



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Friday 26 January 2024

Dear Families,

Your children have been showing great resilience this week, supported by Tigger. They have been trying so hard to ignore distractions and also learn from their mistakes. We teach them that ***we like mistakes, they help us to learn.*** On Wednesday we carried out a Maths learning walk with our maths lead and governors. They saw your children really enjoying their learning and trying, even when they found things more challenging.

Next week we will be thinking about being Responsible, supported by Kanga. We will focus on looking after ourselves, each other and our school. Each term we select new prefects from Year 2. We meet weekly and they will be looking out for children who are being responsible and reporting back to me.

CHIPTA

Sophie, our wonderful chair of CHIPTA, has worked tirelessly for almost 3 years leading our Events and Fundraising team. She supported the school as we emerged from the lockdowns and she has done a fantastic job bringing the community together again as well as raising an enormous amount of money. Thank you.

We are delighted to let you know that Rachel Webb (Mum of Toby year 2 and Adam year 1) has agreed to lead our Events and Fundraising committee alongside Sophie until the end of the Spring term. She will then take over as CHIPTA Chair. We are delighted that she has agreed and she has lots of exciting ideas.

We would like to invite you all to our Events and Fundraising committee meeting next week on **Thursday 1 February at 2-3pm** in the staff room. Please come along and find out what we are planning for the rest of the year and how you can become involved. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there as we need lots of volunteers and support.

OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning - www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk

It is so lovely to see the children from CHI and CHJ playing together at lunchtimes, revisiting old haunts in the Infant school and discovering new places to play in the Junior school. Above all, they are making new friends and learning from each other. We are still looking for donations (second hand or new) to help resource our play areas: small world toys - dinosaurs, cars, animals, trains, trucks, natural building blocks etc cable reels, pallets. Thank you for your help!



Our new school PAT dog!

We are very excited to let you know that we have welcomed Bingo, our new PAT (Pets as Therapy) dog, to the school. Bingo is Mrs Judd's dog and he will be coming into school to visit the children and to help some of them gain confidence in reading. He has passed the necessary tests to be able to come into school as an approved, registered PAT dog. Some children find reading a little daunting and it has been proven that when a PAT dog is there they become less self-conscious and more relaxed. We introduced Bingo to the children today and you will be hearing more about his visits, and we are sure that the children will let you know too! For more information about "Read2Dogs" please go to the end of this newsletter.



Parent progress meetings

As you know from our Spring term dates schedule we have the Parent Progress meetings on Tuesday 20 February and Thursday 22 February after school, this is the week we return after half term. We will be sending out fuller details on Monday 29 January, with the **booking sheets being released next Wednesday 31 January**. Please look out for this information. We expect every parent to attend these meetings and we will follow up with you if you do not book an appointment to see your child's teacher.

Clubs dates - important to note

**NO CLUBS ARE SCHEDULED TO RUN THE WEEK STARTING MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY,
ALL CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED FROM SCHOOL AT THE USUAL TIME
(CONNECTIONS WILL RUN AS USUAL)**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO CLUB ARRANGEMENTS

On **Tuesday 20 February**, Year 1 French club will take place in the ICT suite,
and Drumming club in the Studio (in the year 1 playground)

It has been necessary to cancel all clubs on **Thursday 22 February**.
For any child who has a club on this day we will transfer the fee as a refund against
another club in the future (Connections will run as usual)

School Governors

Our Governors play a vital part in the strategic leadership of our school. It is a really interesting role and we are always on the look out for new governors. There is an interesting link below which gives more information. Please contact me if you would like to find out more.

Spread the word about governance

Have you ever tried to explain what you do as a governance volunteer to a friend or colleague, and then realised it's not very well-known or understood?

Governors for Schools hosts regular webinars to introduce prospective governors to the role. These sessions are for anyone interested in finding out more about becoming a school governor, with opportunities for participants to ask questions.

Why not share with your colleagues and friends? The next session is on Thursday 29 February at 12pm.

Please click the link below for more information;

[Introduce others to the world of governance](#)

Each term one of our current governors shares an update on some of the things they have been involved with.

