



## Newsletter

Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we have reached the end of what has felt like a whistle stop tour of a term. It has been short, busy, chilly, eventful and full of fun, as always at Comper. Strawberry and Nursery children ended the term with mixed emotions today as they said goodbye to Camille and Simon who are moving away with their family. It is always sad to see families move on at Comper, particular midway through the year. Goodbyes are never easy, but today the children and staff celebrated their relationships and the memories they will hold with parting cards and gifts, party hats, games and even some home made pizza! We wish the Stercks the very best of luck with the move and settling into their new home. You will be missed.

There has been all sorts of exciting learning going on across the school this week and with the sun out and blue skies the children are definitely opting to be outside more which has lead to lots of opportunities to develop their gross motor skills. There has been a lot of balance and two wheeler bike action going on, which has been fantastic to see. Staff in both nursery and reception have been working with those that are ready and keen, to support them to pedal independently. We have a few children that have very nearly got it..... and a few staff that will need to recover from the rather awkward bent over running style that is required to teach a child to ride a two wheeler pedal bike! I have also observed lots of climbing over and under apparatus and obstacle courses, jumping on trampolines, dance routines, learning to play tennis and our very youngest children at the early stages of learning to throw and catch a ball with a partner. Finally today, to really acknowledge the sunny vibe, the children in reception were serving 'ice creams' from their ice cream parlour in the garden. In the early years we are so lucky to bear witness to so much creativity, energy, busy activity and enthusiasm for learning; the children at Comper are so wonderful at showing us this each and every day. Thank you children and thank you to our committed staff team who work so hard to provide the children with such rich learning opportunities.



### LUNCH TIME

All this learning and growing takes an awful lot of energy for our little ones and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are eating healthily to be able to feel at their best throughout the day and grow into happy, healthy adults. We are noticing that there are a lot of unhealthy snacks being put in lunchboxes still. **Please** can you make sure that your children have a balanced lunch in their lunchbox and that like the children who are having school dinners, they

only have a sweet pudding on a Monday and Friday. If you are stuck for ideas, follow the link below where there is lots of inspiration.

<https://simplyveg.org.uk/love-your-lunchbox/>

A while back we communicated that if your child does have a school dinner and there is a particular day or two of the week that they do not like what is served, then they can order a sandwich instead. This will be brown bread filled with either, cheese, tuna or ham. You must email the office on a Monday morning by 9.30am if you would like your child to have a sandwich on any day of that week. We will not be able to give your child a sandwich if we have not had direction from you. Please follow this link to the school dinner menu on our website.

[http://www.comper.org.uk/web/lunch\\_menu/551023](http://www.comper.org.uk/web/lunch_menu/551023)



**Thank you** to Michaela Thornton and all the Nursery parents for organising the social event yesterday and thank you to all those parents and staff that supported running of the cake and second hand toy stalls and cleared up afterwards. I was disappointed not to be able to join you there but Phoebe sent this photo and fed back that it was a lovely event and it raised £205.70 to support the upcoming Nursery farm trip. Great team effort at Comper as always—THANK YOU!



Thank you to so many of you that have contributed to our collection for the [Oxford Hygiene Bank](#). We already have one full container. We will store what we have so far and hopefully fill a few more crates then take it over to Bicester in bulk. Keep the hygiene products coming!



## Invitation to parents

### Supporting your child's English vocabulary development - take part in a survey from Oxford

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child between the **ages of 5 and 16**? If so, please take part in a survey by Oxford University Press on 'Supporting your child's English vocabulary development'. Your input will inform a new Oxford report as well as the development of new English language resources for use in the home.

It will only take 10 minutes to complete and you will receive a free pdf download of children's vocabulary-building activities from Oxford. The survey closes at the end of February.

**Click on the link to take the survey:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2M3Z8MD>

Many thanks for your input into this research should you decide to take part

### Safer Internet Day

It was 'Safer Internet Day' on the 7 February. We have been talking about online safety with the children this week and will continue to do more work on it after half term. As most of you will well know, children love using technology and are learning to navigate websites, online games and consoles, and touch screen technology from a young age. We can support them by helping to embed safer practice online from an early age. Please find below some resources you can explore with your children if you wish.

Follow Digiduck's online adventures over five stories that have been created to help parents and teachers educate children aged 3–7 about online safety, with accompanying teaching activities: [Digiduck's Big Decision | Childnet](#)

Another age appropriate story you can share with early years children is Smartie Penguin [Smartie the Penguin | Childnet](#).

Internet Matters also share useful guidance for parents and carers: [Pre-school \(0-5\) online safety tips and advice](#)

Wishing you all a very happy and recuperative half term break.

Best wishes,



Catherine King