



# COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

*Learn together, grow together*

Friday 7 March 2025

Dear Families,

What a wonderfully busy week we have had. Today we enjoyed the Tiger Class Assembly. They based the whole assembly around Kindness. The children spoke confidently about the importance of being kind. They also read a poem they had created together and sang songs about kindness. Our learning behaviour this week has been Respectful which fits nicely with this.

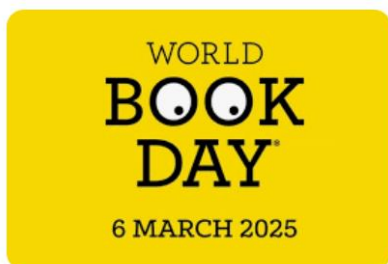
We have had several visitors into school this week and they have commented on how well mannered the children they met were. Thank you for your support with this at home. Next week we will focus on being Resilient like Tigger who teaches us to enjoy learning, ignore distractions and learn from mistakes.

## **How parents can help**

Encourage children to ...

- keep on going, even if a task is difficult
- talk about how you feel when you are taking on a challenge
- praise your children when they persevere
- help them find interests and activities that are absorbing
- talk to them about what helps them to concentrate

## **World Book Day celebrations**



We have really celebrated books this week! We decided to wear pyjamas or our comfiest clothes this year rather than dressing up and the children were so excited and ready to talk about the picture books they brought into school. On Monday, we had a book assembly and talked about our plans to make every classroom door look like a book cover. Throughout the week, the children voted for the favourite book in the class and then set to work to turn their classroom door into a book cover. They have enjoyed walking around the school to admire the other classes' doors. On World Book Day, every child in the school visited the Coombe Hill Infant School Book Shop to choose a free book to take home. A big thank you to [The Alligator's Mouth book shop in Richmond](#) for supplying us with the books. Please take a moment to look at the photos in the slides below.

[World Book Day at Coombe Hill Infants 2025.pdf](#)

## **Decorated classroom doors for World Book Day!**

As you can see, the classroom doors all looked fantastic and you can enjoy each class's door below.



Otter class



Hedgehog class



Squirrel class



Tiger class



Ladybird class



Butterfly class



Bee class



Lion class



Leopard class

### Visit from the Coombe Hill Manor care home

We were delighted to welcome our friends from Coombe Hill Manor care home on World Book Day to share books with some of our Reception and Year 1 children. The residents read books to the children

and one gentleman even brought his own childhood book to show the children, which was nearly 90 years old! It was a special morning for everyone and we look forward to seeing them again soon.



### **Ramadan Assembly**

Thank you to the parents of Hadi and Insiyah in Otter class for leading a wonderful assembly for Year 1 all about Ramadan. They shared with us the importance of fasting, being kind to others and showing gratitude each day.



### **Year 1 mystery readers**

In Year 1 we love our story times! This week we have had some mystery readers visit us at the end of each day to read a story to the class. Thank you to all the parents who popped in, the children loved sharing this time with you.



### **Year 2 virtual tour of the National Gallery**

Last week our Year 2 children enjoyed a virtual, guided tour of the National Gallery, focusing on three paintings.

- 'Self Portrait in a Straw Hat' by Elizabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun
- 'Surprised' by Henri Rousseau
- 'Sunflowers' by Vincent van Gogh

In addition, we have been reading the 'Katie' books by James Mayhew. Katie visits the gallery with her Grandma and has adventures inside the paintings.

### Neal Zetter, award-winning poet/author visit

Next **Thursday 13th March**, Neal Zetter, the poet is visiting us again and there will be an opportunity to buy his books. Neal will be book signing after school from 3pm outside the Library on the day of his visit. The books are £9 each.

#### You can order signed copies of the books in two ways:

- You can pay with cash or by card on the day;  
OR
- Bring payment to the school office in a named envelope in advance of Neal's visit – exact change please, write your child's name on the envelope and state which book(s) you would like to buy, you can then collect your book(s) on the day or have them put in your child's blue bag. Deadline Tuesday 11th March midday.



