

## Combs Ford Primary School Families' Update

Edition #10

September 2024

Dear Families,

I hope that you've enjoyed the summer break, especially the excellent weather! I've loved watching the amazing sports people in the Olympics and am excited to see what the incredible Paralympians can achieve as they take centre stage in Paris. The Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship, and the Paralympic Movement values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality mirror our Rainbow Values: respect, compassion, self-awareness, self-belief, critical thinking, teamwork and resilience. These are the values that we teach our children so that they can succeed in everything they do.

July seems a long time away but it was a busy month as you can see below. It's always a time of mixed emotions as we say goodbye to our Year 6 children who will soon be beginning their next exciting chapter at High School. You can find out what the children have been doing in school by following our [Facebook](#) page or by looking at the [Curriculum](#) pages on the School Website – the [Art and Design](#) page, for example, has a 'Padlet' of art work the children have created.

Just a reminder that, from September, we're making small changes to the times and locations that you will be able to access the school. This is to increase the security of the site at the start and end of the school day. We're also introducing new snack guidelines to encourage children to bring in healthy snacks full of vitamins and minerals containing no added salt, fat or sugar. Details on both of these are below.

We've got an exciting year planned full of interesting learning and exciting experiences and are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school, especially our new Early Years children, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Don't forget that Mrs Vaughan-Wright will be leading her before-school football from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September and Mrs Edwards will begin Young Voices choir rehearsals on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – see the calendar below for details.

As always, 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 LSA, speaking to the Senior Leaders on duty before school or during the day, by phoning (01449 613 112), or emailing ([admin@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@combsford.suffolk.sch.uk)) the school.

Kathryn Day  
Headteacher

### News

#### School Gates – Opening and Closing Times

From September 2024 we are making a slight change to the times and locations that you will be able to access the school to increase the security of the site.

We will no longer be opening the gates that lead onto the alleyway down the side of the school – to the EYFS and Year 1 classrooms. You will be able to access the school through the front gate and the back gate.

These are the times of the school day:

- 08:40 Front and Back Gates Unlocked
- 08:45 Classroom Doors Open
- 08:55 Classroom Doors Closed
- 08:55 Front and Back Gates Locked
- 12:10 Lunchtime Begins
- 13:10 Lunchtime Ends
- 15:10 Front and Back Gates Open
- 15:20 Children Leave School
- 15:30 School Gates Locked

#### Young Voices and the School Choir

The Young Voices Choir's visit to the O2 in London last year was such a success that Mrs Edwards will be rehearsing the children after school in the Main Hall on a Tuesday for a return visit. The Young Voices Choir will replace the School Choir which met on a Thursday before school. Please contact the School Office for more information.

#### Term Dates for 2025-2026

Term dates for 2025-2026 are published on the [Term Dates](#) and [Calendar](#) pages of the school website.

#### Hedgehogs

Mrs Clare Lambert (HLTA) left the school over the summer. Mrs Brown, a familiar face to the children, will be stepping in to teach Hedgehogs on a Friday.

#### Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Grant

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help children establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve children's readiness to learn.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400;
- Income Support;
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit;
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit);
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190.

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,480 for our school and can fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

To check if your child is eligible, we need information about you and your child. You can either fill in a form online at [Apply for Free School Meals](#) or talk to the School Office for a paper-based version – it only takes a few minutes. If you need any help, including access to a laptop to complete the form, please talk to a member of staff.

Forest School	Lighting, Electrical and Fire Safety Work
<p>From September, every child will be taking part in Forest School for 6 weeks.</p> <p>This term it's the turn of Years 3 and 4 with the first sessions on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Miss Day will be in touch nearer the time with full details. We work on the principle that, <i>“there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing”</i> and recommend all children and adults wear long sleeves, long trousers and closed-toed shoes to keep covered and reduce the likelihood of cuts and scrapes from play or tool use or other activities.</p> <p>Miss Day is looking for volunteers to join her in the woods. You'll need to enjoy being outside in all weathers and be able to commit to supporting the children every Friday for a term. You will also need a current enhanced DBS which the school will organise this at no cost to you.</p>	<p>As you'll know from our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations in January this year, the school is quite an old building. Over the next months you will see work going on in the school building. We have won a <a href="#">Condition Improvement Fund</a> bid from the Department for Education to improve our lighting, electrics and fire safety. Builders won't be in during the school day but will be working in the evenings and into the early morning to keep disruption to a minimum.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.</p>
<b>School Photographer</b>	
<p>The School Photographer will be in on the 24<sup>th</sup> September from 08:00 for individual and sibling photos. We'll be in touch closer to the date with full details.</p> <p>Please remember that long hair should always be tied back and that children should not wear make-up, nail varnish or false nails, and should only wear small, flat, plain stud earrings or retainers in pierced ears. You can find full details of our Dress Code for Children by following the link from the <a href="#">School Uniform and Shop</a> page on the school website.</p>	



**New Snack Guidelines from September 2024**

<p>Since relaxing the school's snack policy in March 2023 we have noticed a decline in children's behaviour and concentration. The children's Earth Day litter pick also showed that most of the rubbish on the playground and around the school grounds was plastic packaging from sweet and crisp packets.</p> <p>To support children's health and to reduce food packaging and waste, we have revised our school snack policy to healthy (but nut-free) snacks, preferably in reusable packaging. Full details are available on the school website on the <a href="#">School Snack Guidelines</a> page.</p> <p>Please remember that snacks don't need to be provided for children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 because <i>The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS)</i> provides a free piece of fruit or veg to every 4, 5 and 6 year-old who attends our school.</p>	
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Looking Back...

