



# COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

*Learn together, grow together*

Friday 6 December 2024

Dear Families,

As I am writing this I can hear your children practising for the Concerts, they are singing and dancing and there is lots of excitement. Please check the separate email that was sent earlier today for ticket information and contact the school office if you have any questions. Some children find this time of year more challenging, there is a change to routine and some find this difficult. Please talk to your children if they are feeling anxious and let us know so we can help.

This week we have been thinking about being Respectful to each other and next week our focus will be on positive relationships, supported by Rabbit.

Rabbit teaches us to listen to our friends, use kind words, and look out for each other.



How parents can help

Encourage children to .....

- listen in a conversation and take turns
- use kind words and be respectful by saying please and thank you
- look out for their friends and family

It was lovely to see so many of you coming into school this afternoon to visit the classrooms and watch your children read and also see some of their writing. Your engagement in their learning is so important.

## **Santa run - Daily Mile**

The children enjoyed a special Daily Mile run this morning in the sunshine, the annual "Santa Run". Santa sent each class a special letter about the run, they all made special headbands and each class received a certificate for competing. Well done to all of the children!



### **Christmas Fair tomorrow**

We are so grateful to everyone who is giving their time and energy to make our Christmas Fair a success tomorrow, it is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year and the money raised supports events and provides resources that all of your children benefit from. Thank you to everyone who is volunteering your time and has donated bottles, chocolates, toys, games, books, cakes etc, we couldn't do this without your support. We hope to see you all there tomorrow.



### Christmas Raffle

Our Coombe Hill Christmas Raffle is now live online. We have some amazing prizes courtesy of many generous donors. Please support this by buying tickets below, the raffle is open until Sunday 15 December or until the last ticket is sold.

<https://raffall.com/367209/enter-raffle-to-win-coombe-hills-christmas-raffle-hosted-by-coombehillschools>

### Christmas concerts dates and times

Please read the message that was sent earlier giving full information about concert days and timings and in particular which concert we can allow you to bring toddlers and babies to. We would be so grateful if anyone who is not going to take up their allocation of two tickets per child could let us know asap so that we can offer spare tickets to those who have requested more. We must manage this carefully in terms of the capacity of our hall and health and safety. If you have any questions or want to request extra tickets please email [admin@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@chi.rbksch.org).

<b>Thursday 12th December</b> 1.30pm	<b>Years 1 &amp; 2 Christmas concert</b> dress rehearsal	For Year 1 and Year 2 families to attend <b>with toddlers and babies</b>
<b>Friday 13th December</b> 9.30am	<b>Reception Christmas concert</b> dress rehearsal	For Reception families to attend <b>with toddlers and babies</b>

<b>Friday 13th December</b> 1.30pm	<b>Years 1 &amp; 2 Christmas concert Performance</b>	For Year 2 families ( <u>no toddlers and babies</u> )
<b>Monday 16th December</b> 9.30am	<b>Reception Christmas concert Performance</b>	For Reception families ( <u>no toddlers and babies</u> )
<b>Monday 16th December</b> 1.30pm	<b>Years 1 &amp; 2 Christmas concert Performance</b>	For Year 1 families ( <u>no toddlers and babies</u> )

### **Spring term clubs**

A reminder that payments for the Spring term clubs are due **by 9.00am next Tuesday 10 December**. If we do not receive payment by this time we will assume that you no longer wish for your child to attend and they will not appear on the club register. We would be grateful if you could also email the school office to notify us if you are not intending to pay at [admin@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@chi.rbksch.org), thank you.

### **SEND cake sale**

Thank you to everyone who supported our SEND cake sale last Friday, we raised £220.40 which Mrs Heard will put towards SEND resources for the school

### **OPAL cake sale**

Next week we are holding a cake sale to raise funds towards our OPAL project and resources, we welcome donations of cakes and biscuits from all parents across the school, please bring any donations to the school office next Friday from 7.45am, thank you for your support.

### **Christmas Dinner**

We will be serving a lovely traditional Christmas dinner with the trimmings on Friday 20 December which we all enjoy together in the hall. The kitchen would like to have orders in advance so we will put Christmas dinner sign up sheets on the classroom windows from Tuesday next week, please look out for those at drop off and pick up. The deadline to sign your child up for Christmas dinner will be Friday 13 December, please see the menu below and let us know if you have any questions.