Note from the Governors

During the autumn half term I had the privilege to go on a learning walk to review how we teach early reading and phonics. I joined Mrs Jakob and Miss Matheson (the respective subject leaders) in visiting many classes in the midst of their lessons as well as looking at the resources available. It was so amazing to see how engaged and attentive all the children were - even the very youngest reception classes - and how thorough the regular informal assessments and observations to ensure swift interventions were put in place where needed.

The school has made a significant investment over the last couple of years in a comprehensive reading and phonics scheme (Little Wandle) as well as staff training to ensure teaching is consistent and there is a clear progression for every child to receive the stretch and variety they need. And for anyone with a love for super organised, colour coded bookshelves: the reading wall is a sight to behold! We're very lucky to have such a dedicated and passionate team working so hard to make learning to read, write and spell an enjoyable experience for the children.

In other news, the Governors heard an update on plans for the building and repair works that will start in the Infants school on February 5th. We were impressed with the thought and care that's going in to try and minimise disruption for the children and staff whilst also ensuring everyone stays safe and the work is sequenced as efficiently as possible. Learnings are being taken from the experience of the Junior school's works that is happening this term too. A big thank you to the site team and other members of staff who have been and will need to work out of hours to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

Chiara Marcelline, Associate Member to the governing body

CHIPTA Celebrating Diversity walk in Richmond Park

On **Tuesday 30 January**, everyone is invited (including younger children and dogs!) for a walk in Richmond park, meeting at the school at 9am or at Ladderstile gate at 9.30am.

Parent drop in morning

Myself and Mrs Jakob will be available for a drop in session over tea/coffee in the Hall on **Friday 9 February** from 9am for you to ask us any questions about the school in general and about supporting your children (as always, if you need a longer conversation please make an appointment).

Spark! Book awards



[The Spark!Book Awards shortlist](#) has been announced!

Watch the video and listen carefully to the clues - see if you can guess which four books have made it to the shortlist. These are the books that the children will be reading and re-reading - they will then be voting for their favourite book in June

Lunch menu

It has been pointed out to us that there are two beef meals in Week 1 (next week) on Tuesday and Thursday - this will be changed when the menu is changed at the end of term. However, in the meantime, we will have a vegetarian samosa available on Tuesday as well as a jacket potato.

Antibiotics in school

Please note that we do not give antibiotic medicines to children in school unless they are prescribed **more than** three times per day, if a child attends Connections (which then delays the space between doses), or if a doctor has given a very specific interval between doses. If your child has been prescribed antibiotics and they are well enough to come to school they should be given them in the morning before school, when you collect them in the afternoon and at bedtime. If you have any questions around this please let us know.

Support with challenging behaviour/anxiety with Shazia Yakoob Ajmal, our Educational Wellbeing Practitioner (Mental Health support team)

We are so fortunate to have Shazia working with us in school. She runs Wellbeing workshops for the children and Workshops for parents with the agenda guided by what you would like us to run. We

will be running a 2 part workshop on Managing behaviour in a positive way in April - more information to follow shortly.

Shazia also works with parents to empower them to use strategies with the child to overcome difficulties with anxiety or challenging behaviour.

Feedback from parents who have worked with Shazia:-

“great, real-life examples and suggestions that were easy to put into practice”

“Shazia was empathetic and we felt we were listened to”

“We have noticed an improvement in our child’s behaviour since completing the programme”

“My own patience has improved and this has had a direct impact on my child’s behaviour”

If you would like more information, please speak to Mrs Jakob or Mrs Heard.

Family Concert at the Rose Theatre - Sunday 24th March

We have been asked to share the following information from the Rose Theatre with our families:

“Oompah Brass will entertain their audience with high-octane renditions of well-known rock and pop favourites, as well as introducing the intricacies of each instrument to the children, each member of the group showing off their instrument and its characteristics. The perfect way to start the day!

Oompah Brass are one of the busiest brass quintets in the UK, performing over 100 shows a year, in everything from school classes to Oktoberfest audiences of over 6000 people. They are the original exponents of 'Oompop', the clever re-working of rock and pop classics onto brass instruments and continue to lead the way. Oompah Brass are very keen and active educators, and run many school workshops every year, introducing the next generation to the joys of making music on brass. Tickets are going fast, so book now at the Rose Theatre website: [Oompah Brass Spectacular - A KMS Family Concert | Rose Theatre, Kingston, London](https://www.rosetheatre.org.uk/2024/03/24th-march-2024-adults-10-concessions-6/) 24th March 2024 - Adults £10, Concessions £6.”