**Young Carers Award**

Our Young Carers achieved their Silver Award – Caring for Carers – from Suffolk Young Carers.

Our Young Carers do an AMAZING job and often feel very proud of the job they do – rightly so. It can help them build some valuable life skills and many are very resilient, caring and mature beyond their years.

Mrs Brooks works very hard to identify and support our Young Carers to make sure that, as a school community, we look after their emotional wellbeing and support their education.

Well done Young Carers!



**EYFS and the Ice Cream Van**

EYFS ended their school year in the best way possible with a visit from the ice cream van!



**EYFS and Mini Monsters!**

Early Years loved their visit from Mini Monsters! They met Gerald the Giant Snail, Mildred the Millipede, Trinny the Tarantula, Winston the Bearded Dragon, and Salsa the Snake.

They loved listening to Ed and some of them were brave enough to hold the animals – they had a brilliant time!

You can find out more about Ed and his Mini Monsters on his [Facebook](#) page.



**EYFS Sports Day**

EYFS had a brilliant first Sports Day! Thank you to all the families who came along to support our budding young athletes.



**Junior Road Safety Officers**

Congratulations to our Junior Road Safety Officers who received the Junior Road Safety Officers' Scheme Award for 2023-24 – they skipped the bronze award and went straight to silver! This is a great achievement and took a lot of commitment and support. The children had to produce a scrapbook with a record of the activities they had been engaged in and communicate this with our families.

Well done Junior Road Safety Officers!



**Gold School Games Mark 2023-2024**

The school has achieved the Gold School Games Mark again this year. This has been awarded for:

- our clubs before and after school;
- the competitions and festivals we have attended;
- our sports leaders and the opportunities they are given;
- giving our children a voice to share their opinions;
- giving opportunities for children to be active;
- our links with our School Games Organiser and other schools;
- tracking statistics and targeting opportunities at those who are not engaged;
- being inclusive of all children;
- creating a positive environment for physical activity.

A big THANK YOU to all the children who have attended our events, to families who have transported and supported at events, and to the staff who support the children and the organisation of all the fantastic opportunities at our school.

None of this would be possible without the amazing Mrs Ashton and her squad of wonderful sports leaders – what an incredible team we make!



**September 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. These are also available on the [School Calendar](#) on the school website. 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Development Day – School Closed to Children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Development Day – School Closed to Children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome Back to School!</li> <li>EYFS Children In Until 11:30</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>EYFS Family Meetings in the Afternoon (By Invitation)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly – Welcome Back with Miss Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EYFS Children In Until 11:30</li> <li>EYFS Family Picnic</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>EYFS Family Meetings in the Afternoon (By Invitation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EYFS Children In and Staying for Lunch</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>EYFS Family Meetings in the Afternoon (By Invitation)</li> </ul>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Young Voices Choir with Mrs Edwards (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Just Dance with Mrs Ashton (Before School – Main Hall)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly – Jigsaw #1: Being Me in My World with Mrs King</li> <li>Year 1 and 2 Multisports (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Forest School – Owls (Morning)</li> <li>Forest School – Kestrels (Afternoon)</li> </ul>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Young Voices Choir with Mrs Edwards (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Just Dance with Mrs Ashton (Before School – Main Hall)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly</li> <li>Year 1 and 2 Multisports (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Forest School – Nightingales (Morning)</li> <li>Forest School – Woodpeckers (Afternoon)</li> </ul>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photographer In – Individual and Sibling Photos</li> <li>Year 5 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Young Voices Choir with Mrs Edwards (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 at Whitwell</li> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Just Dance with Mrs Ashton (Before School – Main Hall)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly</li> <li>Year 1 and 2 Multisports (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 at Whitwell</li> <li>Year 4 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 at Whitwell</li> <li>Year 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Forest School – Kestrels (Morning)</li> <li>Forest School – Owls (Afternoon)</li> </ul>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Year 1 Visiting Combs Church (Afternoon)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Rachel Charles Meeting With Young Carers (Small Hall)</li> <li>Young Voices Choir with Mrs Edwards (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Just Dance with Mrs Ashton (Before School – Main Hall)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> <li>Whole School Assembly</li> <li>Year 1 and 2 Multisports (After School – Main Hall)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Year 6 Lunchtime Games with Miss Day (Field)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Before School Football with Mrs Vaughan-Wright (Astro)</li> <li>Forest School – Woodpeckers (Morning)</li> <li>Forest School – Nightingales (Afternoon)</li> </ul>