### Changes to school lunch ordering

We are changing the way that school lunches are ordered from January 2025. From **Monday 6th January 2025**, all school lunches must be ordered at least 3 days in advance via your child's ParentPay account. Even though you order lunches through Parentpay they are free of charge as all primary school children are entitled to free school meals. Many of you who have older children in the Junior school will be used to this system which has been used for some time and has proven to be effective and convenient for both you as parents and for managing lunches for the school catering team and school staff. You need to have an active ParentPay account to order lunches, so please ensure that you have activated your account by the end of this term. Please ask the school office for a reminder of how to do this if you are unsure as soon as possible and by Friday 20 December at the latest. We will be providing full information on the new system by the end of term, please look out for the email.

### Voluntary donation appeal

Today you will have received a letter in your child's blue bag about our wonderful enriched curriculum. It is only possible to offer the children such a wide range of exciting activities because of the kind generosity of you, their parents. If you have not yet made a contribution to our Voluntary Fund, we would be very grateful for your donation no matter how great or small. If you are a UK taxpayer and are happy for us to do so, we can claim an extra 25p per £1 donation if you also complete the Gift Aid form attached to the letter. Thank you very much for your support.

### Attendance

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 96.6%. Tiger class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 97.66% attendance, well done to Tiger class!

## Attendance Matters



### CHIPTA meeting

Everyone is warmly invited to our next PTA meeting at **8.45am** on **Wednesday 11th December** in the school staff room. Please come along for a tea or coffee with your ideas or just to hear about our plans for the rest of the year and about how you can get involved, we need lots of support to help make our events a success. Younger children and babies are welcome too! We are currently raising money to improve the outdoor play areas and need your support.

### Celebrating Diversity committee meeting

The Celebrating Diversity committee are meeting on Thursday 19 December at 9.00am in the Infants school staff room, all are welcome to come along.

### 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. 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](#)

### Parent Governor Election

It has been confirmed that there were no nominations received in the recent Parent Governor Election. The governors have decided to run the process again in the Spring Term. Please look out for further details in January. In the meantime, if you would like further details on being a school governor, please contact the school's governance professional/clerk to governors by emailing: [clerk@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:clerk@chi.rbksch.org).

### "Rock up to Read"

Thank you to everyone who joins us for 'Rock up to Read' on Fridays from 8.15am - what better way is there to start your day than sharing a book with your child in our lovely library! Everyone is welcome, please enter via the blue side gate, code 2626.





### End of term - early finish

The Autumn term finishes on Friday 20 December, afternoon collection time is one hour earlier than usual, Reception children should be collected at 2.05pm and Year 1 and Year 2 children at 2.10pm. Connections also finishes one hour earlier, all children must be collected by 5pm. Please ensure that you collect your children at these earlier times, 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>

### Community Information

- **Barnes Literary festival**  
 Wondering what to get this Christmas for the kids' books lover who has everything? Well wonder no more! Here's your chance to own original artwork from the UK's top illustrators and help us raise money for our FREE London Primary Schools Programme, closes 8pm, Sunday 8 December [Christmas Art Auction Fundraiser](#)
- If your child missed having their **flu vaccination** in school, please see the attached poster below for a reminder of the catch up sessions that are being offered locally.
- Please find attached the link to an excellent selection of webinars as part of the **"Helping Children with ...."** Series [PDF 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.**
- **Kingston Adult Education** has a number of courses starting in January that may be of interest to some of you. As part of Kingston Council, Kingston Adult Education provides a comprehensive range of courses to help adult learners gain qualifications, enhance employability, boost mental health and explore new interests. Many of our courses are government funded, therefore free of charge or subsidised to adults on low incomes. **See the latest prospectus for further details** about these courses as well as the wider offering: [bit.ly/KAEE-2425prospectus](http://bit.ly/KAEE-2425prospectus). The classes take

place both online and at centres across the Borough. 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 details of **Family Information Sessions, run by Achieving for Children**, a free informative online session on Monday 9 December from 12 noon to 1pm on understanding your childcare options, and the expansion to childcare entitlements

 FIS Workshop December 24.pdf

### **Christmas concerts and other important dates for the rest of the term**

Please find attached the list of important dates for the remainder of this term.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p5F4FOdx9kFvbvXiLlteogemMcH5jUA8U\\_xGaucn\\_Mk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p5F4FOdx9kFvbvXiLlteogemMcH5jUA8U_xGaucn_Mk/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Previous newsletters**

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

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

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Fair tomorrow.

