

## Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #07

May 2024

Dear Families,

We've only been back at school for just over two weeks but the children and staff have already been very busy. I really enjoy receiving book recommendations from the children – this month I've been reading *The Lost Twin: A Scarlet and Ivy Mystery: Book 1* recommended by Eloise H in Year 5 and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* by Jeff Kinney recommended by Thomas in Year 4. If there are books your children think I should read, please encourage them to come and see me.

You can tell it's springtime by all the ecological work the children have been doing. Take a look below for updates on Earth and Art Day, Forest School, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, EYFS' bee and butterfly garden, and our baby squirrels. We've also been recycling unwanted shoes and old library books to help good causes.

Summer is the term where all the children explore their local area in Geography and History. Watch out for emails from the staff. We often need volunteers so, if you're able to help us by accompanying a visit, please let your child's class teacher or the school office know.

The more eagle-eyed amongst you have noticed our new look website where you can find out information about everything we do at Combs Ford including our curriculum, our policies, homework online platforms, school meals, back copies of this update and so much more. Our new website features a calendar – please be patient with us as we work on keeping it as up-to-date as possible. As usual, there's a full calendar of events below.

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](mailto:admin@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk)) the school.

Don't forget that school will be closed for the Early May Bank Holiday on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

### News

#### School Fête – Save the Date!

This Year's School Fête will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July – look out for more details coming out soon!

If you, or anyone you know, would like to run a stall please contact Miss Palmer, Mrs McCarthy or Miss Francis in the school office.

#### Our Young Carers

The Young Carers met on Tuesday with Rachel Charles from Suffolk Family Carers, the children enjoyed decorating a pencil case with jewels and fabric pens and sharing their stories.

Due to the large number of Young Carers at Combs Ford it was decided to run two separate groups on alternate visits, so the children are able to fully engage in the activities.

#### Year 3 Micro:bit Club

Some of our Year 3 children are taking part in Micro:bit club which is running after school.

Over the next few weeks they will be making:

- Lesson 1: Name Badge – Children create their first programs and transfer them to their micro:bits
- Lesson 2: Beating Heart – Create a simple animation to learn about sequence and simple loops.
- Lesson 3: Emotion Badge – Start learning about inputs and outputs using buttons and icons on the display.
- Lesson 4: Step Counter – Introduce variables to track your step count and begin to use the accelerometer input.

Children will also have some time to make their own animations.

#### Seaside Special Lunch – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May

In spite of the weather we're confident that summer is on its way! The wonderful ladies in the school kitchen are planning a special seaside lunch on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May!

**SEASIDE SPECIAL**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Pork Sausages  
Or  
Vegan Quorn Sausage  
Served with Chips, Beans or Peas

Followed by dessert  
**Vanilla Ice-Cream in a Cone With Chocolate Sauce**

LUNCHTIME CO

Looking Back...

UNICEF ShoeShare Appeal



Thank you to everyone who donated shoes to our ShoeShare appeal in the week back after Easter. We collected 197 pairs of shoes that will raise money for UNICEF's education projects around the world.

Also, a huge thank you to our Rights Respecting Rangers who designed posters, helped out with the trolleys and packed up the shoes up.



Earth Day and Art Day

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April the children had a fantastic day celebrating Earth Day and Art Day. They created art sculptures from plastic bottles, made animal pictures from magazines, carried out litter surveys of their local area, enjoyed recycling and litter presentations, and worked towards creating recycling posters for our 'Get Loud on Litter' competition.

They showed incredible enthusiasm and passion for helping our planet and we hope they continue to find ways to make small changes at home that can make a difference.

Thank you to Mrs Aldred and Mrs Knowland for making the day such an exciting and memorable event.



Year 4 and Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Our Year 4s had another great day with Jo Atkins from Suffolk Wildlife Trust on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April! They got to grips with compass directions, had a look at maps to see how it would be possible to create wildlife corridors, created posters, and surveyed their pocket woodland to see what species are there. They also created a stumpery (see picture below) which is a fantastic habitat for moss, lichen, fungi and invertebrates such as wood-boring beetles, solitary bees and woodlice.

