



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Friday 20 October 2023

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of this first half term we reflect on how busy and productive it has been. We have enjoyed theatre workshops, parent meetings, sports visits, forest school, International evening, harvest, wellbeing workshops, clubs, special assemblies and so much more. This alongside our wonderfully rich and broad curriculum. Your children have settled well and are getting used to the school routines, particularly our new children in Reception, it has been wonderful to get to know so many new families. On top of all of that we had a very successful Ofsted inspection. We look forward to the next half term which brings so many lovely enrichment opportunities for children and families.

Thank you for taking the time to find out about how your children are settling and learning this week in the progress meetings. These meetings are so important and it is vital that we work together. If you have not had this meeting, staff will be contacting you early next half term. Thank you also to those of you who have given their time so generously to help us in school, it is always appreciated.

We would like to invite parents in for our curriculum workshops after the break and the dates for these are in the important dates schedule further on in this newsletter.

Please continue to support our approach to behaviour. Please remind your children the importance of taking turns and good listening. Playing simple board games is a great way to learn about turn taking. We will continue this focus next half term.

Sports for Schools event



Nerys Pearce visited the school on Wednesday and the children all had a brilliant time with her completing the fitness circuit. Her story is one of resilience and determination and we hope the children went away from the event exhausted and also inspired. Our total to date is over £1,500 which is split with the scheme. Once all the sponsorship money is in we will be issued with a voucher to spend on sports equipment for the school. You can still sponsor your child by visiting the following link: <https://portal.sportsforschools.org/events/landing>. As a thank you, pupils will receive wristbands for meeting these fundraising milestones (£5 or more - a blue wristband, £15 or more - a blue and red wristband with Nerys' signature, £30 or more: all of the above, plus a signed Nerys Pearce poster). Nerys held an assembly afterwards and as part of this some of the children asked her questions. These are some of the lovely questions the children asked:

- *When did you get your wheelchair?* "I had it in 2009 after I came out of hospital"
- *What is your second favourite sport?* "Swimming"
- *What is your favourite sport?* "Skiing like a ninja"
- *Was it scary going downhill, skiing?* "Yes but we push ourselves and we slowly move forward"
- *Why are there big and little wheels on your wheelchair?* "The big wheels are so I can push myself around and the small wheels so I can spin around"

A huge thank you to all our children and families who have raised an incredible amount of money for our school.

News from the Governors

"We would like to congratulate Mrs Berry and the whole CHI staff on a wonderful Ofsted result. A huge thank you to everyone for putting in such an amazing effort in the run up to and during the inspection, including the governors who were also grilled by the inspector. Next half-term some of our Governors will be visiting the school to monitor Early Reading & Phonics and Behaviour, Mental Health & Wellbeing, as part of our continuous visits programme. We always love to see the children and teachers in action and enjoy reporting back to the full board.

The governing board was thrilled to welcome two new Associate Governors at the start of term. Chiara Marcelline and Mark Bennett, both CHI parents, will be joining the team and getting involved in CHI life. If you are interested in becoming a governor, please speak to Mrs Berry or get in touch with me via the school office”.

Tim Sandford
Chair of Governors

RAAC update

As you are aware at the beginning of the school year there were concerns that many schools had Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) within the structure of their schools. This concrete has a short life span and can cause structural damage after several years. All schools were surveyed. Our survey was carried out in September and I am pleased to inform you that RAAC was not found within our building and no further action is needed.

Adventure playground

We hope that you have enjoyed using the adventure playground after school. The playground will be closed after half term due to the darker evenings. We will let you know when we are able to re-open the playground in the Spring term.

Attendance and punctuality

We continue to monitor attendance and punctuality weekly, and have half termly meetings with our Education Welfare Officer from the local authority where we discuss any situations of concern. We would like to remind you of two procedures from our Attendance and Absence policy;

- we cannot authorise absences related to holidays taken during term time. If you choose to do this you must inform the school by addressing an email to me explaining your reasons at least two weeks prior to the proposed date of absence;
- if your child is absent for reported illness for 3 consecutive days either side of a school holiday (October half term, Christmas holidays, February half term, Easter holidays, May half term or the Summer holidays), medical evidence will be required for the absence to be authorised.

