



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 7 February 2025

Dear Families,

**** All children may wear their own comfortable clothes on Monday to mark the start of POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH week! ****

Next week, we will be focusing on being Resourceful like Owl. Owl teaches us to think about the best way to learn, to change things if they are not working and think about what we have learnt. This fits really well with the theme of the Positive Mental Health Week, "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself."

How parents can help

Encourage children to...

- talk about the day and what they learned and maybe tell them what you learned today too
- try a different approach if their model/project/drawing is not working out
- work together to help find solutions

This morning the whole school enjoyed the Lion Class assembly. The children performed so confidently, with lots of singing, rhyme, storytelling, history, and music. They have learned a lot and enjoyed sharing their learning with us.



This week we welcomed Sir Ed Davey MP into our school. He spent time touring the school, visiting classes and meeting with some of our Rights Respecting Ambassadors. The children spoke about their Rights and the Rights of all children around the world. We were so proud of them.

We also spent time talking about some of the challenges facing our school. We discussed the challenging budget, the lack of support services for children with SEND, and the growing concern about children accessing too much technology and how this can impact their development.



Relationships and Behaviour

This week we have been focusing on positive Relationships. Your children are very young and they are learning how to be sociable and aware of others within our inclusive school. This is developmental and some children find this more challenging. It can be hard for parents to understand this if their child has been hurt. We would like to reassure you that we are working as hard as possible to support all of our children to make the right choices. It is vital that parents help us with this work and if we need to speak to you about choices your child is making, in order for you to support us in our approach. Mrs. Jakob and I will be hosting a workshop next half-term to share our behaviour approach and talk to you about how you can support your child. Please look out for the date. Please follow the link for our Relationship and Behaviour policy [Relationship and Behaviour policy .docx](#)

Visit from Coombe Hill Manor care home for National Storytelling Week

We were delighted to welcome some of the residents of Coombe Hill Manor care home into school again on Monday. As part of National Storytelling week, the residents shared stories and read books together with some of our year 1 children. Everyone had a lovely afternoon, we are so pleased to be able to make these valuable links with our local community.



Celebrating the Lunar New Year with a Dim Sum feast

In Reception this week we continued our Lunar New Year celebrations by having a Dim Sum Feast. We tried lots of different Dim Sum, like mochi, dumplings, bao buns, and fortune cookies. Thank you to all the families who contributed to this..



Forest school for Hedgehog class

Hedgehog class had a great time at Forest School going on a bug hunt and making clay bugs and insects using forest materials. They loved the free time exploring the grounds, building dens and creating a rope swing. We then gathered round the campfire to enjoy a delicious hot chocolate and popcorn!



Positive Mental Health Week next week

Next week, we are excited to take part in *Children's Mental Health Week*, focusing on the theme "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself." This theme fits so well with our school's focus on developing the whole child. Helping children to understand themselves and their emotions is all part of developing self awareness. Understanding fears, hopes and dreams, helps all of us grow in our ability to connect with others,

develop our talents and build strong, healthy relationships. By building a sense of self, we help our children grow into resilient individuals, well-equipped to face the challenges and triumphs of life from childhood to adulthood. "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself" aligns with the provisions we have in place in school to support all of our children with their mental health and well-being - our Learning Behaviours (Respect, Resilience etc), our ELSA and Nurture teams, Prefects, School Council, Rights Respecting Ambassadors and Mental Health Leads and First Aiders. We also can access amazing support from the Mental Health Support Team. All of this helps to ensure that all of our children are ready to learn, are happy and are thriving. If you are struggling with anything at home and would like to talk to someone about it, do get in contact with us.

To start Positive Mental Health Week, join Mrs Berry and Mrs Jakob for a tea/coffee after drop off on **Monday 10 February** (8.45 - 9.45) . Come and chat with other parents and staff members - younger children are welcome to come along too. Please come in via the Library door after you have dropped your child off. We have lots of purposeful activities planned for the children throughout the week and on Thursday 13th February, Shazia is running "How to manage my worries. workshops for Years 1 and 2. Some of those children will then share their learning with the Reception children eg breathing techniques etc.

Here is a message from Place2Be:-

*This year's theme is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**.*

It is so important we understand what makes us tick, our likes and dislikes, strengths, fears, hopes and dreams. Our emotions play a key role in telling us just that, and being aware of how to listen to and express ourselves is a major part of building self-awareness. It is through knowing ourselves and speaking with others, that we can build resilience, grow and develop. 1 in 5 children and young people now have a probable mental health condition. By taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2025, you can help us to ensure that children and young people across the UK, feel listened to, and know that they're not alone.

Safer Internet Day - Webinar for parents

The school's IT support provider, Eduthing, are hosting a virtual parent/carers support session in conjunction with Screen Safe on **Tuesday 11 February from 7 -8pm**, on Safer Internet Day. This will include tips for parents, resources to talk to children about online safety, particular apps and features to be aware of and finishing with a Q&A session. For more information and the link to register, see below.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/7V8KEcsRR2eo0tebIpNyBQ#/registration>
[eduthing Safer Internet Day Parent & Carer Webinar.pdf](#)

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.

