



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 24 May 2024

Dear Families,

What a wonderfully busy and productive half-term we have had, your children have made good progress and have enjoyed their learning and all of the enrichment activities on offer to them, particularly the swimming.

We continue to focus on behaviour and helping children to regulate their behaviour. We are finding that some children continue to play roughly and hurt each other, we are working hard to give them strategies to manage anger and frustration. We will let parents know if this is happening and we appreciate your support. Your children are young and this is a part of their learning, however, it is important that they understand boundaries.

Governors

We have a fantastic governing body here at Coombe Hill. They oversee the strategic decisions made at school and support the whole community. This is a voluntary role and we are always looking for new governors to join the team. Please contact me if you would like to find out more. Each half term we like to let you know about some of the things governors are currently working on. Peter Sebastian, our Health and Safety Committee Chair, has provided us with an update on this committee;

'This week, I wanted to talk about the work of one of our governor-led committees: Health, Safety and Premises. This committee oversees the school's work to, most importantly, keep the children safe. This means reviewing existing plans for school trips, events and activities to make sure the children, as well as the staff and parents, are kept safe.'

Also, the committee oversees work to ensure that the school buildings and playground are safe. Most recently, this meant lobbying Kingston Council for funding to refurbish the rooves of many of the classrooms, particular for Reception and Year 1. Thankfully, this work is nearly completed!

Finally, the committee looks after the school grounds. We are hugely lucky that our children have access to such a great play area, including the Forest School area and the swimming pool. However, the playground requires constant maintenance, for example, repainting, gardening work, and specific projects such as refurbishing the climbing wall in the adventure playground. Future plans include building more outdoor sensory play areas for the children and improved maintenance of the site. This work will have to be funded from within existing budgets, which are tight. If any parents have expertise in this area, particularly landscape gardening and repairs and maintenance, please do get in touch with the school. Your time and help would be hugely appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, please get in touch with the office. Also, if you have friends or neighbours who might be interested, please ask them to contact us. We are always looking for new members from inside and outside of the school community. '

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Drop off and collection arrangements for the week of Monday 3rd to Friday 7th June

The roofing works are now complete and the scaffolding will be removed. Today, the demountable classroom in the year 1 playground has started to be removed and the playground surface will then be made safe. This work will impact access to the year 1 playground and the Reception classrooms for the week of Monday 3 to Friday 7 June, please read and note the following arrangements for the week after half term.

Changes to Reception and Year 1 drop off and collection

Morning drop off

Beginning on **Monday 3rd June** please could all children in **Year 1 and Reception** be dropped off in the ICT suite where staff will be waiting. Please could **ALL** parents drop off and leave the site promptly via the gate by the school office (not via the blue ramp).

Afternoon collection

Reception children will be picked up from the ICT suite at **3.00 pm**. Year 1 children will be picked up from the ICT suite at **3.10 pm**. Again, please leave the site promptly using the side gate next to the office to exit the site.

Connections Drop Off and Collection

We have special arrangements for dropping off and picking up children attending Connections at the Infants' School during this week. The Junior School is unaffected.

Dropping off at the Infants' Breakfast Club

Make your way through the blue gate as usual but **come to the ICT Suite door** at the front of the school where you will see the **Connections doorbell**. Please ring it **ONCE** and a member of the Connections staff will come to receive your child.

Collecting from the Infants' After-School Club

Make your way through the blue metal gate as usual but **come to the ICT Suite door** at the front of the school. **Please phone Connections on 07745 046121**. Your child will be brought to you. These arrangements are similar to those in place permanently at the Junior School except the phone number for collection is different.

Please remember that the gate codes for the blue gate will have changed - an email stating the new codes was sent on **Thursday 23/05/24** to all Connections parents.

