

Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #02

December 2023

Dear Families,

November has been another busy month at Combs Ford Primary School.

It was great to see the children partying in the School Hall at their Hallowe'en discos – it was loud, it was hot, it was smoky, and the children had a brilliant time! The discos were only possible due to the amazing Hollie Clarke, Kat Clarke and Charlotte McCarthy who organised everything and gave up their evening to make sure the event happened. We also owe a big thank you to the school staff who stayed on to support.

There was a completely different feel to the school on the morning of the 13th November when we held our Whole School Act of Remembrance to remember all those affected by war and conflict. All the children – from EYFS to Year 6 – gathered on the playground to mark this important occasion. We were joined by our CEO, Dan Jones, and some of our families. A huge thank you to the wonderful Year 6 children who led the service: Jake, Billy, Max, Amelia, Ellis, Philip, Isla and Erin.

We welcomed visitors to school on the 14th November for our Open Evening. Teachers set up their classrooms to show how we teach each of our curriculum areas and the School Library and EYFS areas were open too. The Young Voices choir entertained visitors with their beautiful singing and Miss Day shared the school's vision and ethos. Thank you to all the children and families who joined us, to the staff for their hard work, and to the school's cooks for providing delicious cake!

There's lots to look forwards to in December with a packed schedule of performances – the Key Stage 2 Choir is performing at St Mary and St Peter's Church in Stowmarket, our Rock Steady rock stars have their end of term gigs, Key Stage 1 are treating us to 'Robin's Christmas Sing A-long' and EYFS are performing the Nativity. The children will also be watching pantomimes – Key Stage 2 are visiting the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich for the pantomime "Rumpelstiltskin" and EYFS and Key Stage 1 will be enjoying a travelling production of 'Sinbad the Sailor' in school on 14th December.

We've also got Father Christmas visiting for Hot Chocolate with children and our annual Christmas Dinner where the staff dress in festive clothes to serve the children their lunch. On the 18th December the Reverend Sarah has kindly invited us to St Mary's Church in Combs for our Christmas Service. Unfortunately, due to the size of the church we won't have room for family members to attend although we will be asking for volunteers to accompany the children on the walk to the church and back to school.

You can find more details about these events below.

We thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

Looking Back...

Football Semi-Final Superstars!

Our team of ten footballers played in a competition at Stowupland High School. They played three games in their group where they were undefeated which meant they won their group and qualified for the semi-finals. Sadly, they lost this 1-0 but we are so proud of them. Thank you to Mr McArdle who gave up time to give the team 2 training sessions after school and provide excellent coaching on the day.



Year 5 Visit to West Stow

Year 5 had a wonderful time at West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village. they took on the role of historians, explored the artefacts and made inferences about the sources, as well as having a good dress up! Your teachers were really proud of what great ambassadors you were for the school!



Under 9 Football Team

Our Under 9 Football team played at Stowupland High School. They played 3 matches: they drew one 0-0, won one 5-0 with one child scoring all 5, and lost one. They were a fantastic team and really gelled well together even in the rain! A big thank you to our parent volunteer who came to coach the Year 4s on the day.



Looking Back...		
<p>Junior Road Safety Officers</p> <p>Claire Hudson – Patrol Supervisor – spoke to our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) about her role and demonstrated safe parking and the issuing of parking tickets. You might have seen her outside with our JRSOs handing out leaflet to parents about parking.</p> 	<p>Year 1 Visit to the Food Museum</p> <p>Year 1 had a fantastic visit to the Food Museum in Stowmarket as part of their History study of Toys.</p> 	<p>Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue</p> <p>Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue visited EYFS. The children learned all about hedgehogs, hibernation and much more!</p> 