We even got a mention on Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Facebook page!





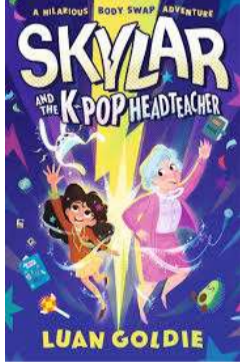


Dontaing Our Old Library Books to a Good Cause

Wendy came into school to pick up our old library books. She manages these little phone box libraries in Wetherden, Elmswell, Haughley Green and Old Newton. She put 200 books in the Wetherden box and by the next afternoon all were gone. The village people were extremely happy!

Those books which don't get taken go to St Elizabeth Charity or Age UK in Stowmarket. So, nothing gets wasted.

What a great way of using the books that are too old for our library!



The Combs Ford Squirrels	Year 5 Forest School	Year 4's Travel Posters
<p>You may have heard, or even seen, that we have had some new members join our school ... some baby squirrels have been spotted!</p> <p>They seem to have made the area around Owls classroom their home and have been spotted climbing walls, windows and drainpipes, and been heard scurrying around in the roof. We have seen three babies and mum watching from a distance. They love to peek in to see what the Owls are up to, which has been very sweet, if a little distracting!</p> <p>We think that they are between 6-10 weeks old, just emerging and exploring for the first time. They seem very confident at the moment and don't seem to be too wary of humans yet.</p> <p>Although we are very excited to see our cute new friends, can we please ask you all to remember that squirrels are wild animals, who may carry some nasty germs and can also have a vicious bite! Please help us to encourage the children to give them space and quiet so that they can continue to thrive in our beautiful grounds. Thank you!</p>	<p>As you probably know, Miss Day is 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 she's running an 'Introduction to Forest School Programme' for Year 5.</p> <p>Look at what they got up to in the woods on Friday last week! More photos on Facebook...</p> 	
<p><b>Mrs Lehocz – Our Prize-Winning Librarian</b></p> <p>Mrs Lehocz has been winning books again! We now have 3 new titles in our library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Two Rabbits: Even Best Friends Argue Sometimes...” by Larissa Ferenchuk (Author) and Prue Pittock (Illustrator).</li> <li>• “Skylar and the K-Pop Headteacher” by Luan Goldie.</li> <li>• “Thank You” by Jarvis.</li> </ul> <p>Look on our Facebook page for reviews of the books from Waterstones.</p>   	<p><b>EYFS Created a Bee and Butterfly Garden</b></p> <p>As part of Drawing Club our EYFS children are on a mission to create a 'dazzling' garden for bees and butterflies to visit. Thank you to Darren from <a href="#">Perfect Perennials</a> for donating plants to help them with their very important undertaking!</p>  <p><b>Outstanding Orienteering!</b></p> <p>On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, we took three teams of twelve children to an orienteering event at Thurston Sixth Beyton Campus. They had to run around the site to find controls to stamp their card. It was really important to be accurate and speedy! One team were silver medallists and have qualified for the county finals in May. Another of our teams was also selected to represent Gipping Valley too. We are so proud!</p>	<p>Year 4 have been busy creating posters advertising the Alps. Mr Wesley sent them to Travel Stop and this is the lovely email we got back from Olivia at their Claydon branch:</p> <p><i>“Thank you kindly for sending in your classes lovely posters advertising the Alps! We have in turn put each of them up in the front window of our Claydon office, as we are open here full time. Elmswell is currently open one day a week. Please see attached below some photographs of the children's posters up in our window to share with the class and they can enjoy seeing their work being displayed. I hope this has inspired the children and once again thank you very much.”</i></p> <p>You can see all the photos on our Facebook page.</p> 

