



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 28 February 2025



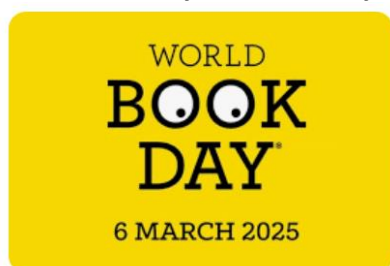
Dear Families,

It was lovely to see your children so well rested and ready to start the new half term. It is always a lovely time of year as the weather becomes a little warmer and we start to see the signs of Spring.

We have been reminding your children about being Ready, Respectful and Safe at all times. We are focusing on respectful listening as some children do find this challenging. You can support this by playing listening games at home and practising listening to each other. It is also important that children know how to play safely, we are seeing some rough play, again please remind your children about this. Physical play is developmental and not unusual, however we are having to remind children to be mindful of each other's boundaries.

We hope that you have found the Year 1 and Year 2 pupil progress meetings useful, if you have missed your appointment we will contact you to rearrange it, it is important that we see all parents. We are midway through the year and you will be informed about your child's progress and how you can help them.

World Book Day next Thursday 6 March



We are all looking forward to World Book Day next week! As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, this year we are asking all children and teaching staff to bring a favourite picture book to school and to wear pyjamas or their most comfortable clothes. We are looking forward to a day full of books and reading! Our main focus across the week this year is to transform every classroom door into a book cover - then, next Friday, each class can walk around the school and admire the decorated doors.

Neal Zetter, award-winning poet/author visit

On **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.



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.

Lets READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ!!!

[Amazon Gift List](#) - some parents have been asking for book suggestions either for their own children or to give to the class as a birthday gift. Please look on the website for some amazing books. Thank you!

Tiger class assembly - Friday 7 March

Each year our Year 2 children perform a class assembly. The Tiger class assembly is next Friday morning. All Tiger class families are welcome to come along, including younger siblings. Please make your way round to the School Office entrance after you have dropped your child off at the classroom, the assembly will begin at around 9.15am. Please could we remind you that we ask you not to take photographs or to film these assemblies. We will film each assembly and send a secure youtube link to the respective class parents.

Reception Phonics Workshop for Parents

Thank you to those parents who took the time to attend our Reception phonics workshop today, engagement in your child's learning is so important. The slides from the presentation will be posted to the Reception Google classrooms so please take a look.

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>

Parent Governor election

Today all parents have been sent an email containing a letter and further information about our upcoming Parent Governor election. Please read the information carefully, let us know if you have any questions and if you are interested in this role, please contact the school office if you would like to attend the drop in session next Friday.

Forest school for Squirrel class

The rain didn't stop Squirrel class from enjoying their Forest School session on Wednesday - particular thanks to the parents who helped out in the blustery weather. The children looked for insects and made clay models of them, they then warmed up around the fire with hot chocolate and popcorn which they popped over the fire.



School Lunches

Pancake day is next Tuesday 4th March, please see the revised dessert menu for that day.



Menu Tasting

On 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.

Accent Catering Monthly Newsletter

Please find attached the monthly newsletter from Accent.

[MARCH newsletter 2025.pdf](#)

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.

Butterfly class cake sale

Thank you to everyone who supported the Butterfly class cake sale today. You have raised £226.85 for the Butterfly classroom which is a great effort. Miss Lee and the children will decide which resources for the Butterfly classroom the money will be spent on.

The SPARK! Book Awards



As you know, the **SPARK! Book Awards** are back! Mrs Jakob has announced the shortlisted books [CHI Spark! 2025 Assembly Slides](#) - Farah Loves Mangoes by Sarthak Sinha, Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf by Craig Barr-Green, Who Ate Steve by Susannah Lloyd and and If I were Prime Minister by Trygve Skaug - take a look at the [Spark! Book Awards website](#), Facebook or on X. Each class has a copy of the book and the teachers will read and read the books over the next few months. There will also be the opportunity to "meet the authors", enter competitions and then we will all vote for our favourite book and we will keep you updated. The winning book will be announced in July in an online awards ceremony in June.

Planned absences from school

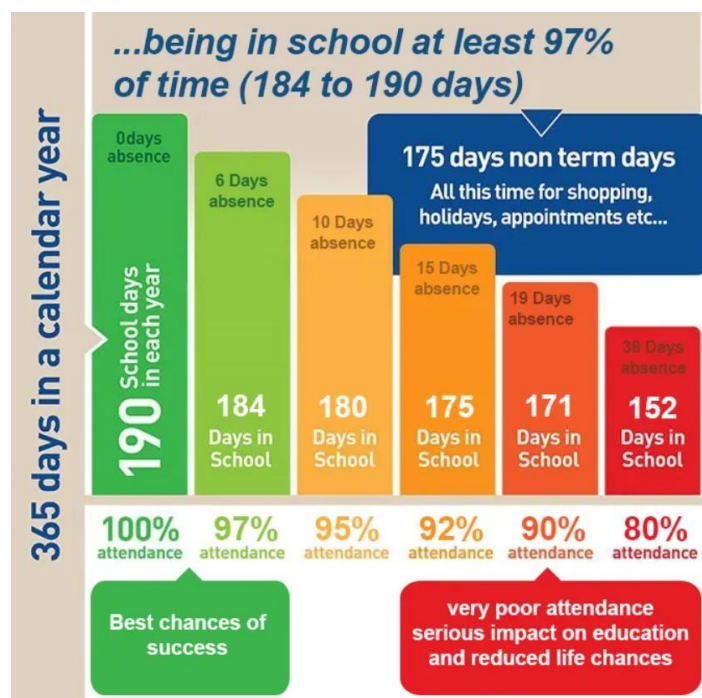
For any planned term time absences please see the following information. We strive for every child to be in school every day in order to maximise their education, learning and progress and wherever possible encourage you to arrange appointments and all holidays/travel during the 175 days of non-term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

- **Authorised absences**

If your absence request is for a hospital appointment, an emergency dental appointment, a religious observation (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) 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 95.58%. Ladybird class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 100%, well done to the Ladybirds!

