

## Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #06

April 2024

Dear Families,

Every month, I find myself looking forward to writing the next edition of the *Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update* as it gives me the opportunity to reflect on all the amazing things our children have been involved in and all the incredible opportunities they have to look forward to. March and April are no exception to this. It's especially good to see the children out and about in nature as the weather improves – stay alert for information about our work with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and our Green Party Councillors as we continue to make the school site ready for the our Forest School – 'Green Minds'.

I'd like to take the opportunity to clarify our expectations around communication with school staff. We aim to respond to all communications within 3 school days, although we'll often be able to get back to you sooner. School staff are only expected to check their emails between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 and only when they aren't working with children.

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.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Kathryn Day (Headteacher)

### News

#### UNICEF ShoeShare – Appeal for Pairs of Shoes!

In conjunction with the other schools in the Children's Endeavour Trust, we will be hosting a ShoeShare collection in partnership with UNICEF and Clarks. Through this project, we will be supporting children across the world and helping them to access their right to education (Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). You can find more about ShoeShare on the Clarks website: <https://www.clarks.com/en-gb/sustainability/shoeshare>




All you need to do is to gather your old and unwanted shoes from around the house and bring them into school during the week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We will have a trolley on the playground from 08.30 am each morning for you to put your shoes into.

A few things to remember:

- Please make sure that the shoes are in pairs – we cannot accept single shoes.
- If you have a rubber band, please pair your shoes to make it easier to sort and pack them, but don't worry if not – we'll have plenty of spares.

Our Rights Respecting Rangers have been busy designing posters to promote this appeal – you can see them below and on our Facebook page.





Parking on Glemsford Road	OVO Foundation X @LetsGoZero Nature Prize Winners!
<p>We continue to receive complaints from our neighbours on Glemsford Road about parking. Please think about the following before you park around the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If I park here, can someone get past on the path safely and easily with a buggy or wheel chair?</li> <li>• If I park here, could a fire engine or ambulance get through if there was an emergency?</li> <li>• If I park here, am I blocking a dropped curb so people can't easily cross the road or see enough to cross the road safely?</li> <li>• If I park here, can other drivers see enough to be able to access Bures close and see people crossing the road?</li> </ul> <p>We are working with our neighbours, Councillor Keith Scarff and our Community Police Team to make sure our children our safe on their way to, and home from, school. Please do your bit to support us.</p>	<p>We're thrilled to let you know that we are one of the 25 winners of the OVO Foundation X LetsGoZero Nature Prize!</p> <p>The prize will help us to set up our own Forest School in our pocket woodland on the school site. Get ready for some amazing initiatives as we inspire, educate, and have FUN while making a difference!</p> <p>Our entry was chosen as one of the top 25 submissions, out of over 200 entries from schools across the country. You can find out more at the <a href="#">OVO Foundation Nature Prize 2024 Winners</a> website.</p> 

Staffing Updates
<p>We have 2 staffing changes for the summer term.</p> <p>Mrs Player will be reducing her working hours to 3 days after Easter and teaching Badger class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Brown, a very familiar face to the children, will be stepping in to teach Badgers on Thursday and Friday.</p> <p>I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Clare Morris will be returning to Combs Ford Primary School after Easter to teach Bears Class. Mrs Morris visited the class in the last week of term and I know that the children are looking forward to welcoming her.</p>

Book Winners!	Reading Champions!
<p>Mrs Lehocz - our lovely Librarian - has been wining books again! She won copies of the books 'Stitch' by Pádraig Kenny and 'Feather - The Twitchers' by M.G. Leonard. Look out for them both in the school library!</p> 	<p>Look at these reading statistics from Accelerated Reader for March 2024. Well done to all of you – and keep on reading!</p> 

**Looking Back...**

It's been a busy month! Year 5 took part in an exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event, we had our termly Rock Steady Gigs and the Reverend Sarah Jenkins (Rector of St Mary's Combs) led our Easter Celebration in the school hall. And there was all this too...

