



## Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of a very long Autumn Term! The children are exhausted, the staff are exhausted and I know many of you are very much looking forward to a break from the twice daily school runs which, this term, seem to have mainly been carried out in rain, wind and freezing cold weather, not to mention the rapidly increasing lack of light from about 3pm! The silver lining of a very long term is that it has given us a lot of time to pack in a lot of learning and have a lot of fun at Comper! **So here are some highlights from this term:**

### **A huge highlight of the term was Science week**

Thank you so much to our resident scientists, Elsie's mum, Lizzie and Tavish's Mum, Alice for giving up their time to come and carry out science experiments with the children. We got really curious in class too, carrying out all sorts of investigations and explored the world around us.

### **Stay and Plays**

We've had two Stay and Plays. We love opportunities to welcome parents into the environment, and the children always enjoy being able to share their nursery school world with you. Please keep trying to come to these. We do try to put them on a different day of the week each term to try to accommodate parent's working patterns. All dates are published in advance on our website calendar.

### **Snow Day**

Despite being rather chilly at Comper, this was a very exciting day. For some of our children it was the first time that they had experienced snow, this made it a particularly special day to share with them.

### **Caper Book Shop**

We have been taking groups to Caper Bookshop in Magdalen Road instead of the library this term. The children have really enjoyed their time browsing the wide collection of books in the shop. Thank you to Xander for allowing our children to explore his shop and for sharing a story with us.

### **Stories by Candlelight**

Thank you to all of you that attended our very twinkly and very magical stories by candlelight event. The children are always so excited to be back in the school in the darkness. It was lovely to have so many families there enjoying special time with the children and this year, for the first time, browsing the seasonal goodies for sale while sipping a cup of spiced apple and nibbling a mince pie. Well done to all of you who were winners on the raffle. Please make sure you've collected your prizes! Thank you to all the staff who put so much effort into organising this event.

### **Singing at the Isis Care Home**

Some of our older children went to sing Christmas songs to the residents of Isis Care home in Florence Park. This is the second year running we've done this now. It is a heart warming event, where the positive impact of the little ones being alongside the older people is very evident by the smiles it brings to everyone's faces. Our children were very kind and helpful this year, offering round drinks and biscuits to the residents at the end of their singing.

### **Discovery Den**

We had Ali back with her Discovery Den last week. The children enjoyed a really sensory experience, through music, movement and exploring all her wonderful resources.

### **Trip to Pegasus Theatre**

The children marched up Magdalen Road to Pegasus Theatre yesterday for their final outing of 2024. They saw a fantastic performance of The Elves and The Shoemaker by the incredible Emma Boor.



## Highlights of Terms 1 and 2







## Governors



We are still seeking a Chair of Governors for our Governing Board. If you know anyone who would like or needs this type of experience, please do put them in touch with Catherine King or Sarah Weaver via on: [office@comper.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@comper.oxon.sch.uk)

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Make an application to infant and primary school



#### Make an application to primary school

Parents of infant school children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 need to apply for an infant or primary school place for September 2025.

- applications can be submitted from 4 November 2024
- deadline for receipt of completed applications is 15 January 2025
- National Offer Day is 16 April 2025
- applications submitted after the deadline will be processed later in the year and have a far lower chance of securing a place at a preferred school, so please apply on time

[Apply online](#)



You are far less likely to secure a place at one of your preferred schools with a late application.

If your child turns 4 before August the 31st 2024, please remember to apply for a reception place at primary school place by January 15th 2025. Follow the online link to do this: [Applying for a Primary School Place in Reception for my child.](#)

Click on the blue link above

And a page will open like this says 'Apply Online.' You can



picture, Click on the blue box that choose up to four schools.

**SNACK - Thank you so much to all of you who have been donating the lovely variety of fruit and vegetables, cheese and crackers to our snack basket. Please keep this up from the beginning of next term, as we can't offer a snack to the children without your support on this!**



### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

From January we will be starting up a **Children's Clothing 'Community Wardrobe.'** This is an initiative to support reducing the negative impact on our environment of unwanted and grown out of clothes. From January, we will have a permanent clothes rack in the lobby with children's clothes and shoes on. Please bring in any clothes or shoes that are still in good condition and clean and add them to our 'wardrobe.' We are inviting parents and carers to browse the wardrobe and take anything that they feel they need for their children. If you can add clothes to our wardrobe, that's fantastic, but if you haven't got anything available at the time, that's no problem.

If your clothes and shoes are torn, in really worn out condition or are permanently stained, please add them to our clothes and materials recycling bin, just round the corner where the scooters are locked up. When this is full, the company remove it, recycle the contents and give the school money per KG of weight of clothes....win, win!



### Attendance and Punctuality

Our **attendance** is currently sitting at an average of **89%**. We are well aware that there has been A LOT of bugs this term and children and staff alike have been off school. However, we'd really like to see this figure improve to nearer **95%** in the spring term. Hopefully we can make a fresh new start in 2025, keep the bugs at bay and get into school regularly. There is so much the children miss out on if they are not here. I think the pictures of this term are testament to that!

**Punctuality** - It is often very difficult and upsetting for children to arrive late to school. They find it tough to go through a different entrance that is not part of their normal routine and then the spot light is on them as they have to enter the classroom, while everyone else is already sitting in group time. They then start their day having missed out on important learning and connection with the staff and children.

Late arrivals also impact the office staff; it is a busy time in the morning for the office staff with certain jobs have to be completed in a timely fashion. While they love the opportunity to chat to the children and make relationships with them, it is disruptive to their work if they have to keep being interrupted to take children through to class.

We would be very grateful if you could have a real push to arrive at school next term between 8.40am and 9am to ensure you are in school before the gate is shut.

**As always, if there are any particular challenges that families are facing with punctuality and attendance at school, please come and see us to have a chat about it. We will see what we can do to support you and your family.**

## SAVE THE DATE

**We look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 7th January 8.40am. The school is closed on Monday 6th January for a staff INSET day.**

### Term 3 Dates

February 4th & 11th 10am - Butterflies to The Story Museum (x2 small groups)

Wednesday 12th February - Caterpillar and Butterfly Stay and Play 9am - 10am

Friday 14th February - Break up for HALF TERM (Monday 17th - Friday 21st February SCHOOL CLOSED)

Week Beginning March 3rd - Parent Consultation Week

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day (Come dressed as your favourite character)

Friday 21st March- Red Nose Day (come dressed in red and bring a £1)

Tuesday 1st April - Butterfly Church Visit

Thursday 3rd April—Caterpillar and Butterfly Stay and Play 9am - 10am

Friday 4th April—Break up for EASTER HOLIDAYS (Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April SCHOOL CLOSED)

Wishing you all a relaxing and recuperative winter break and for those of you that celebrate Christmas,

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

Catherine King and Sarah Weaver

*Catherine King* and Sarah Weaver



**Love, Curiosity, Courage and Aspiration**