



# COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

*Learn together, grow together*

Friday 20 December 2024

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, we thank you for your continued support. The Coombe Hill Community is very special and we feel fortunate to work alongside you all. On behalf of all staff, we would like to thank you for the lovely cards, gifts, and kind messages.

Thank you all for coming along to watch the Christmas Concerts. We hope you enjoyed them. Your children worked so hard, and we were very proud of them. Thank you for respecting our request not to film or take photographs. Many families have not given permission for images of their children to be taken. We are also very clear that phones shouldn't be visible at all within our school, so we will ask you to put phones away if we see this. The secure youtube links of the concert recordings will be circulated to you this afternoon. Many thanks to Mr Collyer for preparing them.

Thank you also for donating over £400 to support MIND Kingston. This is a charity that is very close to our hearts and has supported people within our community.

## **Choir performances**

We were delighted to welcome our Coombe Hill Parent Choir to perform for our children on Tuesday, they were wonderful. They also performed so beautifully at the Christmas Fair. I know that the choir are always looking for new people to join so please get in touch if you may be interested. The choir will be singing in Kingston market place on Saturday from 11.30am -12pm if you fancy some festive cheer while you are finishing your Christmas shopping.

On Thursday our own school choir performed for the residents at Coombe Hill Manor Care Home. They sang beautifully and the residents were delighted. The children give up a lunchtime each week to practice and we are very proud of them. The children also delivered some handmade Christmas cards for the care home residents, it was a joyful occasion for everyone involved. They will continue to work on new songs next term and hopefully go on to perform at the Rose Theatre in the Spring.



### Christmas hat and jumper parade

This morning we enjoyed our annual Christmas hat and jumper parade as well as classroom Christmas parties.....great fun was had by all!



### Christmas dinner

We are grateful to Chef Maxine and her team for preparing a delicious Christmas dinner for all 270 children and our staff today. Enjoying a Christmas dinner together was a lovely way to finish the term.



### **Hanukkah assembly**

Thank you to one of our wonderful Reception parents, Viktoria, who led a Hanukkah assembly for the Reception children on Tuesday. The children enjoyed discovering why families celebrate Hanukkah and they saw the candles of the Menorah being lit. We are so grateful to parents who give their time to share their religious traditions with our children. If you feel this is something you would be interested in doing, please let us know.



### Changes to school lunch ordering

As you are all now fully aware, from **Monday 6th January 2025**, all school lunches must be ordered at least 3 days in advance via your child's ParentPay account. If you do not order a lunch for your child in this timeframe you will need to provide a packed lunch for them, we cannot provide a hot meal for any child that has not ordered one. Your ParentPay account needs to be active for you to order lunches, please ensure that your account is activated, everyone has received details of this. Full booking instructions were sent yesterday to all families, please read the information carefully, the links to the information are given again below for easy reference.

#### Letter explaining the new lunch ordering system

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TTwcy14Ag2JqC5yaAEyD3BUCBW6Wa3pp9ndnw\\_u9W6w/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TTwcy14Ag2JqC5yaAEyD3BUCBW6Wa3pp9ndnw_u9W6w/edit?usp=sharing)

#### Instructions on how to order school lunches on Parentpay

<https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4416633012625-How-to-Book-a-Meal#how-to-book-a-meal-0-0>

#### Spring term menu (bookable on Parentpay)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ii4mxxkdv60IbTaBaU8gqXmIKDOIbEemo/view?usp=sharing>

**Changing choices** - A few parents have asked us if they are able to change their child's choices after they have ordered. The answer is yes, you can amend your order up to the 3 day cut off before the date of your child's lunch.

**Allergen- free meals** - The allergen-free meal options **are only for children with a diagnosed allergy and we have been informed of this.**

Please **DO NOT** choose this meal if your child does not have a diagnosed food allergy.

Some parents have already chosen this option, so please can you amend it in time for January -Thank you.

### Spring term clubs

Please note that the after school clubs begin from the week starting Monday 13 January (week 2 of term), there are no clubs running the first week of term. All club registers are now finalised and there are no further booking opportunities for the Spring term. Connections starts as usual on Monday 6 January before and after school.

### Primary school admissions for September 2025 - children moving to Year 3 and starting Reception

Another reminder to our Year 2 parents and to those families who have children due to start Reception in September 2025 that **you must apply for your child's school place by Wednesday 15 January 2025**. Year 2 parents must apply for your child's year 3 place at Coombe Hill Junior School, even though we are partner schools. We strongly advise that even if, at this stage, you are looking at alternative options to Coombe Hill Junior school, you still apply in order to secure your child a place (this can be declined at a later stage), Families with younger siblings due to start Reception in September must also apply for their child's place by this date, making sure that you state that you already have a sibling in our school (or the Junior school). Full details of the admissions process and important dates are contained in the Primary School Admissions brochure here:

[Kingston Primary Schools Admissions Brochure 2025](#)

If you have any questions about the admissions process please speak to Mrs Reid in the school office.

