



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 14 February 2025

Dear Families,

I write to inform you that after 27 years at Coombe Hill Infants, 13 as Headteacher, I will be leaving at the end of this academic year.

It has been my absolute privilege to lead this school, and work within such a fabulous community, with our wonderful children at its heart. It has genuinely been the happiest years of my career.

Throughout my 37 year career in Education, I have always been fortunate to work with incredibly supportive people, from being a newly qualified teacher to my leadership role at Coombe Hill Infants. During that time, I have experienced many changes in education, but the one thing that has remained constant and gives me that 'get up and go' in the morning is the joy that your children bring. I will certainly miss them but know that they will continue to be looked after and well educated by the high quality team that is in place.

I have appreciated the support and challenge of an excellent governing body and the most fantastic committed staff team. They have proven that they hold outstanding values and always give their best, putting children first. Coombe Hill Infants School is a very special place, full of love, warmth and a determination for our children to succeed. I am proud to be able to add my name to the list of custodians who have presided in my role and am sad but excited to pass the baton on to the next Headteacher.

I am sharing this news with you now as a recruitment process will begin shortly. This is being led by our school governors. The long lead-in time is aimed at ensuring that the new Headteacher has a good transition period leading up to the next school year.

Our school is fantastic. We have such a wonderful community of families and staff. This was recognised in our recent Ofsted report. I will continue to work hard to ensure that I leave the school in the very best position and that it continues to thrive and continually improve.

Over the coming months, I will get the chance to say goodbye properly, but for now, it's business as usual!

Goodbye to Mrs Ruth

Today we said goodbye to Mrs Ruth with a special assembly. She would like to thank you all for your very kind messages, cards and gifts, and for the very many wonderful memories.



This week, and every week in fact, we have been focussing on the importance of good manners. Especially in the dining room. We welcome your support on this, please remind your children to say please and thank you and to listen to others, thank you.

Behaviour workshop for parents

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.

Reading

As you know, reading is so important to us at CHI - learning to read and reading for pleasure. Research strongly suggests that '*enjoyment of reading*' and enthusiasm to '*read for pleasure*' is the most important indicator of your child's future success and will have a significant impact on their wellbeing and mental health all the way into adulthood. As parents and carers you can support the love of reading at home by listening to your child read and reading to them daily. Bedtime stories and reading at home, not only increase academic ability, but also help to strengthen family relationships and foster a lifelong love of books. Keep making reading a priority at home.

As you know, the **SPARK! Book Awards** are back! Mrs Jakob announced the shortlisted books in assembly [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.

World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March. This year we are asking all children and teaching staff to bring a favourite picture book to school and wear pyjamas or your most comfortable clothes! We are looking forward to a day full of books and reading! We are hoping to transform every classroom door into a book cover this year. On **Thursday 13th March, Neal Zetter, the poet** is visiting us again and there will be an opportunity to buy his books.

Reception Phonics Workshop for Parents - Friday 28th February, 9.00 - 9.30am

All Reception parents are invited to come along after drop off to learn about the new phonic sounds your child is learning and how you can support them with phonics and reading at home.

Year 1 and Year 2 Pupil Progress Meetings sign up

All year 1 and year 2 families were sent sign up forms on Tuesday for the pupil progress meetings on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February. As part of our home/school partnership agreement we expect every family to sign up for a meeting. If for any reason you are unable to sign up please contact the school office as soon as possible for assistance.

School Lunch bookings

Please remember to book your child's lunch by Friday 21 February - you can book in advance for the whole term.

No school clubs from Monday 24 to Thursday 27 February

Due to the pupil progress meetings, no school clubs have been scheduled between these dates, children must be collected at the usual time (Connections runs as usual).

Year 2 gymnastics competition

This half term in Year 2 we have been learning a gymnastics routine in preparation for our gymnastics competition which was held this Friday. Four children from each class were chosen to represent their class and Mrs Ruth and Mrs Mattick were invited as our guest judges! We are so proud of all the children as they showed great determination, resilience and sportsmanship.



Forest school for Otter class

Otter class loved their Forest school morning this week! They enjoyed visiting the pond, hunting for bugs and being creative when making their own clay bugs using natural objects. They found woodlice, snails, slugs, worms, centipedes and even a sleeping newt! A highlight of the morning was also enjoying hot chocolate and popcorn around the campfire. What a way to end a lovely half term!



Otter class cake sale

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale today for Otter class, you have raised **£207.15**, for Squirrel classroom resources. Miss Matheson and the children will be deciding how to spend the proceeds for their classroom very soon.

Celebrating Diversity group coffee mornings

The next Celebrating Diversity group coffee morning will be **Thursday 27th February**. Mrs Jakob will attend and will answer questions about how parents can support their child's reading. **All welcome.** Future meeting dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 26th March (to be held in the Junior school)
- Friday 25th April (to be held in infants school with Mrs Heard to talk about neurodiversity)

