



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 17 January 2025

Dear Families,

This week we have been focusing on being **Respectful** like Winnie the Pooh - good manners and politeness are so important. Next week, we will be thinking about 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



Squirrel class - Library visit

Squirrel class enjoyed their trip to Kingston Library yesterday, thank you to all of the parents who gave their time to help, we couldn't arrange our trips without your support. Hedgehog class have their visit next Thursday.



Lion class Forest school

Lion class had a wonderful time learning survival skills in Forest school this week, including making real fires which was very exciting!



Important message from our Governing Body

We are currently looking for new governors, and in particular a parent governor.

School governors are volunteers who work as a team (governing body) to support the school at a strategic level. The role of a parent governor is no different to any other governor. Governing boards make strategic decisions and work together to:

- develop a vision and strategy for the school
- oversee financial performance and make sure money is well spent
- hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- engage with pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community to understand their views

Being a school governor is a commitment to attending governing body meetings which consider these issues. Parent governors offer their perspective on issues being discussed and they are not expected to represent the parent body or act as a spokesperson. Full training and support are also provided for the role. If you are interested to find out more, please contact the office or catch me on the gate.

Spring term - Important dates

Please find attached a list of the events and activities that we have on the calendar for this 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 - Important dates](#)

School Lunches

Thank you all for remembering to place the lunch orders on Parentpay again for this week. We have noticed that a few children arrived at school this week without a lunch booked for them and without a packed lunch. Please ensure that you have booked lunches for your child on Parentpay as and when required, and if, for any reason you have not booked a lunch, you **MUST** provide a packed lunch or speak to the school office. Again, please note the following:

- **Allergen-free meals** - The allergen-free meal options **are only for children with a diagnosed allergy that the school has been informed of.** Please **DO NOT** choose this meal if your child does not have a diagnosed food allergy as they won't be given this meal.
- **Changing choices** - you can amend your order up to the 3 day cut off before the date of your child's lunch.

Missing books - PLEASE HELP US!

Unfortunately, some of our lovely new Little Wandle Big Cat reading books are not being returned to school and this means we are short of books for the following week's Group Reading Sessions and do not have enough books to send home. Every child in the school reads a book three times a week and then that book is sent home so that your child can celebrate their reading with you at home. CHIPTA has been so helpful in supporting us in building a stock of these books (between £4.50 and £5.75 each book) so that we are able to make sure that every child brings home a **real book** to read rather than having to access the book via the E-Book library. If you have any books at home, please return them by Monday. Thank you.

Spark! Book Awards - Looking for book suggestions?



As you know, we have been reading the 12 Books of Christmas to the children in school and now the shortlist of four books has been released. Follow Spark! Book Awards on social media or look on their [website](#) for the shortlist announcements - you may see one of our children in the videos. We will now be reading and re-reading the shortlisted books in the Picture Book Category in school and, in the Summer term, the children will vote for their favourite books. We will then submit our school vote to Spark! and the winning book will be announced in June. We can really recommend the shortlisted books and you may want to buy the books to read at home. Some of the Year 2 children may also be interested in the books in the 7+ category and if you have older children, please take a look at the other categories. Please keep on enjoying sharing books with your children at home!

SPARK! 2025

The Open University | Reading for Pleasure

SPARK! SCHOOL BOOK AWARD Shortlists

Category	Book Title	Author
PICTURE FICTION FOR EARLY READERS	Farah Loves Mangos	Farah Faisal
	GINA KAMINSKI	Gina Kaminski
	IF I WERE PRIME MINISTER	Simon Lewis
	WHO ATE STEVE?	Steve Smalley
7+ CATEGORY	DUNGEON RUNNERS	Level 1 Hero Team
	FLORA STORMER	Golden Lotus
	THE MAGICIAN NEXT DOOR	Rachel Chevers Knox
	Oscar's Lion	Adam Buren
9+ CATEGORY	ANGEL OF GRASMERE	Tom Palmer
	BIRDIE	J. P. Rose
	GORAL RUMBLE	Jakub's Otter
	THE SECRET OF GOLDEN ISLAND	Natasha Farrant
11+ CATEGORY	Here to Slay	Radhika Saighehi
	IT ALL STARTED WITH A BITE	Denise Brown
	KING OF NOTHING	Natasha Ludhans
	WILD EAST	Ashley Hickson-Levance
NON-FICTION	INTO THE VOLCANO	Simon Lewis
	Me and my Hair	Samira Farooq
	ULTRA WILD	Simon Lewis
	ROLLER COASTER	Simon Lewis

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 95.61%. Butterfly class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 99.67% attendance, very closely followed by Otter class with 99.33%. Well done to both classes.