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.*



As part of Kingston Council, Kingston Adult Education offers a diverse range of courses for people aged 19 and over. **Some of their courses are free and take place in school hours.**

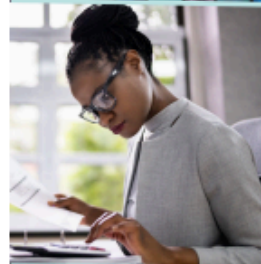
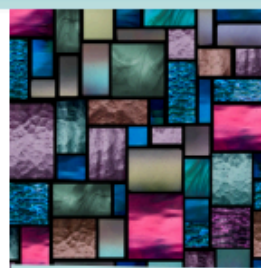
Here is a selection of their courses starting in January:

- A series of **90-minute workshops to support individuals considering self-employment.** Sessions will explore turning your creative talents into a business, becoming a virtual assistant, home-based tutoring and online teaching, and freelance content creation (writing, blogging and video creation)
- Accredited qualifications in **Bookkeeping; Childcare; Community Interpreting; Counselling; Information, Advice and Guidance; and Understanding Mental Health.**
- **English, maths and digital skills**, from entry level through to GCSE
- A plethora of **wellbeing and creative skills classes**, including painting and drawing, upcycling clothes, stained glass making, languages, and tai chi.

See their latest prospectus for full details:

[bit.ly/KAE-2425prospectus](https://bit.ly/KAE-2425prospectus)

**KINGSTON  
ADULT  
EDUCATION**  
Learn • Achieve • Progress



## Missed your flu vaccine?

**Live in the boroughs of Kingston or  
Richmond? Aged 4-16?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and  
protect yourself this winter!

**Call 020 3691 1043 to book an  
appointment**

**Tuesday 29 October 09:30 - 12:30  
Teddington Health and Social Care Centre,  
TW11 0LR**

**Or come down to one of our  
walk-in clinics**

**Saturday 16 November 09:30 - 12:30  
Southborough School Clinic, KT6 5AS**

**Saturday 14 December 09:30 - 12:30  
Sheen Lane Clinic, SW14 8LP**

**Christmas Events at The Alligator's Mouth bookshop in Richmond**



# The Alligator's Mouth

**The perfect Christmas treat for any book lover in your life**  
**"The Alligator's Mouth" Book Subscriptions and Gift Boxes**

With a variety of options and prices, we tailor all of our subscriptions and gift boxes for any customer,  
from baby to adult.

- Subscription options range from 6-12 month periods, with both paperback and hardback options
- All gift boxes include 6 beautifully packaged books, including an option for new babies
- After tailoring a successful adult subscription, we have decided to offer a variety of adult gift box and subscription options to everyone this Christmas

This Christmas, we are introducing a 5% discount on all subscription renewals. Our full range of gift box and subscription options can be browsed [here](#), and you can contact us if you have any queries. Please note that subscriptions and gift boxes must be ordered by 14th December to be delivered in time for Christmas <https://www.thealligatorsmouth.co.uk/subscriptions>

- **Sat 7th Dec 3:00-5:00pm**

[Oliver Jeffers: Author Signing, Where to Hide a Star](#)

Author/illustrator signing event RSVP essential, £14.99 (includes a copy of *Where to Hide a Star*) Oliver Jeffers is the bestselling author and illustrator of *How to Catch a Star*, *Stuck*, and *Here We Are* etc.. This winter, Oliver returns with the long-awaited sequel to the Boy stories, *Where to Hide a Star*. The ticket price to this event entitles you to a hardback copy of *Where to Hide a Star* and entry for your family to the signing event. RSVP is essential. Please book either the 3:00pm or 3:30pm timeslot and please arrive as close to the time of your slot as possible.

- **Thursdays 11am Story & Rhyme Time**

£3 (redeemable against any purchase on the day) Ideal 0-4yrs Join us for new picturebooks and traditional rhymes, read and performed by Alligator's Mouth staff. And as always you are welcome to ask our recommendations for new stories to discover together with your child. RSVP welcome or just turn up! The £3 entry price is redeemable against any purchase on the day (making the storytime free if you buy a book!)