Staffing

Mrs Kate Curtis, our Site Manager, has left Coombe Hill after 11 years of service to our schools. I hope you will join me in wishing her the very best for the future and thank her for all her work across both schools.

School uniform reminders

Please find to follow a copy of our current School Uniform policy, this is always available on our website. Please note that we do not allow make up or nail varnish to be worn in school and ask that long hair is tied up with a plain hair band (this also helps to prevent the spread of head lice which are very common amongst young children).

[School uniform policy](#)

Save the date - Behaviour workshop for parents next term

On Friday 2nd May at 9.00am, we would like to invite you in to share our behaviour approach with you. Mrs Jakob and I will talk through what we do and answer any questions you may have.

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.

SEND support service for parents across Kingston schools

The new pre and post SEND Diagnosis Support Team for Kingston and Richmond schools have asked us to pass on some information to you. The service works with parents to support them with any challenges they may have caring for their child/children. Children need to have a diagnosis or be on the pathway for an assessment. They work with parents only, not the child or young person. Some of the services that they are currently offering are as follows:

- Workshops at Kingston Town Children's Centre and Tudor Drive library (timetable available from the school office - please request this and we will put in your child's blue bag)
- A drop-in clinic for parents that are not able to make the workshops (timetable available from the school office - please request this and we will put in your child's blue bag)

There will be a Welcome workshop on 15th March 2025 at Moor Lane Centre Chessington, to introduce the service and to meet parents. There is a free, bookable creche available (limited spaces so early booking is recommended). For more information go to [Information and advice / Health services / Support service: before and after diagnosis](#)

A reminder that Mrs Heard, our SENCO/Inclusion Manager, is available at school for you to speak to with any questions or concerns that you may have, please contact the school office to be put in touch with her.

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 Information

- **Boost your cycling confidence this spring on this free, fun & family-friendly ride (2 March)**
Join Kingston Cycling Campaign and friends on Sunday 2 March 2025 with the spring return of their fun-packed family-friendly rides. Designed with all ages and cycling abilities in mind, this easy-paced and short ride will take you along quiet roads and traffic-free routes, starting (10.45am) and ending (by 12.30pm) at Green Lane Recreation Ground in New Malden / Berrylands (park entrance opposite Franks Avenue, off South Park Grove). All need participants to be **registered here** to take part, so reserve your free spot now and discover a few new routes on this smile-tastic and confidence-building ride through the borough!
- **The HENRY "Growing Up" team** who support healthy family lifestyles, are running programmes and a workshop online later this year. Topics covered include understanding children's behaviour, parent wellbeing, supporting children eating a wide range of foods, screen time, being active, self-esteem, sleep etc. Please see the following link for more information [HENRY Parent Newsletter Feb 2025.pdf](#)

- **Kingston Adult Education** have some new courses to offer parents and carers. Please see the attached information about **Maths workshops for parents** and also **family workshops** in cookery, crafts, art and IT
[KAE Family Workshops poster Feb & March 2025.pdf](#)
[KAE Maths for parents schools poster Feb2025.pdf](#)
- Jill Anderson from the **Family Information Service and Kingston Children's Centres** will be hosting an online **Family Information Session** on Monday, 10th March from 12:00 to 13:00. This workshop aims to provide **advice and support regarding childcare options, childcare funding for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds** (including understanding the criteria and process), and tax-free childcare. Jill will also share some information about the upcoming changes to childcare funding. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

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 a restful weekend.

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.

SUNDAY 2 MARCH 10.45AM

FREE

FUN KINGSTON

BIKE RIDE



 register at tiny.cc/FunRideSpring25

LEARN MORE



MEET BY 10.45AM

11AM DEPARTURE

GREEN LANE REC

**SOUTH PARK GROVE,
NEW MALDEN, KT3 5DA**

ALL AGES WELCOME



KINGSTON **FULL**
CYCLING CAMPAIGN **CYCLE**



JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY GROUP CYCLE

Information session –

Understanding your childcare options and the expansion to childcare entitlements



Monday 10 March 2025 12:00 - 13:00

Jill Anderson from Family Information service will be running a free, informative online session on:

- Current childcare entitlements
- Expansion to childcare entitlements for eligible working families
- How and when to apply for your entitlements
- Your options when choosing a Childcare Provider
- How to find a Registered Childcare Provider

To sign up please fill in Google form:

<https://forms.gle/KZuTZ2vZKGxV2bxH7>

For further information call:

Siobhan – 07784 006661

Or email:

Siobhan.meacher@achievingforchildren.org.uk



**achieving
for children**