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>.

Spring term - Important dates

A reminder of the events we have planned for the Spring term, please read and note these, further dates may be added throughout the term and we will let you know.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z8ZlgSO-CXv-p_ODNoPb2XyZyTUpMcDI/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109721753956510019087&rtpof=true&sd=true

Community and other information

We hope you find the following information useful:

- “Love the Ball” half term holiday camp will be held here at Coombe Hill. These holiday sports camps are always very popular and are run by Coach Jon and his team who your children know from their PE lessons and clubs in school <https://lovetheball.com/courses/holidaycamps.html>
- Royal Academy “Young Artists’ Summer show” - registration is now open until 27 March 2024. Some of you and your children may be interested in entering the Royal Academy’s summer show. In recent years two children from the school have had their work displayed in the exhibition which was a wonderful achievement. You can enter via <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk>, our school is registered.
- The Kingston Children’s Centres programme for this Spring term can be found via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/Kingston-CCs-Spring-2024>. Families with children between 0-5 years may be interested.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry

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.



PETS AS THERAPY Our pets and people enriching lives, one visit at a time.

Read2Dogs

Discover how PAT Dogs inspire young people to read

Read2Dogs

- Helps improve literacy skills and wellbeing
- Develops confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading
- Dogs are non-judgemental and great listeners
- Encourages positive social behaviours and enhances self-esteem

Thousands of people of all ages benefit every week from visits provided by our PAT Teams, volunteers who spend time at residential homes, hospitals, hospices, schools, day care centres and prisons.

For more information or help:

- petsastherapy.org
- reception@petsastherapy.org
- 01865 671440

[petsastherapyUK](#)
[petsastherapy](#)
[petsastherapy_uk](#)

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Please scan to donate

Registered Charity in England and Wales: 112794, Scotland: SC038910. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England: 3311186.

How the **Read2Dogs** scheme works

The Read2Dogs scheme provided by Pets As Therapy (PAT) helps to improve literacy skills and wellbeing in young people by developing their confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading. Some students feel incredibly nervous and stressed when asked to read aloud, regardless of whether they're in a classroom or having a one-to-one session with a teacher.

When a PAT Dog visits a school, their presence can boost a young person's motivation and morale. Dogs are non-judgemental and great listeners - they don't interrupt or correct - so they aid confidence and concentration levels. PAT Dogs are also known to encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem and inspire young people to relax and have fun.

"Children have benefited greatly from developing their social skills and they've also gained confidence with their reading."

Greenvale Primary School

The teacher remains in charge of the **Read2Dogs** session at all times. Participants, chosen by the teacher, are usually young people who have difficulty with reading or struggle with their attention span. The teacher chooses and provides appropriate books. We recommend that each young person spends no more than 15 minutes with a PAT Dog.

Animal-assisted therapy can be used by teachers, SENCo, psychologists and speech and language therapists to benefit a young person's physical, emotional and psychosocial health, cognitive function and communication skills.

Read2Dogs helps to improve confidence in literacy skills by encouraging young people to read and communicate in a relaxed and non-judgemental environment.





HOLIDAY CAMPS



LTB
ACADEMY
EST. 2013

Join us
12th - 16th
February
2024



Our holiday camps keep everyone happy!
Book February Half Term Camp now! At Coombe Hill Schools

www.lovetheball.com

CHIPTA PRESENTS

COOMBE HILL
SCHOOLS'

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Everyone is welcome to come and Celebrate Diversity within the school at our monthly coffee mornings and walks through Richmond park. Come for an informal chat where ideas can be swapped, friends made and your thoughts listened to!

TUESDAY

23

JANUARY

NEXT DIVERSITY COFFEE MORNING

Come and meet us in the Infants' staff room at 9am for an informal chat, tea, coffee and snacks! You will need to sign in through the Infant's school reception office.

TUESDAY

30

JANUARY

NEXT DIVERSITY WALK

After morning drop off we meet outside the school (9am) and go for a walk through Richmond park. You can also meet us at 9.30 at Ladderstile gate, Richmond park.

Dogs and small children welcome!

All are invited to come and make new friends, learn, discuss important topics, attend themed coffee mornings and help fundraise for the school.