



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 25 October 2024

Dear Families

This first half term has flown by and it is so rewarding to see how much progress every child has made and how settled and happy they are. We are especially proud of our youngest children who have had to learn so much and have coped well with so many changes. They are a credit to you and we are looking forward to continuing to watch them thrive.

Thank you for attending the pupil progress meetings for Years 1 and 2. Parental engagement is the number one factor in your child's progress, so it is vital that you find out where your child is and how you can support them at home. We expect all parents to attend the meetings and will be in touch to rearrange if you haven't managed to attend.

Equality

We are so fortunate to belong to such a diverse community. Each family is different, and we celebrate that. We spend a lot of time ensuring that our books represent the realities of our families. It is so important that your children grow up understanding tolerance and respect, especially in these most troubled of times. Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents of intolerance, which is unacceptable within the framework of the Equalities Act. Please read our Equality Statement:

Coombe Hill Infants' School recognises that certain groups in society have historically been disadvantaged because of unlawful discrimination they have faced due to their race, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, religion/belief, sexual orientation, or age. At CHI, we believe that every person in the school community, whether teacher, support staff, or child, has a fundamental right to equality of opportunity and we aim to provide this irrespective of religious persuasion, ethnic origin, cultural or linguistic background, gender, social group or disability. We believe that education has an essential role to play in promoting positive attitudes towards diversity amongst all pupils and staff. We recognise the importance of the people in our school as our most valuable resource and we are committed to developing the potential of both children and adults. This policy will put in place a range of actions to eliminate prejudice, unlawful discrimination and victimisation within the school community and workforce. [Equality policy - statement & objectives .docx](#)

Our Learning Behaviours

This week we focused on being Respectful like Winnie the Pooh and after Half Term, we will focus on Piglet and being Ready - Piglet teaches us to get ready for learning by sitting and listening well and looking at the teacher. If you would like ideas on how to support this Learning Behaviour at home, please look on our [website](#).

OPAL Stay and Play session for parents

On Wednesday over 100 of you managed to come along to the OPAL Stay and Play session at lunchtime. I am sure you will agree that the children have a wonderful time playing and learning together. Thank you so much for your kind comments *Simply brilliant! Kids were finding new and*

innovative ways to play with such simple things!..... Builds curiosity, kills boredom and sparks creativity! Incredible exploration and joyful playing. Thank you! Amazing use of space! So lovely to see the children playing and enjoying being outside. Brilliant!!Love the diversity of the playscape and all the toys/equipment accompanying them!! Thank you!..... Very good experience! Lots of happy kids.Fantastic space for the children to play!.....Great to see all the happy faces.



Inspiring athletes visited the school - Courtney Orange and Nerys Pearce



We were delighted to welcome Courtney Orange to our school to run a fun athletics session with the children, he was also joined by Nerys Pearce, a Commonwealth Games athlete, who also came to our school last year. A huge thank you to everyone who has raised sponsorship money and returned it to us. We have raised over £300 so far which is brilliant. The children really enjoyed the afternoon and all the fun activities. Courtney's assembly was very inspirational and the children asked him some excellent questions, such as 'how did you get so good?' His takeaway message was **'I can do it!'** You can still sponsor your child; Online donations can be received until **Wednesday 30 October**, alternatively bring back your form and cash donation to the office after half term. <https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing>. The money raised will go towards new sports equipment to improve levels of physical activity in our school. .

- Raise anything: A5 sheet of motivational stickers
- Raise £5 or more: a sheet of stickers, plus a blue Sports for Schools wristband
- Raise £15 or more: all of the above, plus a red wristband with the athlete's signature
- Raise £30 or more: all of the above, plus a signed athlete poster

Road safety

I regret to inform you that we had a near miss accident this week. A child was cycling at high speed on the pavement along Crown Road, and they very nearly knocked into one of our children. We are concerned that parents are not supervising their children while cycling or on scooters and someone will get hurt. Please avoid cycling on any pavement around the school. Thank you for your support.

Preparing for the Remembrance Service and the Poppy Appeal

Two of our year 2 pupils were video recorded this week at the war memorial on New Malden High Street for a film in which children from several local schools are taking part and which will be played at the Remembrance service on the High Street on Sunday 10 November, well done to Amelie and Tolulope for representing our school so well.