School Clubs - change of some classroom collections for this week

- **French club** on Monday 3 June will be dismissed from LION classroom
- **Sewing club** on Monday 3 June will be dismissed from LION classroom (at 4.05pm)
- **French club** on Tuesday 4 June will be dismissed from LEOPARD classroom
- **French club** on Wednesday 5 June will be dismissed from TIGER classroom
- **OPAL club** on Thursday 6 June will be dismissed from LION classroom

Please note that **French club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays** will now be held in **SQUIRREL classroom for the rest of the term** due to the removal of the Studio classroom.

Please note that **OPAL club on Thursdays** will now be dismissed from **BEE classroom for the rest of the term**.

Year 2 trip to RHS Wisley Gardens

Year 2 will visit Wisley straight after half term on Monday 3 June. The children should wear school uniform with appropriate footwear for walking, and coats/sun hats/sun cream depending on the weather. All children should bring a packed lunch (no nuts nor nut products please) and a full water bottle. They will need to carry this during the morning so please send them in to school with a named rucksack or backpack. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly at school at 8.40am for registration, the coaches are leaving at 9.15am and they will not be able to wait. Payment for this trip remains open on Parentpay over half term if you have not paid for your child's place yet. Although by law this has to be a voluntary contribution, we cannot afford this activity without financial help. We appreciate your support, many thanks.




Bring your Pet to School Day - Wednesday 19th June

We are excited to be holding a 'Bring your Pet to school day'. This is a great opportunity for your children to learn about caring for animals. Please note the details below:

- The children are allowed to bring in any small pet caged or in a tank, such as a guinea pig, rabbit, hamster, tortoise, bird, or fish, (no cats or dogs) please drop them off at the ICT suite on the day.
- The pet must be kept in their cage all day, please label it with your child's name & class
- The children will not handle the animals
- Please collect your pet at pick-up time from the ICT Suite
- If your child would like to produce a small leaflet about their pet, this can accompany the pet and is a lovely way for your child to share their knowledge about them
- If the pet is in a large cage or tank, you can drop it off between 7.45 and 8am to the ICT suite, please come to the school office entrance and we will let you through

Sun protection

Now that the weather is getting warmer we are mindful of the importance of protecting children from the sun. To protect children we recommend putting factor 30+ cream on them before school, sending in plenty of fresh water each day, and a bucket-style sun hat (named) If you send in suncream it must be in a named plastic roll-on bottle. Children must apply their cream to themselves, so it would be useful if you practise this at home. These can be bought on Amazon, search "sunscreen refillable applicators" for ideas. Please see our Sun Safety and High Temperature policy for full information  [Sun safety and high temperature policy - Summer 2024.docx.pdf](#)

Swimming and the weather

It has been so lovely to see the children enjoying their swimming sessions in the typically mixed British weather. Swimming goes ahead come rain or shine and the only time we cancel or halt a session is due to thunder and lightning or low fog. The pool is heated, as are the changing rooms. All children attending school on the day of their swimming sessions are expected to swim (unless they have had a bout of diarrhoea or vomiting within 14 days, as previously stated).

Swimming volunteers

If you have a DBS certificate issued through the school please check the rotas or email chsswimmingrota@gmail.com and sign up to help. We are so grateful to everyone who has offered their help, and particularly to those parents who have stepped in and rearranged their plans at the last minute to ensure that swimming can go ahead for a whole year group of children - thank you. We currently have the following slots that have not been filled for the first week back after half term:

- **Year 2** - Tuesday 4 June
1 helper is needed in the girls' changing rooms
- **Year 2** - Thursday 6 June
1 helper is needed in the girls' changing rooms

Unfortunately without enough support, we have no alternative but to cancel sessions.

Smartphone Free Childhood movement



#CHANGETHENORM

We as a school are in full support of the group of parents who have come together to raise awareness of the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, a reminder of their message below:

"Some of you may have heard of the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, a parent-led initiative focused on protecting children from the potential drawbacks of early smartphone and social media use.

This movement aligns well with Coombe's focus on fostering a distraction-free learning environment, and we know many parents are already involved.

For anyone interested in learning more, please review this [one-pager](#) with information and a link to join the Coombe Hill Smartphone Free Childhood [WhatsApp group](#).

