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Newsletter

Friday 23rd June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is absolutely speeding by in a flurry of endless transition dates. At Comper we are managing five different sets of transition programmes for five different groups of children. Actually finding enough dates in the diary to put all the activities in has proved quite hard, but I think, along with our fab team at SSMJ (who are also juggling a lot), we have managed it! Thank you for your patience with communications around all this and for bearing with us with some of the tweaks we have had to do at short notice.

I would also like to sincerely thank all our Nursery parents for your support over the last few weeks with the big news about moving Reception to SSMJ. I know it has come as a shock to many of you, that emotions have been running high and there are some mixed feelings about the change. It was really great to see so many of you at the parents information evenings that we carried out at SSMJ on the 13th June. I very much hope that the chance to speak to both teams and a representative from the County Council helped to answer some of your questions and allay some of your worries. Please don't hesitate to come and speak to me further if you have any nagging questions or concerns that have emerged since the meeting. I am always happy to listen and try to help wherever I can.

We've got some lovely events going on this term for all age groups....

It was fantastic to see so many families joining us for the Stay and Play session in Reception last week. Thank you for coming a long. Mango class had a wonderful time being curious in the Natural History Museum, getting there on the bus and picnicking in the park. Strawberry's turn next week.

The Dad's had a special morning of celebration with their children in Daycare to mark Father's Day. Thank you to all those that were able to attend. I hope you felt thoroughly spoilt!

Nursery are off for an adventure to Florence Park next week...we look forward to hearing all about it!

Thank you to all of you who volunteer to support us with taking the children out of school on trips. We know it is a very busy time of year and you are often juggling multiple children and/or work commitments. While the children are so young it is important to have a high number of adults to children to keep them all safe and help the trips go smoothly. We really couldn't do it without you!

Staffing



We are very excited to announce that Alice Kiddell has been successful in securing the position of School Business Manager at Comper. She is taking over from Nicole Grazier who left at Easter. Alice is working closely with our Bursar, Heather Emerson to learn the ropes this term. While doing this, she is currently still being our fantastic school administrator too, so she is very successfully spinning rather a lot of plates this term!



We are very sad to be losing Alanta Hissey-Powell from After School Club at the end of the academic year. Alanta has been a lovely friendly adult for the children at the end of the day in After School Club. She is always very caring and attentive to all the children's needs and we will really miss her.



Last term we were very fortunate to recruit a new After School Club Lead, Sarah Kortling. Sarah has started working with us two days a week for term 6 to get to know the ropes, but will be starting full time from September 2023. Sarah has extensive experience working with vulnerable people in the community, teaching adults, running mother and baby groups and working at Lake Street Playgroup. We are very excited to have her on our team—welcome Sarah!

Recruitment

We are currently seeking applicants for two posts ready for September. If you know anyone that would be interested please point them in our direction. Alternatively if you have appropriate social media platforms, such as Linked In or Facebook and you think it might be helpful to us if you shared the adverts there, please do. Both adverts and application details are live on our website:

[Office Administrator](#)

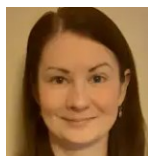
[Level 3 qualified Early Years Practitioner](#)



Governors



We are very please to announce that we have two new governors joining our governing body this term.



Lisa Roberts, who will be back teaching two days a week in Nursery from September, will be joining as our staff governor. We are very much looking forward to Lisa joining the governing body as she is an experienced teacher across age ranges and has a special interest in SEND, having spent some of her career teaching in a school for children with additional needs.

We are delighted to welcome **Lucy Kempton** (mum of Lennon in Nursery) as our new parent governor this term. Lucy has shown real enthusiasm for the school since her child has been here and has been very supportive, you might of spotted her and her wife helping out with gardening on numerous occasions. Lucy brings a wealth of experience to the board, having worked with children and young people over many years in both America and the UK.

Do you have experience of marketing or know someone who does? If so.....



We are very excited about growing into a bigger specialist provision for 2 - 4 year olds and we have the space to do it from September 2023! We are keen to organise some marketing to get the word out about our lovely Nursery, the fantastic garden space that will now be the sole domain of the Daycare and Nursery children and our dedicated staff team. We have some ideas, but marketing isn't our field of expertise! If any of you would be willing to help us out with this in any way we would be most grateful to hear from you.

Summer Heat

We are having some lovely dry, hot weather at the moment and the children are spending a lot of time outside. Please can you make sure they have a change of clothes in their bags in case they should get wet during water play and sunscreen and a sunhat.

The met office have issued some weather warnings around extreme heat in the next couple of weeks. We will be keeping a close eye on this and taking advice and guidance from the Early Years Team at Oxfordshire County Council about potential risks to young children. We will communicate any information we get in as soon as we can.

Follow this link for [advice](#) on how to keep you and your family healthy in very hot weather.



Desperately seeking.....socks!

In the familiar words of Nick Cope..... "we don't care if they're stripy or covered in spots".....we are just very short of spare socks. If you have any that your children have grown out of or a draw that's over flowing and you'd like to donate small socks age 2-5yrs old, we would gladly accept them.

After School Club - We are planning to have After School Club up and running from September 2023 **four days a week (Mondays –Thursdays) 3.00—5.30pm. There will definitely be no provision on Fridays.** We are still recruiting for one more person to join the team, but at this stage we are very hopeful we will be fully staffed. Thank you for your continued patience with this situation. We will update you further when we know more.

Wishing you all a very happy and long weekend.

Best wishes,



Catherine King