No school clubs from Monday 24th to Thursday 27th 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).

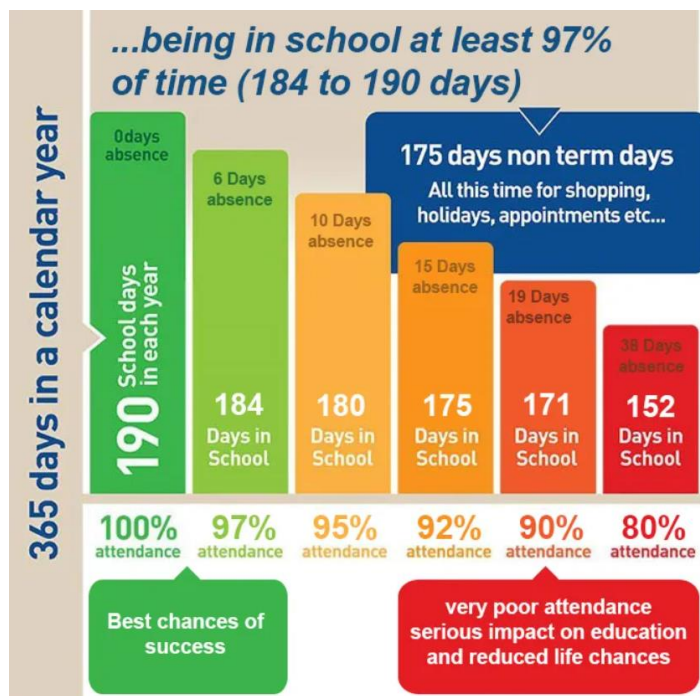
Absences from school

We would like to remind you of the processes and procedures around term time absences. We strive for every child to be in school every day in order to maximise their education, learning and progress.

- We strongly encourage families to arrange routine health and dental appointments outside of school hours - during the 175 non-term time days available in a year.
- Changes to the Education Regulations 2006 means the Headteacher may no longer grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- We do not authorise leave for family holidays.
- Evidence to support the request (other than for a funeral) must be provided.

- 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 this form to request leave from the school [Leave of absence request form.docx](#)

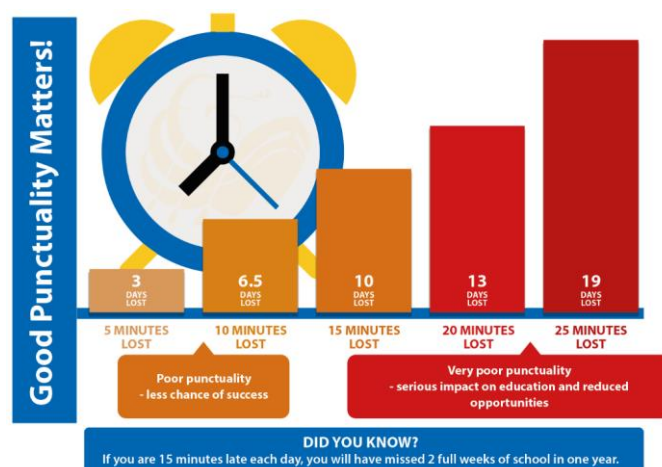
If your leave of absence request is for any other reason than those given above **you must submit your request in writing (by letter or via email to to admin@chi.rbksch.org) giving full details, at least 2 weeks in advance** of the intended absence period, addressed to Mrs Berry. Our Attendance and Absence policy is always available on our website.



Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 94.22%. Butterfly class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 98% attendance, followed by Lion and Ladybird classes with 97.33% each. Well done to all three classes.

Punctuality monitoring

Next week we will also be issuing letters to parents where we have concerns about frequent lateness. We record every minute that a child is late together with the reason, this sits on their attendance record. If you are experiencing problems in managing to arrive at school on time please speak to us as soon as possible so that we can work together to improve the situation as quickly as possible.



Squirrel class cake sale

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale today for Squirrel class, you have raised **£179.34**, for Squirrel classroom resources. Mr Collyer and the children will be deciding how to spend the proceeds for their classroom very soon.

Mathletics - Year 1 and 2 children

For parents of Year 1 and 2 children, Mathletics is the platform we use for home learning around maths. It is important that children have the opportunity to practise at home, the maths which they are learning in school. All activities consolidate learning from that week, so completing the activities as soon as possible is beneficial. New work is set every Friday. Please attempt as much of this as is possible and if you have any problems, then talk to your class teacher.

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.

Thank you to CHIPTA




We would like to say a big thank you for the new cooking equipment that has been generously donated by CHIPTA as a result of our fundraising events that so many of you support. In Reception the equipment is being used at least once a week and it has made a huge difference to the cooking experience in school for the children. Thank you again for supporting the children's learning with these wonderful resources.



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!

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>

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 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.



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](https://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!