It is your responsibility to provide this information to our school office for this to be recorded on the register. Medical evidence can be a letter/certificate from a GP stating a pupil is not fit to attend school, GP medical appointment card/email/text confirmation, photograph of prescribed medication, dated and with the pupil's full name.

Important dates for the second half of the Autumn term

Please find attached a link to the key dates for the remainder of the Autumn term. We may add further dates and these will be communicated with you.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q11DJN91r6rggTK01q382lxW4KCW408/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109721753956510019087&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Coombe Hill Fireworks - tickets selling fast

Tickets for our annual fireworks display are selling well, you can buy these via <https://ticketstripe.com/events/1037088>. There is a limit on numbers at the event for safety reasons so please book early so as not to miss out, this is a wonderful family event shared between the Infants and Junior schools. Tickets cost £6 each (under 3s are free but please email chiptachair@gmail.com to inform us that you have under 3s). There will be food by Noura, a bar, light up toys and candy floss. You can arrive from 4.30pm and the display is at 6pm. *We still need many volunteers to help run this event and to make it a success, please email chiptachair@gmail.com if you can help in any way, all volunteers will receive free entry.*



Warm and Colourful clothes day - Wednesday 1 November

To coincide with our Fireworks event, the children are invited to come to school wearing warm and colourful clothes for the day on Wednesday 1 November.

International projects

As part of our International week we would love to find out more about our families. We would like as many children as possible to make a poster/project on their own family and the country their family comes from. We will be displaying the posters / projects around the school. Thank you to everyone who has already sent projects in.

Christmas Fair - promotional boards

The wonderful PTAs across both schools are busy planning our Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December. Robert Holmes is our school's main sponsor and has an ongoing generous sponsorship deal with the PTA. As part of this sponsorship, we need at least 20 promotion boards advertising the schools' Christmas Fair and Robert Holmes' sponsorship of it. If anyone is happy to have a Robert Holmes Board outside their house for about 2 weeks before the fair, please complete this form here: <https://forms.gle/jDfLpe6nYQaL3HGdA>. If you are unable to access the form, you can email us at chjptachair@gmail.com and provide your address and any specific instructions (eg attach to gatepost etc).

Christmas Fair - request for donations

During the half term holiday, in preparation for the Christmas fair, the fair organisers have asked if you could please have a search at home for good condition toys/books/games that are no longer needed, as well as items which could be used as gifts for the secret room (presents you would be happy to receive from your children!), and clean jam jars! We will then let you know when we are ready to collect them in school. Thank you for your support.

Reception - School Health term questionnaire

The School Health team have asked us to remind our Reception parents and carers to respond to the questionnaire that was sent out earlier this week. Every response helps to further identify the health needs of the children in the Borough. You can access the survey by clicking [here](#). The survey has been extended until **10th November 2023** and takes approximately six minutes to complete.

Flu immunisations - Wednesday 29 November

Please remember to respond to the information we have sent on the flu nasal vaccines that will take place in school on Wednesday 29 November, administered by the local school healthcare team. All parents were sent information by email on Monday 9 October. Your child is being offered the live nasal flu spray or the injectable porcine free flu vaccine. You must give your consent for your child to receive the vaccine and there is a link to the consent form in the information that has been sent that must be completed if you want your child to receive the vaccine in school.

The form must be completed by Monday 27 November - the immunisation team cannot accept any late requests. Please also complete the form even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccination or if they have received it elsewhere. If you have any queries please contact the School Immunisation team directly on HRCH.ImmunisationTeamKingstonMailbox@nhs.net or 020 3691 1027 / 1043.

Emotional Regulation workshops

Thank you to those of you who have signed up for these workshops, there is still time to register. Shakira Cutting, a dance movement psychotherapist and CAMHS practitioner will be delivering a parent workshop at the school on **Friday 3 November from 9 - 10am** and online on **Thursday 9 November from 6 - 7pm**, if you are interested in attending, there are full details to follow at the end of this newsletter.