**All books are for reading ages 6-12 years, but younger children will enjoy many of the poems if they are read to them.**

- **£9: (NEW! NEW! NEW!) The Shape of Rainbows.** My first mixed-themed poetry book since 2016 has something for everyone: *Peanut Butter Nutter*, *Police Car*, *Two Mums*, *Living Next Door to a Viking*, *Bad Smells* and *The Day I Ate My School* are just a few of the titles you'll find inside it.
- **£9: The Universal Zoo (The Conservation Place at the Far End of Space).** Fifty funny and a few sad poems – wonderfully and comically illustrated - about a menagerie of mysterious endangered alien creatures all cared for by the robotic Keeper in this special place, a long way from Earth.
- **£9: When the Bell Goes (A Rapping, Rhyming Trip through Childhood).** Jam-crammed with fifty comical poems, plus jokes and silly facts, about Neal's (and your) journey through childhood, school days and growing up.

### Celebrating your child's birthday at school

Parents sometimes ask for book suggestions either for their own children or to give to the class as a birthday gift. This is a lovely way to share your child's birthday with the class and we are always grateful to parents who do this. Please see the following link on our website for suggestions [Birthday Books](#). Thank you!

### Vomiting and Diarrhoea

We remind all parents again that you **MUST** 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, 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 or diarrhoea and then appears well they MUST remain at home for the full 48-hour period.** We understand that this can be frustrating but please ensure that you do this. Cases of Norovirus are currently high nationally

and we ask for your co-operation in protecting our community, for more information please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>. Thank you.

### **Coombe Connections club**

#### **New bookings**

If you would like to request a NEW booking for our Breakfast and After School provision, Coombe Connections Club, for the first half of the summer term 2025, our Booking Request Form will be available on the school Connections Club webpage from 10/03/25. Current availability is shown below and the closing date for new applications is 16/03/25. *A form is required ONLY FOR NEW BOOKINGS.*

#### **Existing Bookings**

If you have a Connections booking currently, it will be continued into the first half of the summer term and a Booking Request Form is NOT required. If you wish to request a change to your booking you must email Connections by 16/03/25.

We work on a 'first come, first served' basis and availability is prioritised to those with existing bookings. Please see current availability shown below.

#### **Infants' School**

Breakfast Club availability		After School Club availability	
Monday	Plenty	Monday	Little
Tuesday	None	Tuesday	None
Wednesday	None	Wednesday	None
Thursday	Little	Thursday	None
Friday	Plenty	Friday	Plenty

#### **Junior School**

Breakfast Club availability		After School Club availability	
Monday	Plenty	Monday	None
Tuesday	Plenty	Tuesday	None
Wednesday	Plenty	Wednesday	None
Thursday	Plenty	Thursday	None
Friday	Plenty	Friday	Plenty

Connections email: [connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org)

Link to the Connections webpage:- [Coombe Connections club](#)

#### **Forest school for Bee class**

Bee class had a wonderful time at Forest school this week. They played *Stick Man* and *We're going on a Bear hunt* in the stream, we used tools to create our own spring birds, we found mini-beasts, played on the tree swings and enjoyed getting muddy! We were lucky enough to enjoy the sunshine and a fire with popcorn. Thank you again to our parent helpers who supported our learning by coming along.



### **Menu Tasting**

Next **Friday 14th March at 2.30pm** we will have a menu tasting session and a chance to meet our chef jointly with the Junior school in their school hall. Please come along if you can as this is a great opportunity for Accent, our catering company to showcase the delicious food we have on offer for your children and also a chance to ask any questions of the team. Please go straight to the Junior school entrance on arrival.

### **OPAL donations**

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated to improve the play zones for the children. We are looking for donations of children's wheelbarrows, plastic gardening tools for our Mud Kitchen area, plastic/wooden plates, cups, spoons and cutlery for our NEW Home Corner area and any cars/trucks/trains and building toys. We will place a donation box in the entrance - thank you, again.

