

Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #03

January 2024

Dear Families,

December has been full of performances at Combs Ford Primary School in the lead up to Christmas. The Key Stage 2 Choir led the festivities with their traditional annual recital at St Mary and St Peter's Church in Stowmarket. Key Stage 1's performance of 'Robin's Christmas Singalong' was a great success and there wasn't a dry eye in the house when EYFS performed 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel'! The Rock Steady gig showcased the musical talents of our budding rock stars and all the children, from Year 1 to Year 6, took part in our annual Christmas Service at St Mary's Church, Combs led by Reverend Sarah Jenkins. The children and staff worked incredibly hard to make all of these such a success. In amongst all of this, Year 4 managed to squeeze in a visit to Colchester Castle to look at the impact of the Roman invasion of the imperial province they called Britannia. The term finished with all the staff serving the children their delicious Christmas Dinner prepared by our incredible cooks – Mrs Keeble, Mrs Green, Mrs James and Mrs Knights.

Now that our Christmas festivities are behind us we can look forward to a special year for the school. On 23rd January 1984 Combs Ford Primary School moved from its original site into a brand new building on Glemsford Road. Staff are finalising the plans for a week of celebrations to mark the occasion – we'll be in touch closer to the time with more details.

Many of you will be aware that Miss Morsman left the school in December due to personal reasons. I am delighted to let you know that Mr Adam Smith will be joining us in January to teach Bears Class for the Spring Term. We are also expecting Miss Fuller to return to her role as SENDCo in January, however her teaching commitment in Hedgehogs will continue to be covered by the Year 1 teaching staff.

Parent-Teacher Consultations will take place on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st January for all classes except Otters (who had theirs in December). They will be bookable in the usual way through Arbor. Mrs Lehocz and Mrs McCarthy will be holding a Pre-Loved Uniform and Book Sale to coincide with these in the School Library – these are a great way of saving money and raise funds for the school, so please come along.

We have received 111 responses to our **School Communications Survey**. You have provided us with a lot of great ideas on how we can improve our communications with you – please be patient with us while we review all the feedback you have given. We will share the outcomes with you as soon as we can.

I'm very pleased to be able to include the first edition of our **School Council Newsletter**. The idea for this has come from the School Council who have written and published the Newsletter themselves. We hope you find it interesting.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 8th January 2024.

Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

Looking Back...

Panto Time!

All the children enjoyed a pantomime performance in December.

EYFS and Key Stage 1 had a fantastic (and very loud) time watching their pantomime in the school hall – Sinbad the Sailor by West Midlands Children's Theatre.



Key Stage 2 travelled to the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich for a retelling of the Rumpelstiltskin (with references to one or two other familiar stories thrown in) by the Eastern Angles Theatre Company.

Hot Chocolate with Father Christmas

Father Christmas and his Elves welcomed lots of smiling faces at our 'Hot Chocolate with Santa' events! Many of the children put in their requests with the man himself after enjoying some tasty hot chocolate, biscuits and crafts. We'd like to say a big thank you to Costa Coffee Stowmarket and Costa Coffee Drive Thru Stowmarket for the cups, and to all of the elves for their help.

We raised an incredible £372 for the school!

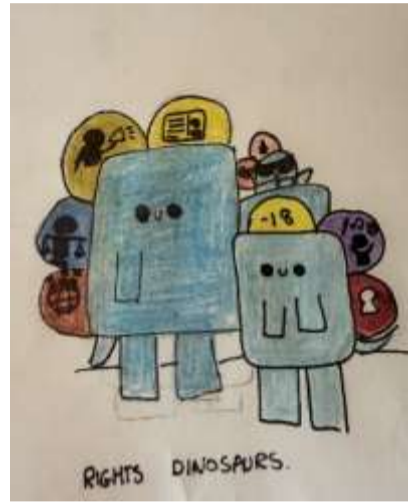


News

UNICEF Rights Respecting School Update

The Rights Respecting journey at Combs Ford is well and truly underway and we are excited to let you know that we have been awarded our first award from UNICEF – we are now a ‘Rights Committed: Bronze School.’ The children have shown amazing enthusiasm, maturity and curiosity within this project and should feel incredibly proud of this achievement.

Earlier this month, the children spent a fun afternoon exploring the UN Convention on the rights of the child. As part of this, the children were asked to design a Combs Ford Rights Respecting Mascot. We are pleased to announce the winner is Freya Mixer (Year 6) – take a look at her wonderful design below!



The children also identified which rights they felt were most important to them and other children across the globe. As a school, we have agreed on our top five, which we have called, ‘The Combs Ford Five’. These five rights will be focussed on in school discussions and, as we continue our journey, we will look into how we can support children to ensure these rights are met. Please take a look at the chosen ‘Combs Ford Five’, indicated with a key.

- Respect for Children’s Views
- Food, Clothing, A Safe Home
- Access to Education
- Rest, Play, Culture, Arts
- Protection in War



Watch this space for more exciting updates in the future!

Mrs King

Looking Forward...

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

Year 5 Swimming

This term, Year 5 will be visiting Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre for swimming lessons as part of their PE curriculum. The National Curriculum expects all children to be able to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres.