Rock Bottom!	Ultra Violet Dodge Ball
<p>The Year 3 and 4 children took to the stage to perform their play Rock Bottom! They did an incredible job of learning their lines and the songs, and all their hard work paid off in the performances. Their teachers are very proud of them and think that they're amazing.</p> <p>Thank you to all of you who have helped them to learn lines, provided costumes and endured the singing for the last few weeks!</p> 	<p>Year 3 and 4 were very lucky to have a UV dodgeball workshop with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership. They got to do skills and play some matches. The excitement when we turned the lights out was off the Richter scale!</p> 

**Young Carers**

Our Young Carers meet with Rachel Charles from Suffolk Young Families who organised a creative session where the children made a 'ninja heart' and wrote a quality about themselves on the back.



**World Book Day**

Mrs Oakley and Miss V's World Book Day was Amazing! They organised a fabulous book swap shop, a whole school quiz, a giant guess who, a whole school story and loads of other exciting activities! We all made sure to stop whatever we were doing whenever the special bells rang to read our favourite books!



**Year 5 Swimming Team Triumph!**

Our incredible Year 5 swimming team represented us wonderfully in the Gala at Stowmarket Leisure Centre. Out of the 12 teams competing we came in 5<sup>th</sup> position which is a fantastic achievement for them especially as 6 of the 8 students have never raced before. Well done everyone!



**Year 5 Visit to Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park**

Year 5 learned about animal conservation and the biomes they live in. They managed to see Ewa, the polar bear, who usually lives in the tundra biome. The children had an amazing day petting goats, seeing the animals and even managed to have a play on the park! Miss V and the other adults could not speak more highly of their impeccable behaviour as well.



**Year 3 and the Egyptians!**

Year 3 had an exciting morning mummifying their friends! They worked in teams to wrap their mummies, before being judged for best mummy, most wrapped mummy and even competed in some mummy races!



**Easter Cards in the Library**

Mrs Lehocz and all of the children who visited her in the library in the week before Easter have been busy making cards for the residents of Chilton Meadows Care home to celebrate Easter! They've made an egg-stremely impressive 45 cards to send off!



**Glorious Gymnasts!**

Mrs Ashton took a Year 3 and 4 team and a Year 5 and 6 team to a gymnastics competition at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre. They performed a floor routine and a vault to judges and were graded. We are so proud that our Year 5 and 6 team got Bronze position out of 7 teams and our Year 3 and 4 gymnasts got silver! Well done for all your hard work and dedication 😊



**World Languages Day – Whole School Assembly**

Mrs King and Mrs Lehocz organised a special assembly celebrating Article 30 of the UNCRC: Minority culture, language and religion. Six of our wonderful bilingual pupils and Mrs Lehocz spoke a little of their home languages: Polish, Hungarian, Mandinka, Czech, Portuguese and Creole. One of our pupils also wrote and performed a fantastic song, celebrating the fact that we are a multi-cultural school. The children did us proud and there may have been a few watery eyes in the audience! 🌍



Poppy's Multicultural School Song is just below...

**Rewilding the School Grounds**

If you'd come into the woodland on the school site one sunny Saturday in March you'd have come across staff and local Councillors, including Miles Row the Councillor for Combs Ford Ward and volunteers from Red Gables. We spent the day clearing the School's wooded area and planting over 500 saplings. We are reintroducing lots of native species of trees to the area and new hedgerow to encourage lots of new wildlife. A firepit has been made ready for the our Forest School – 'Green Minds'.

There's more work to be done so watch our for requests for help! Miss Day has promised that she'll light a fire for toasting marshmallows...





**Year 6 at the Thorpe Woodlands Residential**

Year 6 had an incredible time at Thorpe Woodlands! They climbed walls and trees, zip-wired, swung from great heights, trekked in the tree-tops, climbed on top of stacked crates to ridiculous heights (ropes are involved), biked, canoed, caved, and tried their hand at archery.