There is no obligation to join the group, but it can be a valuable resource for parents who share these concerns".

Attendance and punctuality

Attendance and Absence policy

We continue to track the attendance and punctuality of all of our children closely and meet regularly with our Education Welfare Officer where there are concerns. We will be in contact with families where we have concerns after half term. We would like to remind you of our Attendance and Absence policy and in particular the fact that we do not authorise any absence for holidays and overseas travel. We also continue to monitor punctuality daily. Every reason for lateness is added to your child's attendance record and the number of minutes late is recorded. Children who arrive late in the morning are often unsettled and confused about tasks as their teacher will not always be able to re-explain work. It is also disruptive to the class teacher, to the teaching assistants, and to the school office staff when children arrive late. We ask all parents to continue to support the school in establishing good habits for your child by arriving (and collecting your child) every day on time.

Please allow plenty of time for traffic and parking, the roads in the area are congested every morning and parking is very difficult, please make active journeys to school whenever possible. Thank you.

Updating your child's information

Please let the school office know if any of your child's personal information changes, ie home address, parent's contact details (address, phone number, email addresses), dietary needs and any medical issues. It is important that we are kept informed of any changes for our records in case of an emergency. Thank you.

Letter from Police - Dangers of swimming in rivers and open water

We have been asked to share the following letter with you from the Metropolitan Police which highlights to parents the dangers of swimming in rivers and open water.

Parents letter Open water (002).pdf

A message from Coombe Hill Parents choir

"The Coombe Hill Parents Choir spent an enjoyable afternoon performing to residents at Coombe Hill Manor Care Home last Sunday. We were so pleased to be joined by some ex-pupils and siblings of current pupils who also performed some brilliant solos. A great time was had by all, and it was lovely to meet so many residents who know our children through the ongoing partnership with the Infants school".





Pupil Premium Grant

When your child was admitted to the school we checked their eligibility for the Pupil Premium Grant. Please get in touch with us if your financial circumstances have changed since your child's eligibility was checked and you think you may now be eligible. Please complete the attached link and your status will be re-assessed <https://forms.gle/yrUZKUVsunMns7yc9>.

Community and other information

- [Burlington School nursery](#) has spaces available for children aged 3 starting in September 2024, please see the flyer to follow.
- [Kingston Adult Education](#) provides a comprehensive range of courses. Please find to follow the [June and July programme](#) which is full of courses to develop skills, improve wellbeing and

increase earning potential - most of which are free of charge or subsidised to adults on low incomes. There is also an Open Day at the Rose Theatre on Thursday 20 June where you will be able to find out about the 2024/25 adult learning programme.

- The **Love the Ball camp** is back at Coombe Hill for the May half term. This will be led by the sports coaches that your children are familiar with through their PE lessons and school clubs. Bookings are now being taken, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.
- The **Developing Mind Lab in the Department of Psychology at Kingston University are running a Young Scientist Event for children** aged 4-11 on the 29th and 30th May. Parents are invited to bring their children along to learn about psychology and gain first-hand experience of psychological research. A variety of research activities are available ranging from how we perceive emotions to how we solve puzzles. Here is the link for further information about the event and for parents to register:
<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/events/item/4304/29-may-2024-young-scientists-2024/>
- Please find to follow full details of **Achieving for Children's series of "Helping Children with...."** webinars on challenging behaviours, screen time and sleep
 'Helping children with...' series for Summer term 2024.pdf
- Please find attached the programme for the **May half term at Kingston Children's Centres**. This may be of interest to our families with children under 5
<https://tinyurl.com/KingstonCCS-Mayhalfterm>
- Please find attached the programme for the Kingston Borough children's centres for June and July  [KingstonChildrensCentres_Summer22024_withlinks.pdf](#)
- Details of a half term **Arts and Crafts camp in Wimbledon** for children are given below.
- **New Malden Fire Station on Burlington Road** is holding their annual open day on Sunday 30 June from 12 - 4 pm, everyone is welcome to come along, and see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

We wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 3 June.