Elephants will be swimming on a Monday morning and Bears class on a Wednesday morning.

Please remember to send your child with their swimming kit.

Young Voices 2024

Our Young Voices Choir continue to rehearse after school with Mrs Edwards before their exciting visit to take part in one of only eight performances at the O2 in London on Monday 29th January.



Phonics Screening Check Information Sessions – February

Mrs Oakley will be holding Phonics Screening Check Information Sessions in school on Wednesday 7th February at 15:30 and 17:30.

Competitions

Despite the cold and dark, Mrs Ashton has planned a calendar of competitions for the children to take part in, including:

- Years 5 and 6 Sports Hall Athletics Competition (Tuesday 16th January)
- Years 3 and 4 Sports Hall Athletics Festival (Thursday 25th January)
- Key Stage 1 Basketball Festival (Tuesday 30th January)

Clubs

Below are the clubs that are running this term. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Dance Club – after school on a Tuesday with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership.
- Key Stage 2 Choir – 08:00 on a Thursday with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole.
- Key Stage 2 Dodgeball Club – after school on a Friday with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership.
- Year 4 Micro:bit Coding Club – after school on a Tuesday with Mrs Freeman (starting on Tuesday 16th January).
- Years 5 and 6 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club – 08:30 on Tuesday with Mrs Ashton (starting on Tuesday 16th January).
- Everyone Active Multi-Sports Club – after school on Wednesday by invitation only.
- Music for Schools musical instrument tuition takes place on a Wednesday during school hours.
- Rock Steady Music School takes place on a Thursday during school hours.

January 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.

Monday 01 Jan	Tuesday 02 Jan	Wednesday 03 Jan	Thursday 04 Jan	Friday 05 Jan
School Closed for Christmas Holidays	School Closed for Christmas Holidays	School Closed for Christmas Holidays	School Closed for Christmas Holidays	School Closed for Christmas Holidays
Monday 08 Jan	Tuesday 09 Jan	Wednesday 10 Jan	Thursday 11 Jan	Friday 12 Jan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School reopens to Children Year 5 Elephants Swimming Whole School Assembly: Jigsaw PSHE Dreams and Goals (Mrs Tanner) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Leader Meeting (Mrs Ashton) EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School with Mrs Edwards) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition Singing Assembly Everyone Active – Multi-Sports Club (Invitation Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Rock Steady Music School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) Key Stage 2 Dodgeball Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
Monday 15 Jan	Tuesday 16 Jan	Wednesday 17 Jan	Thursday 18 Jan	Friday 19 Jan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Elephants Swimming Vets Visiting EYFS Whole School Assembly: World Religion Day (Miss Day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 5 and 6 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:30 with Mrs Ashton) EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School with Mrs Edwards) Year 4 Micro:bit Coding Club (After School with Mrs Freeman) Years 5 and 6 Sports Hall Athletics Competition (After School with Mrs Ashton and Mrs Vaughan-Wright at Stowmarket Leisure Centre) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition Sports Leader Meeting (Mrs Ashton) School Council Meeting (Mrs Oakley) Singing Assembly Everyone Active – Multi-Sports Club (Invitation Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Rock Steady Music School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) Key Stage 2 Dodgeball Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
Monday 22 Jan	Tuesday 23 Jan	Wednesday 24 Jan	Thursday 25 Jan	Friday 26 Jan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School's 40th Anniversary on the Glemsford Road Site Celebrations Year 5 Elephants Swimming Whole School Assembly: Our School's History – A Timeline Through the Decades (Miss Day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School's 40th Anniversary on the Glemsford Road Site Celebrations Years 5 and 6 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:30 with Mrs Ashton) EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School with Mrs Edwards) Year 4 Micro:bit Coding Club (After School with Mrs Freeman) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School's 40th Anniversary on the Glemsford Road Site Celebrations Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition Singing Assembly Everyone Active – Multi-Sports Club (Invitation Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School's 40th Anniversary on the Glemsford Road Site Celebrations Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Rock Steady Music School Years 3 and 4 Sports Hall Athletics Festival (After School with Mrs Ashton at Finborough School) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School's 40th Anniversary on the Glemsford Road Site Celebrations Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) Key Stage 2 Dodgeball Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
Monday 29 Jan	Tuesday 30 Jan	Wednesday 31 Jan	Thursday 01 Feb	Friday 02 Feb
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Voices Choir to the O2 Year 5 Elephants Swimming Whole School Assembly: Albert Einstein (Miss Day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 5 and 6 Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (08:30 with Mrs Ashton) Rachel Charles Working with Yong Carers Group EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership) Year 4 Micro:bit Coding Club (After School with Mrs Freeman) Key Stage 1 Basketball Festival with Mrs Ashton Parent-Teacher Consultations (all classes except Otters) – bookable on Arbor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Bears Swimming Music for Schools – Music Tuition School Council Meeting (Mrs Oakley) Singing Assembly Everyone Active – Multi-Sports Club (Invitation Only) Parent-Teacher Consultations (all classes except Otters) – bookable on Arbor Pre-Loved Uniforms and Books Sale in the School Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) Rock Steady Music School Sports Leader Meeting (Mrs Ashton) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley) Key Stage 2 Dodgeball Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)