They definitely showed our Rainbow Values in action. They showed respect for the Thorpe Woodlands instructors, the school staff who accompanied them, and the nature that surrounded them. They showed incredible levels of self-awareness, self-belief and resilience as they challenged themselves to try new and adventurous activities. They worked together, demonstrating critical thinking and teamwork, as they solved many problems. And, most of all, they showed true compassion towards each other, encouraging their classmates when they found things tough.

Well done Year 6 – we know you'll have been telling your many stories of what you experienced and what you achieved.



**Year 6 at School**

The Year 6 children, who didn't go on the residential, had an amazing, fun-filled week at school with. They made pizzas, created UNICEF clay sculptures (which you can see on the shelves opposite the school office), got creative in the woodland, and visited Stowmarket Library to name a few! They didn't want the week to end!



**Looking Forward...**

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

**Earth Day and World Art Day – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Mrs Aldred and Mrs Knowland have planned an exciting day to celebrate Earth Day and World Art Day with some invited guests!

It's going to be a busy day with a Recycling Assembly, a Plastic Workshop, a talk about littering, a Combs Clean-Up Survey, poster making and recycling art.



**Clubs**

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

- Tuesday**
- Cricket Club – before school with Mrs Ashton
  - EYFS and Key Stage 1 Dance Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
- Wednesday**
- Music for Schools musical instrument tuition takes place on a Wednesday during school hours.
- Thursday**
- Choir – 08:00 on a Thursday with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole.
  - Rock Steady Music School takes place on a Thursday during school hours.
  - EYFS and Key Stage 1 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)
- Friday**
- Key Stage 2 Summer Sports Club (After School with Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership)

**Pre-Loved Uniform Sale**

Don't forget to join Mrs Lehocz and Mrs McCarthy for their next Pre-Loved Uniform Sale on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 3pm in the School Library or Playground (depending on the weather).

**School Photographers**

AJS Photographic will be in School on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May for Class Photos.

**April 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 April	Tuesday 02 April	Wednesday 03 April	Thursday 04 April	Friday 05 April
Easter Monday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday
Monday 08 April	Tuesday 09 April	Wednesday 10 April	Thursday 11 April	Friday 12 April
Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday
Monday 15 April	Tuesday 16 April	Wednesday 17 April	Thursday 18 April	Friday 19 April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Swimming Group (Invitation Only)</li> <li>ShoeShare Collection – Trolley on School Playground Before School</li> <li>Whole School Assembly – World Art Day (Mrs Knowland)</li> <li>Year 6 Maths Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ShoeShare Collection – Trolley on School Playground Before School</li> <li>Jo Atkins (Suffolk Wildlife Trust ) working with Year 4</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>Year 6 Writing Club (Invitation Only) in Wild Cats Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ShoeShare Collection – Trolley on School Playground Before School</li> <li>Year 4 Visit to School Farm and Country Fair at Suffolk Showground</li> <li>Year 5 Bears Swimming</li> <li><a href="#">Music for Schools</a> – Music Tuition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ShoeShare Collection – Trolley on School Playground Before School</li> <li>Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole)</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 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ShoeShare Collection – Trolley on School Playground Before School</li> <li>Year 5: Introduction to Forest School Session #2 (Led by Miss Day)</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 22 April	Tuesday 23 April	Wednesday 24 April	Thursday 25 April	Friday 26 April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Swimming Group (Invitation Only)</li> <li>Earth Day – Whole School Project</li> <li>Whole School Assembly – Earth Day (Mrs Aldred)</li> <li>Year 6 Maths Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir (08:00 with Mrs Tanner and Mr Cole)</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 6 Reading Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>Dodgeball County Finals – Ipswich School Sports Centre</li> </ul>
Monday 29 April	Tuesday 30 April	Wednesday 01 May	Thursday 02 May	Friday 03 May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Swimming Group (Invitation Only)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly – PSHE #5 Relationships: (Mrs Tanner)</li> <li>Year 6 Maths Club (Invitation Only) in Sharks Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>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> </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><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 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>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>