

Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #01

November 2023

I've been in the privileged position of Headteacher at Combs Ford Primary School for just over a year and I hope that you've seen some positive changes for the benefit of your children in this time. Our families' survey in the summer told us that we could be better at communication. This monthly newsletter is part of this – we'll look back at highlights from the previous month and look ahead to the one that's coming. The Calendar of Events below is up-to-date at the time of publication and will give you a good idea of what's coming up. There may be additions as the month progresses and we'll let you know these by email or text.

We're 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 the school playground before school, or by phoning (01449 613 112) or emailing (admin@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk) the school.

Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

Looking Back...

October has been a busy month at school – below are some of the highlights. You can keep up-to-date with what's been happening by following us on Facebook @combsfordprimary.

Storm Babet

We'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to all our families for your quick response to our emergency call to evacuate the school on the last Friday of half term. We're happy to say that everyone got home safely in spite of the rising floodwaters.

Rainbow Reading Road

Don't forget to sign and date your child's reading passport so they can earn their rainbow wrist bands and be entered into the prize draw for our Reading Raffle

Recommended reading times every day:

- ✓ Year 1 children at least 5 minutes each day
- ✓ Year 2 children at least 10 minutes each day.
- ✓ Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children at least 15 minutes each day.

The more reading children do, the more confident they become which helps them in all other areas of the curriculum.

Year 6 enjoyed an afternoon at St Mary's Church, Combs looking for evidence of how Christians worshipped Jesus.



Nine Year 3 and 4 pupils went to Stowmarket High to play lots of tag rugby matches against 5 other schools.



We dressed in yellow which not only brightened up the school but also raised £201.94 for Young Minds UK!



10 of our School Council representatives visited the energy from waste facility at Great Blakenham.



We went to our first Key Stage 1 Rugby festival.



HELP NEEDED!

Friends of Combs Ford Primary School

We are looking to restart the School PTA as 'Friends of Combs Ford'. In the past the PTA has raised thousands of pounds which was spent on equipment and resources to enhance the children's educational experience and the school's resources and facilities. It is not just about fundraising, and does not have to be a big commitment on your part. It exists to provide closer links between home and school and brings people together – it's fun too! If you are interested in being part of this new society please contact the School Office in person, by phone (01449 613 112) or by email

(admin@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk).

Looking Forward...

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

<p>Monday 13th – Whole School Act of Remembrance</p> <p>Families are warmly invited to join the school community in our Act of Remembrance. We will assemble on the playground at 10.45 so that we can begin our Act of Remembrance at 10:50. Specially selected Year 6 children will explain the Act of Remembrance and we will aim for our two-minute silence to begin at 11:00. Miss Day will signal the end of the silence by playing The Last Post. The children will then return to class.</p> <p>Children in uniformed organisations are encouraged to attend in their uniforms (if allowed by their organisation).</p>	<p>Tuesday 14th – School Open Evening</p> <p>We are opening our doors to prospective and current families, our neighbours, our alumni and the wider community between 16:00 and 18:00.</p> <p>You will be able to hear about our school vision and ethos (at 16:15 and 17:15) along with the opportunity to see how we teach subjects across the school and how we organise learning in EYFS. Staff and children will be on hand to guide you around the school and answer any questions you have.</p> <p>A flier for the event is attached to this email.</p>
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<p>Wednesday 1st – Pre-Loved Uniform Sale</p> <p>Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Lehocz will be running their Pre-Loved Uniform Sale after school.</p> <p>We know that children can grow really quickly – this is the perfect place to pick up some uniform bargains and help raise funds for the school.</p>	<p>Thursday 2nd – Hallowe'en Discos</p> <p>🎵 16:30-17:30 Hallowe'en Disco (Years 1-3)</p> <p>🎵 18:00-19:00 Hallowe'en Disco (Years 4-6)</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased on the Arbor App/Parent Portal in the school shop.</p>	<p>Thursday 23rd – Flu Vaccinations</p> <p>The School Flu Vaccination Team will be in school to administer nasal spray flu vaccine. The vaccine is available to all children.</p>
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<p>Educational Visits</p> <p>→ Thursday 16th – Year 1 visiting the Food Museum</p> <p>→ Friday 17th – Year 5 visiting West Stow as part of their Anglo-Saxon studies</p>	<p>Extra School Choir Rehearsals</p> <p>On Thursday 23rd and Thursday 30th, the School Choir will be rehearsing at Cedars Park Primary School in preparation for the Christmas Tree festival at the Church of St Peter and St Mary in Stowmarket on 04 December.</p> <p>The rehearsals will take place during school hours and transport has been arranged.</p>
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Dial Lane Books Pop Up Children's Bookshop


There's just no stopping Mrs Oakley in her search for the best books! Over half term, she visited Dial Lane Books Pop Up Children's Bookshop at 31 St Peter's Street in Ipswich (IP1 1XF). This is what she found...