Planned absences from school

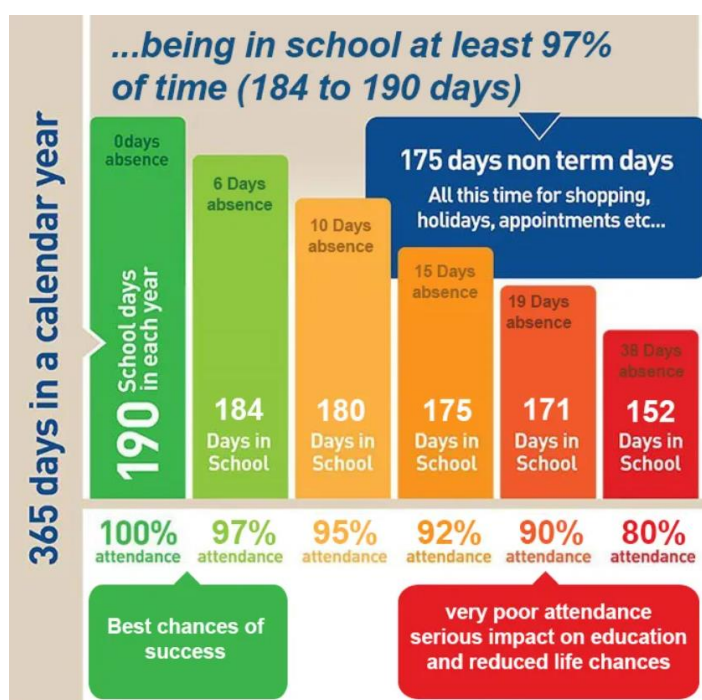
For any planned term time absences please see the following information. We strive for every child to be in school every day in order to maximise their education, learning and progress and wherever possible encourage you to arrange appointments and all holidays/travel during the 175 days of non-term 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 use this form to request leave 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 94.7%. Squirrel class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 98.67% attendance, followed by Otter and Hedgehog classes with 96.33% each. A great week for year 1 attendance!

Help us get money for the school - for free!

Every new registration onto the easyfundraising app in February will earn £2 for the school, at no cost to you! So please take a couple of minutes to follow this link or search for and download the app, and link to Coombe Hill Infants as a 'cause' as you register [Charity Fundraising Online](#) | [You Spend Online](#), [Brands Donate](#) | [Easyfundraising](#). You can earn even more for us if you link your shopping through the app, and/or share it with friends, grandparents and neighbours! Big thanks in advance for your help.



-  Download the easyfundraising app
-  Sign up as our supporter
-  Once registered, we'll get a £2 donation!

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](#)

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>

Dates for the diary

It has been necessary to move the date of the **Dad's/Grandad's/Uncle's breakfast** that was scheduled for Thursday 27 March, this will now take place on **Friday 23rd May from 8.00 - 8.45am**. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Save the date for our **International Evening**, to be held on **Wednesday 30 April from 6 - 8pm**. This is a wonderful evening held annually, when the whole, extended Coombe Hill Infants community can come together, bring some traditional food to share and enjoy an evening of music, drama and dance. Many families wear traditional dress and perform and bring food to the event. Look out for further details in due course.

Spring term - Important dates

Please find attached the list of 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](#)

Community Information

- **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](#)

- **Love the Ball** are holding their half term camp here at Coombe Hill in February, booking now. For more details and booking go to <https://lovetheball.com/courses/holidaycamps.html>
- **Richmond Park Discoverers** will be holding a free family event, Discovering Birds in Richmond Park, on the second Sunday of half term. A poster is attached at the end of his newsletter and the group look forward to meeting some of you there.
- **Planet Art** are holding their half term arts and crafts clubs at St Mary's church, Wimbledon, see the flyer at the end for details.
- **Light up Kingston**, Kingston First and Riverside Walk have announced the return of Light Up Kingston, an immersive light experience held in Kingston town centre from **14-23 February 2025, 4.30pm-9pm daily**. For more information please see this link [Light Up Kingston 2025 - Press Release.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](#)
- Please find attached the **Kingston Children's Centres programme** for the upcoming february half term. This can also be accessed via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/KCCsFebhalfterm25>. Families with children under 5 may be interested.

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 relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on Monday 24 February.

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.



LTB
ACADEMY
EST. 2013

**FEBRUARY
FUN...**

**AT OUR HOLIDAY
& MULTI-SPORT
CAMP!**



When?
17th-21st February
2025

Where?
Coombe Hill Schools

February Camp 2025 is booking now!

Our holiday & multi-sport activity camps have something for everyone!

www.lovetheball.com

KINGSTON
UPON THAMES

LIGHT UP KINGSTON

14TH - 23RD FEBRUARY 2025

4.30pm - 9pm daily

**A free, unmissable spectacle
with new light installations
and exclusive discounts from
local businesses**

Brought to you by Kingston First
and Riverside Walk:



RIVERSIDE WALK

Discover more:
[kingstonuponthames.info/
lightupkingston](http://kingstonuponthames.info/lightupkingston)

X f i
@inkingstonuk





PLANET ART

ARTS,
CRAFTS, FUN
& GAMES!

TEACHING KIDS TO RECYCLE, REUSE AND REIMAGINE!

ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

FUN ON THE PISTE! HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP!

TUESDAY 18TH, WEDNESDAY 19TH AND THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

9.30AM - 3.00PM FULL DAYS ONLY

THE GARDEN HALL, ST MARY'S CHURCH, SW19 7BT

BOOK: WWW.PLANET-ARTCLUB.COM OR CLASS FOR KIDS!

FOR CHILDREN
AGE 4 - 9 YEARS
OLD (4 YEAR
OLDS MUST BE IN
RECEPTION)



DISCOVERERS - Friends of Richmond Park

Free Family Event - Free Parking

Birds in Richmond Park

Sunday 16th February, drop in 1:30-3:30pm

Pembroke Lodge Gardens (Belvedere)



Photos by John Strachan

We are teaming up with the Richmond and Twickenham Local Group-RSPB on this occasion to enable you to discover the birds of Richmond Park.

There will be short guided walks, observation stations as well as art and science indoor activities on the theme of feathers.

Do come and join us!