After half term we will be selling poppies in school for the annual Poppy Appeal - if you would like to support this, please send your children in to school during the first week back with small change (the suggested amount is £1) to buy a poppy. We will also be selling them at the school office desk.



A Connections Club update

Please see a statement from Connections Club via this link:[Connections Club statement re expansion Oct 2024.docx](#)

Attendance

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is **96.19%**. **Butterfly class** has achieved the highest attendance this week with **100% attendance**, well done to Butterfly class! At the end of each half term, we review each child's attendance record and contact families where we have concerns, we also review each child's punctuality record and look at the number of late arrivals (and afternoon collections), and look at reasons given for lateness. We monitor this closely and will be in touch with families where there are concerns.



Amendment to the Autumn term menu

We have reviewed and amended our menu slightly on Monday and Tuesday of week 2, please find a link to the updated menu here [CHI Autumn term menu - Revised Week 2 .pdf](#)

We are a mobile phone-free zone

We believe in creating a welcoming attentive atmosphere during drop off and pick up times. Recently we have noticed an increasing number of parents using their mobile phones whilst dropping off and collecting their children, outside classrooms and elsewhere on the school site. A reminder that we are a mobile phone-free zone and we expect all adults to put their phones out of sight when they enter the school gates. Please greet your children with a smile, not while being distracted on your phone. Please continue to help us to create a focused and caring environment for our children.



Donations for the Christmas Fair

Over half term, please have a look at home for any books (age 4+), toys (age 4+) and items of Coombe Hill uniform that are no longer needed and set them aside for the Christmas Fair on the 7th December. Don't forget to save your jars (big or small) and unwanted Halloween sweets for the Jolly Jar Tombola! Also, if you have anything suitable for the Secret Room (where children can shop for their adults and siblings in secret!), please keep those aside too. (These items can be anything you would like to receive as a present from your children.) Further information about when and where to bring donations will be sent out after half term.

Hedgehog class cake sale last week

Well done to the Hedgehog class parents and carers for organising a very successful cake sale last week - £200.80 was raised for Hedgehog classroom resources. Miss Bransfield and the children will decide what to buy and they will let you know in due course.

Squirrel class cake sale today

And well done too to Squirrel class for raising £230 today in their cake sale, Mr Collyer is looking forward to talking to the children after half term about how to spend the proceeds for their classroom.

Bounce-a-thon

Thank you to everyone who has continued to pass on their sponsorship money for the Bounce-a-thon. Please drop your sponsorship money off in a sealed envelope marked "Bounce-a-thon" to the school office, or pay via ParentPay **by Friday 9 November**. Please extend our thanks to everyone who has sponsored the children.

PTA Fireworks Event

Join us for an amazing fireworks event on **Thursday 7th November!** All children will be invited to come in to school in warm and colourful clothes on that day, ready for the fireworks in the evening. If it is your child's PE day they may come in to school in warm, practical clothes with trainers.

- ★ Gates open at 4:30 pm, with the fireworks display starting at 6:00 pm.
- ★ Enjoy tasty hot dogs, popcorn, and candy floss, and there's a bar for adults.
- ★ **Tickets are £6 each and can be purchased on ParentPay now**
- ★ Previously bought tickets for 2023 are still valid. For any questions, please contact chiptatreasurer@gmail.com.
- ★ Please note, that all children must be accompanied by an adult, with a maximum of three children per adult.
- ★ We are also looking for volunteers! If you can help, even for just 30 minutes, please contact chiptachair@gmail.com.
- ★ Everyone is welcome. Don't miss out on the fun!

Lost Property

Please name your children's clothing - *jumpers, cardigans, trousers, dresses, skirts, shoes, wellies, coats, hats, scarves, individual gloves etc.* Please also ensure that your child's water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly named. It helps us enormously and we are very grateful to every parent who names their child's items clearly as it saves us so much time in school. The amount of lost property that we have accumulated over this past half term has been huge and we want to avoid this happening again. Thank you for your co-operation.



Spanish club - room change

Spanish club will move from Butterfly classroom to Lion classroom after half term, please make a note of this if your child attends Spanish club.

School job vacancies - SEND Learning Support Assistants (full time and part time roles)

We are recruiting SEND Learning Support Assistants in our school, please find to follow a link to the advertisement on Eteach, the closing date is now on Monday 4 November by midday.

