



# COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

*Learn together, grow together*

Friday 13 December 2024

Dear Families,

This week has been very busy with the concerts, the fair, and preparations for the end of term. Your children are doing so well to manage the changes to their routines, thank you for supporting them so well.

A huge thank you to those of you who helped to organise and support an amazing Christmas Fair. It was so smoothly run and attended by so many families. Special thanks to Rachel, Jessica, and the team for leading this so well, we have managed to raise £6,421 so far which will be split between the two schools. The final figure may increase and we will keep you posted.

## Christmas Raffle

Our Coombe Hill Christmas Raffle closes on Sunday. There are some amazing prizes courtesy of many generous donors. Please support this by buying tickets via the link below, good luck!

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

## Christmas concert dates and times

We hope that those of you who have attended so far have enjoyed the Christmas concerts, we are grateful to you for making sure that your children have their costumes in school, ready for their performances. A reminder of the concert schedule for Monday, please do not bring babies or toddlers with you as we will be unable to let you in. We will circulate the recordings of the concerts via secure YouTube links next week. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

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

## End of term - early finish

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

## Changes to school lunch ordering

As you will have seen from the message sent on Wednesday, we are changing the way that school lunches are ordered from the first day back in 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. 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 step-by-step instructions on how to order the lunches on Parentpay, please look out for the email next week.

### **Lunchtime Supervisors**

We are looking for people to work on our OPAL lunchtime team from January. Please chat to us if you are interested and look out for more details next week.

### **Parking**

Unfortunately, we are still receiving complaints from residents that parents from Coombe Hill are parking on private roads, or across their driveways and on double yellow lines. Please avoid doing this, it is dangerous to other vehicles and pedestrians and damages our relationship with our neighbours in the surrounding area.

### **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 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.** Cases nationally of Norovirus are currently on the increase and we ask for your co-operation in protecting our school, for more information please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>. Thank you.

### **Governor's half termly report**

*What a busy and exciting half term for us all! We are always impressed with the thought, care and energy the whole Coombe Hill Infants team puts into making the school such a positive and enriching place to be for our children, and the past few weeks are no exception*

*In particular, I would be remiss not to mention the flurry of excitement when the recent Ofsted visit was announced! A big thank you to the whole CHI team who work so hard to ensure the school is 'inspection ready' every day, parents who responded to provide your feedback to the Ofsted satisfaction survey, some of my governor colleagues who spoke to inspectors, and, most importantly, our amazing children. The inspectors commented on how impressed they were by the children they spoke to, and how all the children they observed around the school were: "calm, polite, and courteous". Whilst we are still waiting for Ofsted to provide their official report, we are very proud of how everyone stepped up to show them what an amazing school we have.*

*We've also had the opportunity to observe the exceptionally high quality phonics and reading lessons throughout the school, tour the school grounds to inform future priorities for site maintenance and meet with the wonderful Coombe Connections team. Being a governor is incredibly rewarding and gives you a real opportunity to shape the direction of the school - please please consider giving it a try as a parent governor or associate.*

*In the meantime though, wishing you all a happy and restful break!*

*Chiara Marcelline  
Governor*

### **OPAL cake sale**

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale today, we have raised £171 which Mrs Jakob is delighted to be able to put towards OPAL resources for our playground.

### **New school resources funded by CHIPTA**

This week we received a delivery of brand new baking and cooking equipment for each year group which has been funded by CHIPTA, through money raised at our events that so many of you support. The teachers have asked me to pass on their thanks to CHIPTA for providing these resources which will allow the children to take part in cooking sessions in school. All of your children benefit from the events that CHIPTA works so hard to run.

In addition, Miss Matheson and the year 1 team would also like to add their thanks for the amazing new outdoor kitchen for the year 1 playground that arrived this week.

*We just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU from the Year 1 team for funding resources in our playground. We have used the money raised to buy a lovely kitchen which the children are going to enjoy so much!*

Please see the picture below. We so appreciate the work that goes into all your fundraising, it makes such a huge difference for us and the children. Thank you again!

Best wishes,

Miss Matheson & the Y1 team



CHIPTA will also be funding some lovely new resources for the Reception outdoor area and we will let you know about the plans soon.

### **ASDA cash pot scheme**

Thank you to everyone who supported the ASDA Cash Pot for Schools scheme which closed at the end of November, you raised £153.

### **Re-scheduled CHIPTA meeting**

We will let you know the new date of the postponed CHIPTA meeting in due course.

