

COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 14 March 2025

Dear Families,

We have had another busy week full of learning with visits from The Mayor, a Poet and a Scientist. It's wonderful to see the children engaging with our visitors and absorbing new knowledge and skills.

This week our focus has been on being Resilient like Tigger. Next week, we will be focusing on being Responsible and Safe like Kanga. Kanga teaches us how to be safe & look after ourselves and others.

How parents can help

Encourage children to...

- help tidy up their toys/bedroom
- help prepare food, lay the table, make the bed
- Share worries with adults
- Cross the road safely

Neal Zetter, award-winning poet/author visit

Neal Zetter visited school on Thursday as part of our World Book Day celebrations. He entertained year 1 and 2 children in the hall by reading/performing some of his poems from his books and by engaging the children with lovely call and response poems. Neal then visited year 1 classes to lead a workshop of how to write a 'tall poem'. This started with an animal and then continued with adjectives and verbs to match with that animal. All of the children then went off to write their own 'tall poem'. In Year 2, Neal worked with the children to create a non rhyming Rainbow poem using powerful language linked to his The Shape of Rainbows book. We look forward to sharing some of the finished poems with you. Neal was so impressed with the children's ability to express themselves through amazing choices of vocabulary. He has already emailed us to say how much he enjoyed working with our children and staff.





Commonwealth Assembly with the Mayor of Kingston

We were delighted to welcome a special visitor to join us for a Commonwealth Assembly on Monday, the Mayor of Kingston, Liz Green. The Mayor told us all about the Commonwealth and the importance of working together and supporting those less fortunate than us. The children listened beautifully and asked very sensible questions. Following the assembly, our wonderful Rights Respecting Ambassadors met with the Mayor and told her all about the UNICEF Rights of the Child. This group of children has embraced this work and already knows so much about the need for all children to have equal rights.



Visit from a scientist for Science Week - Dr Riccardo

Today we had a special visit from Dr Riccardo, an ex-parent and an engineer with a scientific background. He inspired each year group to think big; they were considering how big the universe is and what exactly is science? It was impressive to hear the children's answers and their understanding. Each year group especially enjoyed a magical moment at the end, a dramatic chemical reaction between Diet Coke and Mentos, increasing the amount of Mentos used each time! He then spent some time in each of the year 2 classes answering their many questions. This was a wonderful event to kick start and celebrate our Science Week next week.







Menu Tasting with Accent Catering

We hope that those of you who attended enjoyed the menu tasting session with Accent Catering this afternoon. We continue to work closely with Accent Catering to improve and maintain the quality of our school lunch menu and the meals served to your children every day. If you have any questions or feedback about the lunch menu please let us know as we strive to offer your children the best possible school lunches.









Summer term clubs

Full information about our Summer term clubs was sent out yesterday to all families, please read this carefully. Booking is at 10 am next Wednesday 19 March. Our clubs are run voluntarily by our staff and I am so grateful to them for giving their time to do this, clubs raise valuable funds for our school. We work hard to fulfill your requests and to be fair as far as possible in allocations but there are limits on numbers. If you book a club please ensure that you are always available to collect your child promptly at 4pm (or 4.15pm for Forest school), unfortunately we have seen late collections this term and will withdraw places if you are late to collect your child as this causes inconvenience and delays to our staff at the end of the day. If you have any questions about the Summer term clubs please contact the school office.

Forest school for Ladybird class

Ladybird class had a fabulous morning at Forest School on Wednesday. They cut wood and drilled holes, then decorated it and made beautiful birds. They used mud to paint, dug holes, played on the rope swing, put up a den and found lots of bugs. We made fire, enjoyed hot chocolate and made popcorn. Many thanks to the Ladybird parents who helped us for the morning.



Leopard class assembly

All Leopard class families are welcome to come and watch the Leopard class assembly next Friday at 9.10am in the hall, come round to the office entrance after drop off and we will let you through.

We will be holding a meeting for parents and carers on **Friday 28 March at 9.00am** in the hall to provide information around the teaching of Maths for years 1 and 2. Everyone is welcome (including Reception parents should you wish to find out more at this stage).

Swimming meeting

We will be holding a meeting on **Friday 28 March at 2.30pm** about Swimming at school which starts next term, soon after Easter in our heated outdoor pool. The exact start date is to be confirmed and this will be communicated to you as soon as possible. The meeting may be useful for parents whose children will be swimming at school for the first time, we will circulate the presentation and full information about swimming afterwards so please don't worry if you can't make the meeting.

Parent volunteers - DBS checks for swimming

Our swimming sessions cannot go ahead without a lot of help from our parents for every session and we are so grateful to everyone who commits their time, the children cannot swim without your support. To give you an idea of the help required, each Reception class swims once per week and each Year 1 and Year 2 class swims twice per week. For Reception we require 8 helpers per week and for Year 1 and Year 2 we require 6 helpers per session (2 sessions per week), the full rota will be explained and issued in due course. This means that we need a large bank of volunteers from every class who are able to help with the sessions. We would greatly appreciate it if some more of our Reception parents and carers would consider applying for a DBS check to help with swimming as we need more volunteers from each Reception class to call on for help. Please note:

- For safeguarding reasons, all parents who help in any way with swimming <u>MUST</u> have a valid DBS check issued by Coombe Hill Infants school
- The DBS check must be issued by our school (unless you work in a role in education elsewhere, have a valid DBS check and are subscribed to the DBS update service - please speak to the school office if this is the case)

Parenting Support and advice

Please take a look at the Family Lives website for support, through reading and courses, with all areas of parenting eg behaviour, mental health, teens, sibling rivalry, divorce, co parenting. <u>Family Lives</u>

The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel



We are once again taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 24 March- 4 April 2025.