[SEND Learning Support Assistants](#)

Parent Governor election

We will be holding a Parent Governor election shortly after half term, please look out for full details of this.

The Mayor of Kingston's Christmas Card Competition 2024

Please see the [link](#) to details about the Mayor's Christmas Card competition for this year, which your children may like to enter. We will have some forms at the office if you would like to collect one, or local libraries will also have them available. This is the [form](#) to complete and either send directly back via email to the Mayor's office or bring into school by **Tuesday 5th November**. GOOD LUCK!

Ed Davey's Christmas Card Competition 2024

Ed Davey, MP for Kingston and Surbiton, has written to us inviting your children to enter his annual Christmas card competition, the competition is open to pupils across the Kingston and Surbiton constituency. The theme is "**Kingston Past, Kingston Future**" (children are free to interpret this in any way they wish), and the closing date is **Monday 18 November by 12pm**. The overall winner will have their design printed as Ed Davey's official 2024 Christmas card and there will be prizes and certificates for the winner and runners up. Please see the following information on how to enter [Ed Davey's Christmas card competition - 2024](#)

DBS check certificates

If you have had a DBS check through the school so that you can volunteer to help with trips, reading, cooking etc in school, and have received your certificate through the post, you must bring the certificate to the school office where the staff will take a copy - seeing your original certificate is part of our checking process. All parent helpers at our school **MUST** have a DBS check carried out by Coombe Hill Infants school *unless* you are already subscribed to the DBS update service for a similar role in another school. Please contact the school office with any questions about DBS checks.

Illness procedures

A reminder of the following important information regarding childhood illnesses.

Diarrhoea and vomiting in children



We ask you to strictly observe the **48 hour rule** regarding vomiting and/or diarrhoea. **It is so important that your child does not attend school for a clear 48 hours after a bout of either of these symptoms.** This is in fairness to other children and to our staff as tummy bugs can spread extremely quickly among young children. Even if your child has a single bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea/loose stools and then appears well they **must** remain at home for the full 48 hour period. We understand that this can be frustrating but we must ask for your co-operation. We are grateful to every parent who keeps their child at home for 48 hours and this is recorded as an authorised illness on your child's attendance record. Thank you.

Raised temperatures

If your child appears unwell in the morning please take their temperature and do not send them into school if their temperature is raised (the NHS define a high temperature as 38c). **If your child has a high temperature do not give them paracetamol (ie Calpol) and then send them into school.** They could have an infectious illness and will feel poorly at school later when the paracetamol wears off. Children should stay at home if they have a raised temperature in the morning and are unwell. They can come back to school when they no longer have a raised temperature and feel well in themselves.

Reporting absence

We ask you to contact the school office to report your child's absence **every day that they are absent by 9.15am** by calling 020 8942 9481 or emailing admin@chi.rbksch.org - thank you for your co-operation.

Parent workshops and webinars

Please do share any worries you may have with us. Thank you to those of you who attended Shazia's parent workshop "**Strategies for Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way**" - your feedback has been really positive. We can also offer you access to an excellent selection of webinars as part of the "Helping Children with" Series [Helping Children Series 24-25.pdf](#). The topics include- worries, resilience, friendships, challenging behaviours, screentime, and sleep - if there is something else you would like help with, please talk to Mrs Jakob. Some parents have asked for support to encourage resilience within their child - so here are a few "[top tips](#)" to help develop your child's emotional resilience.

We are running a Parent Workshop "Our Approach to Behaviour Management - and how you can support at home" on Friday 29th November 2024. Shazia is also planning future parent workshops - please let us know what topics you would like her to cover.

Pupil Premium Grant

When your child was admitted to the school we checked their eligibility for the Pupil Premium Grant. Children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant receive funded benefits throughout the school year from us as a school and from the local authority. Please get in touch with us if your financial circumstances have changed since your child joined the school and their 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/mN1XwRS174XqDdo39>