### **Ladybird class cake sale**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Ladybird class cake sale today. You have raised £241 for the Ladybird classroom which is very much appreciated. Ms Robertson, Miss Carvalho and the children will decide which resources for the Ladybird classroom the money will be spent on.

### **Scooters and bikes on the school site**

We kindly ask that you do not allow your children nor younger siblings to use scooters and bikes on the school grounds outside the classrooms or towards the blue gate at morning drop off and afternoon pick up. These areas are heavily congested and accidents can quickly happen. We would also like to remind you that the area by the blue ramp gate is not monitored during the day or over the weekend and leaving scooters and bikes here is at your own risk, please use the bike shed at the end of the car park, this is less visible to the general public.

### **Planned absences from school**

For any planned term time absences please see the following information. We strive for every child to be in school every day in order to maximise their education, learning and progress and wherever possible encourage you to arrange appointments and all holidays/travel during the 175 days of non-term days per year.

- **Authorised absences**

If your absence request is for a hospital appointment, an emergency dental appointment, a religious observance (where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance), a visit to another school, an entrance/ballet/music exam, please request a form from the school.

- **Unauthorised absences**

If your leave of absence request is for any other reason than those given above **you must submit your request in writing (by letter or via email to to [admin@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@chi.rbksch.org)) giving full details, at least 2 weeks in advance** of the intended absence period, addressed to Mrs Berry. Our Attendance and Absence policy is always available on our website.

### Attendance this week

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 95.81%. Leopard class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 99.33%, followed by Lion class with 98.67% - well done to both classes.



### Google classrooms

Please find to follow a reminder of the links to all Google classrooms. We expect all parents to have signed up for their child's Google classroom and to monitor this regularly, setting your account to receive notifications is also useful. Links to the Google classrooms are as follows, if you need a reminder of your child's login details etc please contact the school office and we can provide these.

- **Butterfly classroom** - <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzlwMjl2NzU3Njg3>
- **Bee classroom** - <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzlwMjl0ODMwNTA3?pli=1>
- **Ladybird classroom** - <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzlwMjl2NzI5Mzg1>
- **Year 1 classroom** - <https://classroom.google.com/c/Njl0MTI0MjM3MDg5>
- **Year 2 classroom** - <https://classroom.google.com/c/Njl0MTI2MTg0NjMy>

### Job vacancy - Connections

*Do you like working with children? Would you like to join a friendly team in our wraparound care club and work around school hours?*

We have a new vacancy for a playworker in our breakfast and after school club. The breakfast session is from 7.30 am - 9.00 am and the after school club session 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm. There is some flexibility regarding days and sessions. The position is available immediately.

Children of playworkers may attend on the days worked.

Please see more details in the link below and an application form.

<https://www.eteach.com/job/after-school-club-playworker-1468327>

Please contact Jill Evans in the Junior school office if you would like more information, or email [admin@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@chi.rbksch.org).

### Spring term - Important dates for the second half

Please find attached the list of events and activities that we have on the calendar for the second half of the Spring term. If we add any extra events and activities we will of course let you know via this weekly newsletter, please make sure that you read it carefully for extra dates or changes. If you have any questions please let us know.

[Spring term '25 - Second half - Important dates](#)

### Second hand uniform

We are now accepting further donations of **branded** Coombe Hill uniform ONLY (jumpers, cardigans, fleeces, t-shirts, hats etc). If you need any school uniform please come to the office entrance, items are free to take but we have a charity collection tin for Namanyanga Primary School in Malawi on the front desk.

### **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>

### **Community and other information**

- The **BREAD (Brain Resilience, Exercise, and Development)** Lab at Kingston University would like to share their February newsletter with you. The BREAD lab is affiliated to Kingston University and studies neurodevelopmental disorders and mental health conditions during development, and looks at lifestyle and preventive strategies to address these conditions.

[NEAR-KIDS Flyer.pdf](#) [February 2025 Newsletter.pdf](#)

### **Previous newsletters**

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

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

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend with hopefully some more sunshine.

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.*