News		
<p>Staffing Change from January 2024</p> <p>After working with us for over 5 years, Mrs Morris has made the decision to move to another school and is leaving us at the end of this term. We would like to thank her for her service to the school and wish her all the best for the future.</p> <p>I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed Miss Catton to replace Mrs Morris. Miss Catton will be joining us on 4th December to allow a handover period. We have already shared the news with the children and families of Otters.</p>	<p>Miss Fuller's Absence</p> <p>I wrote to you in the middle of November to let you know that Miss Fuller is unwell. As she will not be returning for the foreseeable future we have put some things in place to make sure that our children and families are supported while she is away.</p> <p>If you need SEND support or advice please talk to your child's teacher in the first instance.</p> <p>Miss Day will be the school's point of contact for SEND – you can reach her by phone or by the usual SEND email: senco@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk. We are receiving support from an experienced SENDCo in our Trust to support SEND in Miss Fuller's absence.</p> <p>If you have any questions about pastoral support such as mental health, behaviour, or other family support please continue to contact Mrs Brooks on kbrooks@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk.</p> <p>Miss Fuller's teaching commitment in Hedgehogs Class is being covered by the Year 1 teaching team who are all familiar faces to the children.</p> <p>We thank you for your patience and support during this time.</p>	<p>School Communications Survey</p> <p>We are working to improve our communication and are looking for your help. By answering the questions in our survey you'll help us work out what we need to do to improve. The survey closes on Sunday 17th December and 10:00 pm.</p> <p>You should have received an email through Arbor with the link, but if you haven't you can find the survey by following this link: Schools Communications Survey.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing your views!</p> <p>2024-2025 Combs Ford Primary School Term Dates</p> <p>You'll find the term dates, including staff in-service training days when the school is closed to children, on the Term Dates page of the school website.</p> <p>Tesco Stronger Starts – Thank You!</p> <p>With your support, and the support of the local community, we came first in the Tesco Stronger Starts Vote! We'll receive £1,500 which will help us to support some of our children access residential educational visits. Thank you!</p>
<p>Rewilding the School Grounds</p> <p>We're on a mission to rewild our school grounds. This may mean that certain areas of the school look a bit unloved for a while as we remove non-native plants and prepare the ground for more wildlife-friendly ones.</p> <p>The bed below the Year 6 classroom windows to the side of the school is a good example of this – we're planning for this to be a wildflower meadow. Please be patient with us while we complete the work – it'll be worth it in the long term!</p>		

Looking Forward...

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

UN Rights Respecting School

Mrs King wrote to you all in November to share the exciting news that we have begun our journey to become a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We aim 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 and becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School will help us to do this. You can find out more about what this means by visiting the [Rights Respecting School website](#). The children in Years 1-6 have been told about this in assemblies and, on the afternoon of the 6th December, the whole school will be off timetable for a Rights Respecting afternoon where they will look at their rights and choose their top 5 to be in their class charter. They will also be designing a Rights Respecting Mascot for our school. The winning design will be used in assemblies, display and school newsletters.

School Choir Performance at St Mary and St Peter's Church in Stowmarket

The school choir has been busy rehearsing for their performance at St Mary and St Peter's Church in Stowmarket (the big one by the library) at 6:00 pm on Monday 4th December. This is our annual, joint performance with Cedars Park Primary School. It would be great to see our school community there to support them – it is a lovely start to the festive season and only lasts half an hour.

Times Tables Rock Stars CET Winter Tournament (Years 3-6)

As I'm sure you're aware, we are part of the Children's Endeavour Trust. The Trust have set up an inter-school Times Tables Rock Stars Competition which began on 27th November and lasts until 15th December. The tournament is for children in Years 3-6 only. Children can find it at Tournaments → Top of the Rocks → CET Winter Tournament. Let's see if we can beat the other schools in the Trust!

Year 4 visit to Colchester (Monday 11th December)

In Year 4's History lessons this half term they are answering question, 'What happened when the Romans came to Britain?' On Monday 11th December, they'll be visiting Colchester – the first Roman capital of Britain and site of Boudica's rebellion. We look forward to hearing what they found out on their adventure to Essex!

Christmas Holidays – School Closure

The last day of the Autumn term is **Wednesday 20th December 2023**. The first day of the Spring Term is **Monday 8th January 2024**.

Kindness Advent Calendar

Here's a Kindness Advent Calendar! In the spirit of giving, we're challenging the children to perform an act of kindness each and every day leading up to Christmas.

If you'd like a printed version, ask your child's class teacher.

Kindness Advent Calendar

In the spirit of giving, challenge yourself to perform an act of kindness each and every day leading up to Christmas.