### Lunchtime Supervisors

We are looking for people to work on our OPAL lunchtime team from January. Please chat with us if you are interested. We need playworkers between 12.00 - 1.00pm each day. The role involves supporting children to collect their food and eat, preparing and cleaning up the dining room, and supporting their play outside in our lovely grounds. Training will be given.

### Spark! Book Awards - Looking for book suggestions?



We are taking part in the [Spark! Book Awards](#) again this year. You are now able to order copies of the longlisted books - please refer to the information sent earlier this week. [Take a look at the books on this link.](#) If you would like to buy any of the books at a discounted price, please email [ldowds2@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:ldowds2@chi.rbksch.org) and we will place an order on your behalf. You will be charged via your ParentPay account and the deadline for orders is 4pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025. Mrs Jakob is part of the shortlisting panel and all of the children will be reading our copies of the 12 books in school over the next weeks to help her make up her mind about the 4 best books to go into the shortlist.

### Attendance

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 93.72% and the overall attendance for the term is 96.4%. Butterfly class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 96% attendance, well done to Butterfly class! Thank you to every family who has worked with us this term to ensure that their child has arrived in their classroom at 8.40am, when learning begins. High attendance and punctuality is a key factor in greater levels of attainment and educational outcomes. We have written to families where we have current concerns about low attendance and/or frequent lateness. We continue to record all instances of lateness and the reasons given, this forms part of your child's attendance record. Please talk to Mrs Jakob or myself if you need support with attendance or punctuality - we are here to support you.

### Attendance Matters



### Lost property

We have again sorted through a vast amount of unnamed lost property that has mounted up over the term. With the winter weather upon us we have gathered a lot of un-named hats, single gloves and scarves which we have no way of returning to their owners. To save time and money please take the opportunity over the holiday to name every item that your child brings to school, with 270 children in our school it is not possible for us to return unnamed items to their owners. Thank you.




### 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>

### NHS Pharmacy First Service

The NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can go into their local participating pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service. Support for conditions such as earache, impetigo, infected insect bites & stings, sore throats, sinusitis can be accessed under the service free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply). A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst) as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

### Community Information

- Achieving for Children are running an **online toilet-training workshop** on Monday 13 January from 1.30 - 2.30pm, here is the link to sign up  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLXoxe0c-ifqDYT2Lcd61Om-Y-oQWfBMRy7rQRjybLJcGCWw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>
- Kingston Women's Hub have organised a weekly **Come & Cook session** on Mondays from 3.30 to 5.30pm. This is for families living in temporary accommodation with limited or no access to cooking facilities.
- Please find attached a link to the Kingston Children's centre Spring programme  
<https://tinyurl.com/Spring-1-2025-Kingston-CCs>
- **Maths for parents - Kingston adult education**  
Kingston Adult Education is running a FREE 6-week course designed to help you better support your children with the Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 maths topics they learn in primary school. Their next course starts on Monday 6 January and will take place at the Hook Centre, Hook Road, Chessington KT9 1EJ from 7 pm to 9 pm. If you are interested in registering for this course, please complete their enrolment form: [bit.ly/multiply-kae](https://bit.ly/multiply-kae). This is one of a number of free maths courses offered by Kingston Adult Education, which is part of Kingston Council. For full details about these and their wider course offering, take a look at their latest prospectus [bit.ly/KAE-2425prospectus](https://bit.ly/KAE-2425prospectus). For further information, please contact Kingston Adult Education directly on 020 8547 6700 or at [adult.education@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:adult.education@kingston.gov.uk)
- Please find attached the link 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.
- **Support and helplines over the Christmas break**

Childline - Open 24/7 for under-19s, call 0800 1111 or chat online

Mind - Their four helplines are open during the daytime Mon-Fri (except 25-26 Dec and 1 Jan)

Samaritans - Open 24/7 for all ages, call 116 123

Shout - Text SHOUT to 85258 for support over text message, open 24/7 for all ages

### **Previous newsletters**

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

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

Wishing you all a very happy and restful Christmas holiday. We look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on Monday, 6th January at 8.40 am.

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.*



kwhub@voh.org.uk



**FREE!**



# COME & COOK

## FOR YOUR FAMILY

### WHAT IS COME & COOK?

Come & Cook is a weekly space for women & families living in temporary accommodation with no or limited access to cooking facilities to come and cook a meal in our kitchen space.

We also share ideas and recipes that can be prepared with limited cooking facilities and eaten cool.

Free childcare for kids under 11 is provided by speaking to the facilitators.

**For any women & families living in temporary accommodation with no/limited access to cooking facilities.**



Starting 6th January 2025



Mondays, 3:30pm-5:30pm (Weekly)



Second Floor, KingsGate Church,  
161a Clarence Street, KT1 1QT

### What is included?

- ✓ Access to healthy ingredients (and non-food items such as hygiene products may also be available)
- ✓ Use of the kitchen and cooking facilities to prepare a meal and/or dishes
- ✓ Sharing of cooking ideas, healthy recipes and foods requiring little preparation or cooking.
- ✓ Two friendly facilitators, Karen and Sylvia.

By Sign Up through the QR code or this link:  
[www.tinyurl.com/KWHubcmtycooking](http://www.tinyurl.com/KWHubcmtycooking)