- What do you need to do?
 Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.
- Why we are taking part?
 Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. A 2021 YouGov study showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels. We will log everyone's journey's to school over this period and hopefully will see as many children taking part in the event as possible.

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.

SEND cake sale

Huge thanks to everyone who supported our SEND cake sale today, particularly to those parents who stayed on to sell cakes, we couldn't do it without you. You have raised an amazing £219.60 for SEND resources which is greatly appreciated by Mrs Heard. We have some cakes left over and will be holding a further mini cake sale for SEND resources on Monday afternoon outside the school office entrance, please drop by from 3pm.

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.

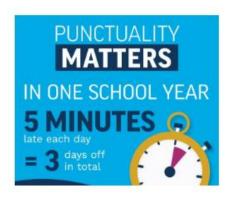
Unauthorised absences

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 95.63%. Leopard and Lion classes have achieved the highest attendance this week, with 100% attendance each. An extra mention for Lion class who have had no late marks either this week - every child, every day, on time. Well done to both classes.





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.

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/NzIwMjI2NzU3Njg3
- Bee classroom https://classroom.google.com/c/NzIwMjI0ODMwNTA3?pli=1
- Ladybird classroom https://classroom.google.com/c/NzIwMjI2NzI5Mzg1

- Year 1 classroom https://classroom.google.com/c/NjI0MTI0MjM3MDg5
- Year 2 classroom https://classroom.google.com/c/NjI0MTI2MTg0NjMy

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 <u>Birthday Books</u>. Thank you!

Coffee Morning with Shazia and Solange - Thursday 20 March 9.00am in the staff room MHST Coffee Morning

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is an early intervention service. We work with children, young people, families/carers and staff in school settings to support emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, across Kingston and Richmond. The MHST is delivered by Achieving for Children as part of our Emotional Health Service.

Shazia, a Senior Education Wellbeing Practitioner from the MHST, has been working at Coombe Hill Primary School for several years, delivering a range of workshops and interventions for students, parents, and staff. Additionally, Solange, a Dance Movement Psychotherapist and a new member of the MHST team, will be providing support at the school throughout the summer term.

We would like to invite you to join us for a coffee morning to introduce you to Solange, connect with other parents, share experiences, and discuss the support you feel is needed for your child's mental health and wellbeing. Your input will help guide and shape our future work at the school.

Date: 20th March 2025 Time: 9 - 10am

Venue: Coombe Hill Infant School Presenter: Shazia and Solange

If you would like to attend please let a member of staff know.

We look forward to seeing you.

Shazia Yakoob-Ajmal - Education Wellbeing Practitioner





The Alligator's Mouth bookshop in Richmond



We are so grateful to The Alligator's Mouth bookshop in Richmond who supported us with our pop up book shop in school last week for World Book Day. Please take a look at their lovely upcoming events on their website, which include a comics club, a map making workshop and Easter activities Events at The Alligator's Mouth

Term dates and INSET days next term

A reminder that we have two INSET days during the Summer term for staff training, where children do not attend school, these are on Monday 2 June and Monday 30 June 2025.

Term Dates

Important dates for the second half of the Spring term

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 <u>branded</u> 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

- Kingston Library are holding some events for Neurodiversity Celebration Week next week.
 There will be an art 'Drop in Draw your Brain' activity after school on Monday. On Tuesday morning, they will be holding a Homework Help for parents with children who have dyslexia and dyscalculia tendencies or diagnosis. As well as events around Kingston, there is an additional evening meeting at Kingston Library for autistic adults to contribute to research about digital access to health and community care. For more information please see the following linkNeurodiversity Celebration Week 2025.pdf
- Love the Ball, run by the sports coaches who your children are familiar with through PE lessons and clubs, are running their Easter Camp from Coombe Hill. All attendees will have the opportunity to develop their skills and themselves in a safe sociable environment with enjoyable activities and competitions, with prize giveaways. Spaces are limited and disappear fast so book now to avoid disappointment https://lovetheball.com/courses/holidaycamps.html
- All Stars/Dynamos cricket courses at Wimbledon Rugby Club
 A parent has recommended the following local cricket course for children, starting in May, please see further details below:
 - All Stars (5-8 year olds / Reception, Year 1, 2, 3) at Wimbledon Rugby Club on Saturday mornings from 9am - 10am. All Stars cricket booking form
 - Dynamos (9-11 year olds / Year 4, 5, 6) at Wimbledon Rugby Club on Saturday mornings from 10.15am 11.30am. Dynamos cricket booking form
- Strings Spectacular: A Family-Friendly Musical Journey
 - As in previous years, Kingston Music Service is organising a family concert at the **Rose Theatre** towards the end of the Spring term. On **Sunday, 23rd March** from <u>11am-12pm</u> we invite you to explore the world of string instruments with *Strings Spectacular*. A concert designed to enchant families and ignite the imaginations of music lovers of all ages. Celebrate the magic of string instruments with a programme that blends timeless classics with modern favourites. For more information and to book: https://www.rosetheatre.org/whats-on/329/a-kingston-music-service-concert/strings-spectacular-a-family-friendly-musical-journey
- 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
- There are Tech & Stem camps taking place over the Easter holiday at two local primary schools -Christchurch and St Josephs - please see the following link for more information www.nextthing.education

Previous newsletters

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website https://www.coombehillinfants.com/page/?title=Parent+Newsletter&pid=225

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Warm regards

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.