**May 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 29 April	Tuesday 30 April	Wednesday 01 May	Thursday 02 May	Friday 03 May
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buttercups Nursery Visiting School Library</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li><a href="#">Music for Schools</a> – Music Tuition</li> <li>School Council Meeting in the Library with Mrs Oakley</li> <li>Year 3 and 4 Everyone Active Multisport Club (Invitation Only)</li> <li>Lucie Hernandez – Stowmarket High School Headteacher – Meeting for Year 5 Families and Children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AJS Photographic in School for Class Photos</li> <li>Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li><a href="#">Rock Steady Music School</a></li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> <li>Year 3 Micro:bit Club with Mrs Freeman (After School)</li> <li>Year 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – from 3 pm in the School Library or Playground (depending on the weather)</li> <li>Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Session #3 (Led by Miss Day)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> </ul>
Monday 06 May	Tuesday 07 May	Wednesday 08 May	Thursday 09 May	Friday 10 May
<p><b>Bank Holiday Monday School Closed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cricket Club (Before School with Mrs Ashton)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> <li>Year 6 Writing Club (Invitation Only) in Wild Cats Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Music for Schools</a> – Music Tuition</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Year 3 and 4 Everyone Active Multisport Club (Invitation Only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole)</li> <li>Buttercups Nursery Visiting School Library</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> <li>Year 3 Micro:bit Club with Mrs Freeman (After School)</li> <li>Year 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Session #4 (Led by Miss Day)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> </ul>
Monday 13 May	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May	Friday 17 May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 SATs: English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling – Paper 1 (45 Minutes) and Paper 2 (15 Minutes)</li> <li>EYFS Visit to Baylham House Rare Breeds Farm (If Open)</li> <li>Year 5 Swimming Group (Invitation Only)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Year 1 Visit to Combs Wood</li> <li>Whole School Assembly: Women Who Helped Build NASA (Miss Day)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 SATs: English Reading (60 Minutes)</li> <li>Cricket Club (Before School with Mrs Ashton)</li> <li>Buttercups Nursery Visiting School Library</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 SATs: Mathematics – Paper 1 Arithmetic (30 Minutes) and Paper 2 Reasoning (40 Minutes)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>School Council with Mrs Oakley</li> <li>Year 3 and 4 Everyone Active Multisport Club (Invitation Only)</li> <li>Under 9 Quadkid Athletics at Stowupland High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 SATs: Mathematics – Paper 3 Reasoning (40 Minutes)</li> <li>Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> <li>Year 3 Micro:bit Club with Mrs Freeman (After School)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Session #5 (Led by Miss Day)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Gymnastics Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> </ul>
Monday 20 May	Tuesday 21 May	Wednesday 22 May	Thursday 23 May	Friday 24 May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Technology Week #5</li> <li>Year 5 Swimming Group (Invitation Only)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly – Mental Health Week (Miss Fuller)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Technology Week #5</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Cricket Club (Before School with Mrs Ashton)</li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> <li>Under 11 Quadkid Athletics at Stowupland High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Technology Week #5</li> <li>Buttercups Nursery Visiting School Library</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li><a href="#">Music for Schools</a> – Music Tuition</li> <li>UNCRC Article 30 Assembly with Mrs Lehocz, Mrs King and our Amazing Bilingual Children</li> <li>Year 3 and 4 Everyone Active Multisport Club (Invitation Only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Technology Week #5</li> <li>Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole)</li> <li>Under 11 Orienteering County Finals at Haughley Park</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li><a href="#">Rock Steady Music School</a></li> <li>EYFS and Key Stage 1 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> <li>Year 3 Micro:bit Club with Mrs Freeman (After School)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Technology Week #5</li> <li>Non-Uniform Day in Support of <a href="#">The Rainbow Trust</a></li> <li>Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Session #6 (Final Session – Led by Miss Day)</li> <li>Sharks School Library Visit</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Football with Miss Day (Weather Permitting)</li> <li>Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)</li> <li>Key Stage 2 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)</li> </ul>
Monday 27 May	Tuesday 28 May	Wednesday 29 May	Thursday 30 May	Friday 31 May
<p><b>Spring Half Term</b></p>	<p><b>Spring Half Term</b></p>	<p><b>Spring Half Term</b></p>	<p><b>Spring Half Term</b></p>	<p><b>Spring Half Term</b></p>