Care for the family - 6 week parenting course - starting Thursday 9 November

Achieving for Children are running a 6 week parenting course at Old Malden children's centre, KT3 5NB. The course will run on Thursday mornings between 10 - 12 noon and is most suitable for parents with children up to the age of 5. Topics covered include: Expectations and realities of parenting, Children's needs, Play and listening, Parenting styles, Discipline and safety and Building strong families. For more information please see the poster at the end of this newsletter, the link to register is here

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJKPDmLaaWjI5tgvmOlmPZPI6RibCtHnpF0synUPGdQr_ruhw/viewform

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. Families entitled to this grant are eligible for free school trips, a termly after school club and other funded benefits including supermarket vouchers for the school holidays to cover the cost of the lunchtime meals that your child would normally receive in school. Please complete the attached link and your status will be re-assessed <https://forms.gle/yrUZKUVsunMns7yc9>. You can complete this form at any time if you would like us to re-check your status and we will let you know if you qualify for the grant. We are an agency for Foodbank Vouchers and we are able to issue these directly to you. Please email the School Office - admin@chi.rbksch.org - if you feel in need of this support (email will be checked intermittently), all requests will be treated in the strictest confidence.

"Helping Children with..." webinars

The Mental Health support team at Achieving for Children have arranged a series of webinars that they are offering to parents and carers of primary school children this academic year, covering resilience, friendships and challenging behaviours. Please see the links below. These webinars are always extremely popular and early booking is advised

Helping Children with... Resilience

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sCHvAORkAH4i0cQ2kYNSeErfFqp0IxEIMf6ndS3aQLA/edit>

Helping Children with... Friendships

[15th & 17th November MHST Workshop: Helping Children with friendships Sign up form](#)

Helping Children with... challenging behaviour

[6th & 8th December MHST Workshop: Helping Children with challenging behaviour Sign up Form](#)

Mayor's Christmas card competition

We hope that some of your children will enjoy taking part in the competition to design the Mayor's official Christmas card over half term, details were sent out earlier today. You can submit entries electronically to the Mayor's office, or we will be collecting entries on Tuesday 31 October (the final submission date) at the school office. Good luck!

Cycle instructors for Bikeability courses needed

The Borough's Sustainable Transport Team is still looking for new cycle Instructors to meet the increasing demand of Bikeability courses in 2024. As the majority of our courses are run during school time, this job can be well suited to parents. For more information please see the following link [Job section of the Kingston and Sutton Websites](#).

Community and other information

We hope you find some of the following information useful:

- For information of family activities over half term a little further afield, please see the following link [Seasonal events - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Wishing all of our families a happy and restful half term holiday, term re-starts at 8.40am on Tuesday 31 October.

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.



**Emotional Regulation - Early Years & KS1
Parent
Workshop
Mental Health Support Team**

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is an **early intervention** service. We provide children, young people, families/carers and staff in school settings to support emotional health and wellbeing, across Kingston and Richmond. The Mental Health Support Team is delivered by Achieving for Children as part of our Emotional Health Service.



Shakira Cutting, who is a Dance Movement Psychotherapist and CAMHS Practitioner, part of the Mental Health Team and assigned to Coombe Hill Infant, will be delivering a:

Emotional Regulation Early Years and KS1 Parent Workshop
at the school on
Friday 3rd November, from 9:00-10:00am
and online:

Thursday 9th November, from 6:00-7:00pm

We are offering the same workshop in-person and online. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to admin@chi.rbksch.org with your full name and the date that you would like to attend.

The aim of this workshop is:

To help you help your child in understanding emotions in themselves and how to regulate them. Children are continuing to learn and develop how to do this themselves, they need their parents/carers to teach and support them.

- This workshop will provide you with background information about emotional regulation
- Space to think about any behaviour that you may witness from your child/children, and what this might mean for them
- Practical ideas and tools to support with emotional regulation
- There will also be time to ask questions at the end

If you would like further information about this, or any other work offered by the Mental Health Support Team, please speak to the designated Mental Health Lead for your child's school, Mrs Jakob. Alternatively, you can contact Shakira on shakira.cutting@achievingforchildren.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



THE EARLY YEARS

Sessions for anyone parenting children under 5

Dates

Thursday 9 November - 14 December

10.00 - 12.00

Venue

Old Malden Children's Centre,
Lawrence Avenue,
New Malden
KT3 5NB

To express your interest:

<https://forms.gle/APC922uF19f6Qj4d9>

For more information

Contact Siobhan Meacher on

07784 006661 / 020 8339 9848 or email

siobhan.meacher@achievingforchildren.org.uk



Common-sense, jargon-free information
and ideas to help you to engage with your
children and boost your relationship