### **Celebrating Diversity Committee meeting**

The Celebrating Diversity committee is meeting on Thursday 19 December at 9.00 am in the Infants school staff room and Shazia (our Education Wellbeing Practitioner from the MHST team) will be joining us to talk about the support that she can offer - all are welcome to come along.

### **Looking for book suggestions?**

We are taking part in the [Spark! Book Awards](#) again this year. You will be able to buy copies of the longlisted books on ParentPay from **Tuesday 17th December** - more information to follow. Mrs Jakob is part of the shortlisting panel and all of the children will be reading our copies of the 12 books in school over the next weeks to help her make up her mind about the 4 best books to go into the shortlist.

### **Attendance**

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 96.65%. Tiger class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 99% attendance, very closely followed by Ladybird class with 98.97%, well done to both classes! We monitor the attendance and punctuality for every child regularly and we will write to families where we have current concerns about low attendance and/or frequent lateness next week. We continue to be concerned about some families who are falling into a regular pattern of morning lateness. Punctuality is so important for your children and missing the beginning of sessions regularly has a tangible impact on their learning and achievement. The teachers find that late arrivals into their classrooms can easily disrupt a session when they have already started teaching. Please talk to Mrs Jakob or myself if you need support with this - we expect EVERY child to be in their classroom EVERY day on time.

**Attendance Matters**



**Reception children - National Child Measurement Programme**

A reminder that the School Health team is due to visit the school on Monday 27 January 2025 to weigh and measure all children in Reception. You have the opportunity to withdraw your child from the programme and if this is the case you need to let the School Health team know by calling 020 8549 6323 or by emailing [KU19-SchoolHealth@yourhealthcare.org](mailto:KU19-SchoolHealth@yourhealthcare.org) in advance of the session. Please ensure you include your child's name, date of birth, and school and state the reason why you do not want your child measured. Please refer to the email that was sent on 06/12/24 for full details.

### **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](#)

### **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**

- **Maths for parents - Kingston adult education**

Kingston Adult Education is running a FREE 6-week course designed to help you better support your children with the Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 maths topics they learn in primary school. Their next course starts on Monday 6 January and will take place at the Hook Centre, Hook Road, Chessington KT9 1EJ from 7 pm to 9 pm. If you are interested in registering for this course, please complete their enrolment form: [bit.ly/multiply-kae](https://bit.ly/multiply-kae). This is one of a number of free maths courses offered by Kingston Adult Education, which is part of Kingston Council. For full details about these and their wider course offering, take a look at their latest prospectus [bit.ly/KAE-2425prospectus](https://bit.ly/KAE-2425prospectus). 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)

- If your child missed having their **flu vaccination** in school, please see the attached poster below for a reminder of the final catch up session that is being offered tomorrow.
- Please find attached the link to an excellent selection of webinars as part of the **"Helping Children with .....** " Series  **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.

- **Stagecoach - Free Discovery day**

As you may know, Stagecoach, the performing arts school, hold weekly sessions from our school on Friday evenings. Stagecoach are offering a free "discovery session" for anyone with a child who might be interested in finding out more. Please see the link to follow if you are interested <https://cyekyg7d.forms.app/free-discovery-day-new-malden>

If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant and might be interested in joining Stagecoach please contact Mrs Reid in the school office as Stagecoach are currently offering free scholarships for a term for a small number of children on a first come, first served basis.

- **"The Alligator's Mouth " Book Subscriptions and Gift Boxes**

With a variety of options and prices, The Alligator's Mouth tailor 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. The full range of gift boxes and subscription options can be browsed [here](#). Please note that subscriptions and gift boxes must be ordered tomorrow, 14th

December to be delivered in time for Christmas  
<https://www.thealligatorsmouth.co.uk/subscriptions>

- **Support and helplines over the Christmas break**

Childline - Open 24/7 for under-19s, call 0800 1111 or chat online

Mind - Their four helplines are open during the daytime Mon-Fri (except 25-26 Dec and 1 Jan)

Samaritans - Open 24/7 for all ages, call 116 123

Shout - Text SHOUT to 85258 for support over text message, open 24/7 for all ages

#### **Previous newsletters**

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

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

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend before our final week of term.

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.*

## **Missed your flu vaccine?**

**Live or go to school in the boroughs of  
Kingston or Richmond? Aged 4-16?**  
Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and  
protect yourself this winter!

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

**No need to book an appointment.  
Call 020 3691 1043 or  
020 3691 1019 for more  
information**

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