Previous newsletters

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

<https://www.coombehillinants.com/page/?title=Parent+Newsletter&pid=225>

Community Information

- **The HENRY programme** works in partnership with parents to support a healthy lifestyle for your child. Please find attached their October newsletter which includes details of a new "Understanding Fussy Eating" workshop running online in November and an 8 week programme starting in January. The programmes and workshops are for parents of children aged 5 - 12. [HENRY Parent Newsletter Oct 2024.pdf](#)
- **Richmond Park Discoverers** - Friends of Richmond Park will be holding a whole day of activities on **Friday 1st November** to help children and their families discover all about trees, leaves and bark as well as fungi. Details are on the flyer attached. Come whenever you can within the specified times, the event is free of charge.
- Please find to follow details of the **"Love the Ball" October half term holiday camp** being held here at Coombe Hill. Bookings are now being taken via www.lovetheball.com
- Please find to follow a poster with details of an event with **Dean Beadle** at Latchmere school on **Tuesday 12 November from 6.30 - 8.30pm**, he will be speaking about autism and social/emotional needs.
- We can refer you to the **School Health team** for concerns around problems with eating, or for day/night wetting - please email the school office with your concerns.
- If you would like some advice about how to keep your child safe online, please look at this **useful NSPCC resource** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/>
- Please find attached the programme for October half term at **Kingston Children's Centres** <https://tinyurl.com/KCCs-Autumnhalfterm>. The activities may be of interest to those of you who have children under 5.
- If your child missed having their **flu vaccination** in school, please see the attached poster below for a reminder of the catch up sessions that are being offered locally.

For those of you celebrating, we wish you a very Happy Diwali over half term, and we invite your children to come into school in their celebration clothes on Wednesday 6 November should they wish.

Wishing you all a relaxing and restful half term holiday, we look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on **Tuesday 5 November** for the second half of the Autumn term.

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.



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH

DEAN BEADLE

EVENT OPEN TO ALL

Dean will be speaking about autism and social/emotional needs.


TUESDAY 
12th November 2024

STARTS AT 
6:30PM TO 8:30PM

AT LATCHMERE SCHOOL 
Latchmere Road, Kingston upon
Thames, KT2 5TT

TICKETS ARE 
£10 per person

REGISTER HERE

 @deanbeadlespeaker



**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR AN
EXCITING EVENING AT**

**COOMBE HILL SCHOOL'S
FIREWORKS EVENT!**

**Thursday 7th November -
Gates open 4.30pm -
Fireworks to start at 6pm**

**Tickets available via
ParentPay**

HOT DOGS-POPCORN-CANDY FLOSS-BAR- LIGHT UP TOYS

GET ACTIVE THIS OCTOBER!



LTB
ACADEMY
EST. 2013



When?
28th Oct - 1st Nov
Where?
Coombe Hill Schools

October Camp 2024 is booking now!
Our multi-sport activity camps have something for everyone!
www.lovetheball.com



Discoverers

For families exploring Richmond Park

Hello Discoverers!

Let's Have fun in Richmond Park during October half-term

Friday 1st November 2024

Morning Trees and Afternoon Fungi

We will be meeting at Two Storm Wood (very close to Sheen Gate)

for a day of two halves:

Morning 10am-12noon to learn about trees, leaves and bark

Afternoon 2-4pm: all about fungi!

Trails, discovery, identification, hands-on activities and a good dose of arty fun too.

These are free drop-in events, feel free to attend both!

Free car park inside the Park at Sheen Gate.

See you then!



Help Us Help You



Self Care

Stock your medicine cabinet as many minor issues, like coughs, grazes and sore throats are treatable at home.



Pharmacy

Pharmacists offer medical advice and medicines for minor illnesses like coughs, colds, tummy trouble, rashes and aches and pains, and also give flu jabs.



GP

Within normal surgery hours your GP should be your first contact with health concerns. GPs provide examinations, advice, prescriptions, vaccinations and referrals.



111.nhs.uk

You should visit 111.nhs.uk when you cannot wait to see your doctor. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help urgently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



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A&E

A&E departments in hospitals are open for life threatening emergencies like heart attacks and accidents, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Missed your flu vaccine?

**Live in the boroughs of Kingston or
Richmond? Aged 4-16?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and
protect yourself this winter!

**Call 020 3691 1043 to book an
appointment**

**Tuesday 29 October 09:30 - 12:30
Teddington Health and Social Care Centre,
TW11 0LR**

**Or come down to one of our
walk-in clinics**

**Saturday 16 November 09:30 - 12:30
Southborough School Clinic, KT6 5AS**

**Saturday 14 December 09:30 - 12:30
Sheen Lane Clinic, SW14 8LP**