



Newsletter

Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my first chance this year to wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely, relaxing break and it doesn't already feel too far behind now we are in the full swing of term and in the midst of January.....not always the cheeriest time of year! Although, at this time of year, despite the cold and wet, I try to look out for the early signs of the season changing. I have noticed that despite the evenings feeling long and dark, it is actually staying light until about 4.20pm now, which is a real treat for those of us with dogs to walk in the afternoon/evening! On my walk at the weekend, I also noticed some very tight buds growing on the trees on The Kidneys. These small changes always help to lift my spirits in January. We will be supporting the children to notice all these small changes when they are outside too, particularly when they are at Forest School. Mangoes got off to a very soggy start at forest school this week, but they all came back content and full of the joys of being out with the elements. It will be Strawberries turn next week. When the weather is a little warmer we are hoping to be able to offer forest school to our oldest Nursery children too. We will keep you posted with developments. There is much research that points to the positive effects of being outside for children and adult mental wellbeing, so despite the weather, do try to spend time outside with your children.

We run a free flow provision all year round, where children can choose to be outside rain or shine and many of them do choose to be outside whatever the weather. We are so lucky to be have fantastic waterproofs to keep them dry but please do remember to provide wellies, warm clothes such as gloves and hat and preferably a change of clothes, in particular a change of socks is helpful at this time of year.



We are disappointed to announce that Nicole Grazier, our wonderful School Business Manager is leaving us. Her last working day will be Friday 27th January. Nicole has worked at Comper for eight years and is a highly valued member of the staff team. Many of you will not have had that much face to face communication with Nicole as she works at the back of the office. Her role is to do all things budget & finance which has been no mean feat with the funding crisis that has faced education recently. The reality is, that in a small school like ours, Nicole wears many hats and spins many plates. She has always gone over and above to support the school wherever she can, even finding herself doing lunchtime supervisor duties when we have been short staffed! It is fair to say that she will be greatly

missed by all her colleagues at Comper. On behalf of us all, I would like to take this opportunity, to thank Nicole for all her hard work. We wish her every success in the future as she moves to pastures new.



We are very sad to let you know the news that Carole Hopkins, who was the administrator at Comper for many years, died during the Christmas holidays. We know that many of our families in the community will remember Carole fondly, so we wanted to let you know. We are hoping to plant a tree at Comper in memory of her in the summer term. Colleagues from Comper who knew her well will be attending her funeral on 2nd February. Our thoughts are with her family and close friends at this sad time.

After School Club (ASC)

Just a reminder for all parents that use the After School Club that from Monday 23rd January we will be running a reduced provision.

We will be open:

Mondays & Tuesdays 3.00pm - 5.30pm for children from all settings.

Thursday it will be open for **Reception children only** 3.00pm - 5.30pm.

ASC will be fully closed on a Wednesday and Friday.

Please email us if you no longer require your provision so we can offer your place to someone else.



Our value for this half term is :

Aspiration



We are recruiting for teaching assistants

We are recruiting for more support staff that can work 8.30am -3.30pm five days a week. The adverts will be posted on various official websites from Monday. However, if you know any family or friends that would be interested in coming to join our team, please do put them in touch with us. No qualifications are essential but NVQs in childcare would be welcome.

An interest in early childhood development enthusiasm, flexibility and a good sense of humour are all essential!

Some reminders from our community dental team please see below:




Happy New Year!!

New year, new resolutions?
Focus on oral health!
Oral health can massively effect someone's general health and well being.

- Brush teeth twice a day, once before bed and at one other time during the day.
- Keep sugary snacks to a minimum and with a main meal or immediately after as a pudding.
- Visit the dentist regularly.

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Fluoride Varnish

From the age of 3, children are entitled to a fluoride varnish application as part of their dental check up. Fluoride Varnish is proven to be beneficial in preventing tooth decay.

Make sure you ask for it at your child's next check up!

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Please follow the link below for lots of videos for children to support them with cleaning their teeth and visiting the dentist.

[Oral Hygiene Videos for all the family](#)

FINAL REMINDER

If you are a Nursery parent and your child turns 4 before the 31st August 2023, don't forget to apply for their primary school place on line. The deadline is this Sunday January 15th 2023

Follow the link below:

[Primary School Application Link](#)

Wishing you all a relaxing and recuperative weekend.

Best wishes,

Catherine King

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