Punctuality

Unfortunately we are continuing to see several families frequently arrive late at school, via the office entrance after the classroom doors have closed. By this time learning has already started and the class is engaged with their teaching. It is disruptive for the teachers and teaching assistants to manage late arrivals and your child can be confused about the task that has been set if they have missed the full explanation. Please aim to arrive at school at 8.40am, if there is any particular reason why you are struggling with morning punctuality please arrange to speak to me or to Mrs Jakob as soon as possible for support to improve the situation, thank you.

Staffing News

For the many families that use Coombe Connections, you will all know Linda Dowds who organises all the bookings and coordinates things so efficiently. Linda has worked at Coombe Hill Infants school for over 17 years. She has worked in the office and the finance department. She helped to set up Connections in 2019 and has been a part of the leadership team for the club, she has been pivotal in making it such a success. She will be leaving this role on 24th January for a new job. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her the best of luck. We are delighted to tell you that Angela Bairstow has joined our team to take on the role.

Coombe Connections club bookings

New bookings

If you would like to request a NEW booking for our Breakfast and After School provision, Coombe Connections Club, for the second half of the spring term 2025, our Booking Request Form will be available on the school Connections Club webpage from 20/01/25. Current availability is shown below and the closing date for new applications is 26/01/25. *A form is required ONLY FOR NEW BOOKINGS.*

Existing Bookings

If you have a Connections booking currently, it will be continued into the second half of the spring term and a Booking Request Form is NOT required. If you wish to request a change to your booking you must email Connections by 26/01/25.

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 availability

	Breakfast Club	After School Club
Monday	Plenty	Little
Tuesday	None	None
Wednesday	Little	None

Thursday	Little	None
Friday	Plenty	Plenty

Junior School availability

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

Connections email: connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org

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

CHIPTA meeting - Wednesday 29 January from 8.45 - 9.45 am

Everyone is warmly invited to come along to a CHIPTA (Coombe Hill Infants PTA) meeting on Wednesday 29 January from 8.45 - 9.45am in our staff room. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided and little ones welcome too. We would love to have your support and fundraising ideas for the rest of the year ahead.

“Celebrating Diversity” group coffee morning - Friday 31 January from 9 - 10am

You are warmly invited to an informal coffee morning hosted by the “Celebrating Diversity” group on Friday 31 January, younger children are welcome too and more information about the group’s activities will be shared.

Quiz Night - Coombe Hill schools

The PTAs of both schools have organised a quiz night to take place from 7pm on Friday 7 February. Tickets are available on Parentpay, £7 each, with a maximum of 8 people per team. Drinks and snacks will be available to buy during the evening. Organise a table with others and come along, it’s a great opportunity to get together with other parents, and should be another great evening. All proceeds will be split between our schools.



Leopard class cake sale

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale today for Leopard class, you have raised £149.18, for the Leopard classroom. Mr Morris and the children will be deciding how to spend the proceeds for the classroom very soon.

Second hand uniform stock

Thank you to everyone who has passed on second hand uniform items, we are very grateful and pleased to be able to re-use and recycle items within our community. We have a large stock of uniform now and little space to keep it, so for the time being we can only accept donations of branded jumpers, cardigans and fleeces.

Lost property

The lost property box is located in the year 1 playground, please check the box for missing items. Anything un-named cannot be returned to your child, so please continue to name all of your child's belongings clearly, we will aim to return them to your child but sometimes named items do also end up in the lost property box.

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

- Please find to follow details of the **ADHD summit** which is being held in London next Saturday 25 January. For further information and ticket booking please go to the following link [The ADHD summit - ticket booking](#)

- **Burlington Junior school** are currently advertising a position as a **Teaching and Learning Support Assistant**, for further information please see the following link

 [Teaching Assistant Advert January 2025 \(1\).docx \(1\).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.

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.

Please find to follow a useful guide as to which NHS services are available to you for various illnesses and where you should seek help

Help Us Help You



 <h3 style="margin: 0;">Self Care</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Stock your medicine cabinet as many minor issues, like coughs, grazes and sore throats are treatable at home.</p>	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">Pharmacy</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Pharmacists offer medical advice and medicines for minor illnesses like coughs, colds, tummy trouble, rashes and aches and pains, and also give flu jabs.</p>
 <h3 style="margin: 0;">GP</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Within normal surgery hours your GP should be your first contact with health concerns. GPs provide examinations, advice, prescriptions, vaccinations and referrals.</p>	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">111.nhs.uk</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">You should visit 111.nhs.uk when you cannot wait to see your doctor. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help urgently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p>
 <h3 style="margin: 0;">NHS 111</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">You should call 111 when you cannot wait to see your doctor. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help urgently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p>	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">A&E</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">A&E departments in hospitals are open for life threatening emergencies like heart attacks and accidents, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p>

THE ADHD SUMMIT

A one-day series of talks and workshops
from world-leading experts



Sat 25 Jan | 9:30am-6pm
Blizard Institute, London

SEED
TALKS