Warm regards

Janet Berry

Headteacher

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our young children is our priority and all staff are trained to keep children safe. However, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if you are concerned about a child or young person please call children's services on 020 8547 5008. The South London CAMHS Crisis Line for both children and adults can be reached on 0800 028 8000.



Burlington Infant & Nursery School

Nursery Places to start in September 2024



Spaces available for:

- 3 year old Part Time nursery
 - 3 year old Full Time nursery (Funded or Paid For places)
- Wrap around childcare also available (7.30am-6pm)

Your child must already have turned 3 on or before 31 Aug 2024.

To find out more, please email on admissions@burlingtoni.org.uk



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HOLIDAY CAMP

4 days:
28th - 31st
May 2024

LTB
ACADEMY
EST. 2013



Summer
Camp also
booking
now!

Back at
Coombe Hill
Schools

Our holiday camps keep everyone happy!

Book May and Summer Camp now!

www.lovetheball.com



OPEN DAY

New Malden Fire Station

Sunday, 30 June 2024 12pm – 4pm

- Your chance to meet local firefighters and get fire safety advice.
- Watch rescue demonstrations with our latest fire service equipment.
- Family activities, BBQ, live music and a charity raffle.
- Early opening for neurodiverse needs between 11am – 12pm

180 Burlington Road New Malden KT3 4RW

For more info contact Zak Abram:

T 0208 555 1200 x84557

E zak.abram@london-fire.gov.uk



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

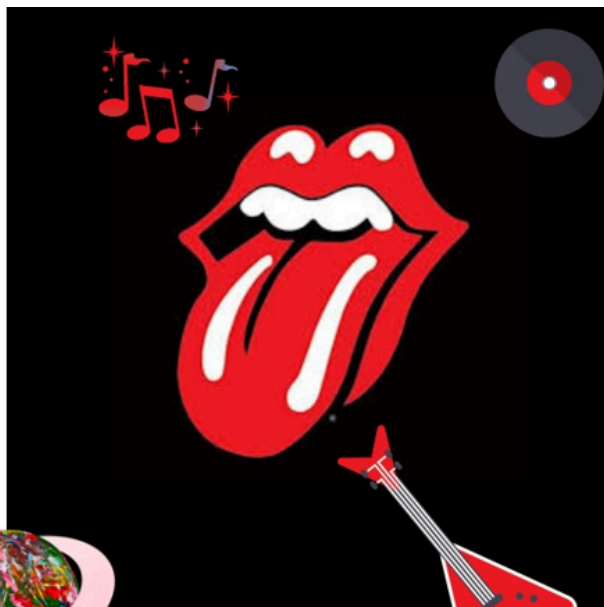
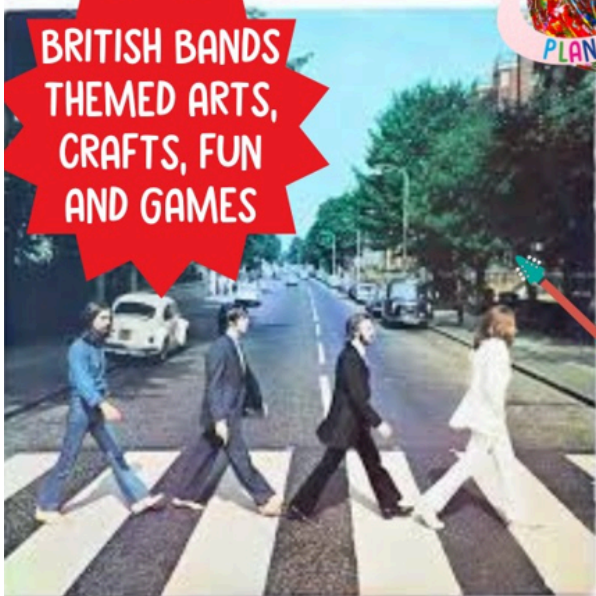
PLANET ART



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Ages 4 - 8
(4 year olds
must be in
Reception)