Tucked away down a delightful street dotted with independent shops, you will find Dial Lane Books Pop Up shop dedicated to children's books. The pop up shop is there until the new year, but the main shop is only a 5 minute walk away from this one.

As I stepped inside I was greeted by the wonderful smell of books and 4 different rooms stocked with books for all ages from babies to teenagers. Hiding in the back was Nocturnowl, the Owl that the main shop had sponsored for The Big Hoot. I spent far longer than I had intended to looking at all the beautiful books and came away with a few books and a long wishlist! Children were encouraged to look through the books while choosing rather than just looking at the front covers. I would highly recommend a trip to this bookshop it could be a great place to kick start the Christmas shopping.

While we were in there we also picked up the Blue Peter Book Badge application forms. More information about the badge and the form can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>. It would be great to see how many of the children can get the badge. Unfortunately, I am too old!

Mrs Oakley




<p>Jo Churchill MP's 2023 Christmas Card Competition</p> <p>We have received an exciting invitation from our local MP, Jo Churchill, to design a Christmas card based on the theme of 'A Perfect Christmas'. The winning design will become the front of a Christmas card to be sent out to many people – including the Prime Minister!</p> <p>If your child(ren) would like to take part in the competition, they need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → create a design based on 'The Perfect Christmas' (A4 size); → write their name, school, class and age on the back; → bring it to Mrs Knowland by Wednesday 15th November to be sent away for judging. 	<p>Exciting News – we are becoming a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School!</p> <p>Combs Ford Primary School aims to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve wellbeing and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan, we are working towards recognition as a 'Rights Respecting School', an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF UK. You'll soon be receiving a letter from Mrs King with more details.</p>
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School's 40th Anniversary

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 is the School's 40th Anniversary on our Glemsford Road site. We've carved out the whole week to celebrate this important event and have set up a Facebook page – "Combs Ford Primary School 40th Anniversary" – which already has over 150 followers. We'd like to get the page to as many of our alumni and their families as possible.

At our November Open Evening, we'll have an exhibition of photos that we've uncovered in our archive and are hoping that our families, our neighbours, our alumni and the wider community will be able to help us identify them.



November Calendar of Events				
Monday 30 Oct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Assembly: Jigsaw PSHE Celebrating Difference (Mrs Tanner) 	Tuesday 31 Oct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Carers Club (Invitation Only) Dodgeball Club (After School) Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School) Micro:bit Coding Club (After School) 	Wednesday 01 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singing Assembly Pre-Loved Uniform Sale (After School) Barbara Smithson Visiting Junior Road Safety Officers 	Thursday 02 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00) Buttercups Nursery Library Visit Rock Steady Music School Booster Club (Invitation Only) 16:30-17:30 Hallowe'en Disco (Years 1-3) 18:00-19:00 Hallowe'en Disco (Years 4-6) 	Friday 03 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)
Monday 06 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Assembly: Maya Angelou (Miss Day) 	Tuesday 07 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buttercups Nursery Library Visit Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School) Micro:bit Coding Club (After School) 	Wednesday 08 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singing Assembly 	Thursday 09 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00) Rock Steady Music School Booster Club (Invitation Only) 	Friday 10 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)
Monday 13 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Act of Remembrance (10:45) 	Tuesday 14 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Reader in Year 5 Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School) Micro:bit Coding Club (After School) School Open Evening (16:00-18:00) 	Wednesday 15 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singing Assembly Buttercups Nursery Library Visit 	Thursday 16 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 Visit to the Food Museum Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00) Rock Steady Music School Booster Club (Invitation Only) 	Friday 17 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Visit to West Stow Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)
Monday 20 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week EYFS Come to School in Pajamas Day! 	Tuesday 21 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School) Micro:bit Coding Club (After School) Local Governing Body Meeting 	Wednesday 22 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Singing Assembly United Nations Rights Respecting School Assembly (Key Stage 2) Mrs King School Council Meeting 	Thursday 23 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week School Flu Vaccination Team in School Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00) School Choir to Rehearsal at Cedars Park Primary School Buttercups Nursery Library Visit Rock Steady Music School Booster Club (Invitation Only) 	Friday 24 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Week Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)
Monday 27 Nov	Tuesday 28 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buttercups Nursery Library Visit Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School) Micro:bit Coding Club (After School) 	Wednesday 29 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singing Assembly United Nations Rights Respecting School Assembly (Key Stage 1) Mrs King 	Thursday 30 Nov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00) Governors' Monitoring Morning School Choir to Rehearsal at Cedars Park Primary School Rock Steady Music School Booster Club (Invitation Only) 	Friday 01 Dec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)