1. Make a card for your neighbour.
2. Give someone a compliment.
3. Hold the door for someone.
4. Tidy your room.
5. Help to make breakfast, lunch or dinner.
6. Share a smile!
7. Thank someone who helps you.
8. Draw a picture for a friend.
9. Gather used clothes or toys for a local charity.
10. Invite a new friend to play.
11. Share a funny animal meme or video with someone.
12. Help around the house without being asked.
13. Pick up litter.
14. Do a random act of kindness for someone.
15. Tell an adult you appreciate them and why.
16. Donate food to a local food bank.
17. Thank a teacher for all that they do!
18. Give someone you love a hug.
19. Call a relative that lives far away.
20. Make someone laugh.
21. Leave a happy note for a friend.
22. Donate a book to your library.
23. Share your toys with a friend or sibling.
24. Tell your family you love them.

Merry Christmas!

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December Calendar of Events

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 04 Dec	Tuesday 05 Dec	Wednesday 06 Dec	Thursday 07 Dec	Friday 8 Dec
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School Assembly: Dolly Parton – Compassion (Miss Day) • School Choir Performance at St Mary and St Peter's Church in Stowmarket (6:00 pm) – details above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School with Mrs Edwards) • Micro:bit Coding Club (After School with Mrs Freeman) • Target Games Club (After School) with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership Coach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 2 Just Dance Club (Before School with Mrs Ashton) • Buttercups Library Visit • Music for Schools Tuition • UN Rights Respecting Afternoon – details above • Singing Assembly • School Council Meeting • Everyone Active – Multi-Sports Club (After School with Mrs Ashton) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) • Rock Steady Concert – EYFS and Key Stage 1 at 1:50 pm in the Main Hall • Rock Steady Concert – Key Stage 2 at 2:30 pm in the Main Hall • Athletics Club (After School with Mrs Vaughan-Wright) • Booster Club (Invitation Only – After School with Mrs Freeman) • Under 9 Dodgeball Festival at Finborough School (After School with Mrs Ashton) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)
Monday 11 Dec	Tuesday 12 Dec	Wednesday 13 Dec	Thursday 14 Dec	Friday 15 Dec
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Technology Week • Year 4 Visit to Colchester Castle • Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal • Young Carers Group with Mrs Brooks and Mrs Neil (Invitation Only) • Whole School Assembly: EH Shepherd (Miss Day) • Otters Class Parent-Teacher Consultations – bookable on Arbor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Technology Week • Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance • Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School with Mrs Edwards) • Micro:bit Coding Club (After School with Mrs Freeman) • Hot Chocolate with Father Christmas (EYFS and Year 1) in the Main Hall (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 2 Just Dance Club (Before School with Mrs Ashton) • Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance • Music for Schools Tuition • Singing Assembly • Hot Chocolate with Father Christmas (Years 2 and 3) in the Main Hall (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Technology Week • Key Stage 2 Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole) • EYFS and Key Stage 1 Pantomime – Sinbad the Sailor (In School) • Buttercups Library Visit • Athletics Club (After School with Mrs Vaughan-Wright) • Booster Club (Invitation Only – After School with Mrs Freeman) • Hot Chocolate with Father Christmas (Years 4, 5 and 6) in the Main Hall (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm) • Otters Class Parent-Teacher Consultations – bookable on Arbor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Technology Week • Whole School Celebration Assembly (Mr Wesley)
Monday 18 Dec	Tuesday 19 Dec	Wednesday 20 Dec	Thursday 21 Dec	Friday 22 Dec
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS Nativity (09:30 am) • Christmas Celebrations at St Mary's Church, Combs (Years 1, 3 and 5) in the afternoon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 2 Pantomime – Rumpelstiltskin at the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich • Young Voices Choir Rehearsal (After School with Mrs Edwards) • Micro:bit Coding Club (After School with Mrs Freeman) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Day of the Autumn Term • Non-Uniform Day in support of The Rainbow Trust • School Christmas Lunch • Music for Schools Tuition • School Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays • Staff Training Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays
Monday 25 Dec	Tuesday 26 Dec	Wednesday 27 Dec	Thursday 28 Dec	Friday 29 Dec
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays • Christmas Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays • Boxing Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closed for Christmas Holidays