externally assessed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. She has already completed 10 days of Forest School training in the woodland at Foxburrow Nature Reserve and 2 days of Outdoor and Paediatric First Aid training at Redgrave and Lopham Fen. The sessions she is proposing to run, along with the relevant risk-benefit assessments, have been approved by Jo Atkins of Suffolk Wildlife Trust who is working with our school.</p> <p>The first session will be on Fridays 15th March. Don't forget that children will need to be appropriately dressed for the weather.</p> <p>DT Week: 25th – 28th March</p> <p>Design and Technology Week is coming – look forward to some more amazing creations from your children!</p>

March Calendar of Events

The calendar is as up-to-date as possible but additional events may be added as the month progresses which will be emailed out to you. If there are any events or activities that you would like more information about please talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

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				<p>Friday 01 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – From 3 pm in the School Library Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
<p>Monday 04 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Elephants Swimming Whole School Assembly – World Book Day (Mrs Oakley and Miss Vanderzanden) Year 6 Maths Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom 	<p>Tuesday 05 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Workshop Key Stage 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Gymnastics Team Training (After School with Mrs Ashton) Year 6 Writing Club (Invitation Only) in Wild Cats Classroom 	<p>Wednesday 06 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 2, 3 and 4 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:20 in the Main Hall with Mrs Ashton) Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition Singing Assembly School Council Meeting – School Library 	<p>Thursday 07 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book Day All Day Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Years 5 and 6 Dodgeball Matches (Main Hall at Break) Rock Steady Music School Year 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom Year 6 Families' Meeting – SATs (Main Hall at 6pm) 	<p>Friday 08 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Visit to Jimmy's Farm Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
<p>Monday 11 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Year 5 Elephants Swimming Singing Assembly Year 6 Maths Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom 	<p>Tuesday 12 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Key Stage 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Gymnastics Team Training (After School with Mrs Ashton) Year 6 Writing Club (Invitation Only) in Wild Cats Classroom 	<p>Wednesday 13 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Years 2, 3 and 4 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:20 in the Main Hall with Mrs Ashton) Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition Whole School Assembly – World Languages Day (Mrs King and Mrs Lehocz) 	<p>Thursday 14 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Years 5 and 6 Dodgeball Matches (Main Hall at Break) Rock Steady Music School Year 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom 	<p>Friday 15 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Session #1 (Led by Miss Day) Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
<p>Monday 18 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 and 4 Class Drop-Ins (08:45-09:15) Year 5 Elephants Swimming Whole School Assembly – International Day of Happiness (Miss Day) Year 6 Maths Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom 	<p>Tuesday 19 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 and 5 Class Drop-Ins (08:45-09:15) Key Stage 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Gymnastics Team Training (After School with Mrs Ashton) Year 6 Writing Club (Invitation Only) in Wild Cats Classroom 	<p>Wednesday 20 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS and Year 2 Class Drop-Ins (08:45-09:15) Years 2, 3 and 4 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:20 in the Main Hall with Mrs Ashton) Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition School Council Meeting – School Library Year 3 and 4 Play Performance – Rock Bottom (1:30 pm) Year 3 and 4 Hockey Festival (After School at Thurston College with Mrs Ashton) 	<p>Thursday 21 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Class Drop-Ins (08:45-09:15) Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Years 5 and 6 Dodgeball Matches (Main Hall at Break) Rock Steady Music School Concerts Year 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom 	<p>Friday 22 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 and 4 Play Performance – Rock Bottom (9:30 am) Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
<p>Monday 25 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands DT Week #4 No Year 5 Elephants Swimming 	<p>Tuesday 26 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands DT Week #4 Years 3 and 4 Key Steps Gymnastics Competition (Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre) with Mrs Ashton 	<p>Wednesday 27 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands DT Week #4 Years 2, 3 and 4 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:20 in the Main Hall with Mrs Ashton) Easter Celebrations No Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition 	<p>Thursday 28 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands DT Week #4 Non-Uniform Day in Support of The Rainbow Trust No Key Stage 2 Choir Years 5 Dodgeball Matches (Main Hall at Break) Rock Steady Music School Years 5 Key Steps Gymnastics Competition (Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre) with Mrs Ashton 	<p>Friday 29 March</p> <p>Good Friday School Closed</p>