



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 31 January 2025

Dear Families,

This week we have been focusing on being Responsible, aided by Kanga. For our children this means learning how to be safe & look after ourselves and others. It also means being responsible for our coats and gloves and helping look after the resources in the classroom and playground. Next week we will be thinking about healthy Relationships. Rabbit knows that relationships with family, friends and grown ups at school are important. We need 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

Lunar New Year - Assembly for Reception

Reception have been exploring the Lunar New Year which started this Wednesday. We were lucky enough to have one of our parents come in to share some exciting stories about why people celebrate new year and some photos of how they get ready and celebrate. We learnt that there is a dragon that must be frightened away and that the colour red is a great way to do this so we have been making red decorations for our windows. We also found out that each year is symbolised by a different animal for the zodiac and that this is the year of the snake, what year were you and your family born in? We wish all of our families who are celebrating the Lunar new year this week a happy and prosperous year ahead.



Forest school for Leopard class

Leopard class enjoyed a wonderful sunny morning making fires, practising their survival skills and drinking hot chocolate at Forest school on Wednesday morning.



Year 1 and Year 2 Pupil Progress Meetings sign up

The Pupil Progress Meetings for years 1 and 2 are scheduled for Tuesday 25 February and Wednesday 26 February from 3.20 - 6pm. As usual we will ask you to sign up for a 10 minute slot to meet your child's teacher. We expect all parents to attend, as part of our Home Partnership agreement, and we will follow up with any parents who have not booked a meeting. **The booking sheets will be emailed to year 1 and year 2 parents at 10.00am on Tuesday 4 February next week.** If you need any assistance in making your booking please contact the school office on 020 8942 9481 or email admin@chi.rbksch.org.

National Storytelling Week - w/b 3rd February

We love books and stories at CHI and we will be sharing even more stories with the children than usual. Please keep on reading TO your children at home - the research evidence proves that the benefits of reading with your child are huge. Reading impacts every area of a child's life - from bonds with parents, speech and language development, social emotional skills, imagination, creativity, empathy take a look at the [Book Trust's](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/) website to find out more.

Positive Mental Health Week - Parent coffee morning

Throughout the week starting 10th February we are focusing on how to maintain positive mental health. Staying connected is a proven boost to our mental health and with this in mind, we are opening the hall on Monday 10 February from 8.45 - 9.45 am for you to stay for tea/coffee after morning drop off to meet and have a chat with other parents - younger children are welcome to come along too. Please come in via the Library door after you have dropped your child off.

Staffing

At the end of this half term, Friday 14th February, we will say goodbye to Mrs Ruth. She has worked at our school for over 25 years. She has worked with so many children and families during this time and has made such a positive difference to so many. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her our very best for the future.

School Lunches

We are pleased that the new school lunch system is working well and thank you for continuing to order lunches via Parentpay in good time. Please always check that you have your child's lunches ordered for the following week at the weekend. We are still finding that on some days some children do not have a school lunch ordered and do not have a packed lunch with them. **Please ensure that you check that your child has a lunch order or a packed lunch every day.** We also ask you to talk to your children about the lunches that you have ordered for them and remind them in the morning as occasionally a child is not aware and this has caused a few upsets when they reach the servery and are given a lunch that they are not expecting.

Attendance

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is 95.22%. Ladybird class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 98.67% attendance, followed by Squirrel and Leopard classes with 98% each. Well done to all three classes.



Leaving scooters and bikes at the school site

We have had a report this week of a scooter having gone missing from the small grassed area by the blue entrance gate. Please be mindful that you leave scooters and bikes at your own risk on the school site and that this area is highly visible to the general public from the path and road at all times. This area is not monitored and we do not take in bikes/scooters during the day or overnight for security. Please use the bike shed at the far end of the school car park nearer to the Junior school where possible or take bikes and scooters home with you.

Quiz Night - Coombe Hill schools

The PTAs of both schools have organised a quiz night to take place from 7pm on Friday 7 February. Tickets are

available on Parentpay, £7 each, with a maximum of 8 people per team. Drinks and snacks will be available to buy during the evening. Organise a table with others and come along, it's a great opportunity to get together with other parents, and should be another great evening. All proceeds will be split between our schools.



Hedgehog class cake sale

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale today for Hedgehog class, you have raised **£195.90**, for Hedgehog classroom resources. Miss Bransfield and the children will be deciding how to spend the proceeds for their classroom very soon.

National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) - catch up session for Reception

Any Reception children who were absent on Monday and missed the school health team for the NCMP will be weighed and measured this coming Monday (3 February) instead.

Second hand uniform

We are now accepting further donations of branded Coombe Hill uniform (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, all donations are gratefully accepted and will be passed to the charity.

A message from the Alligator's Mouth bookshop in Richmond.

We are delighted to be welcoming author/illustrator Ruby Wright to the shop **this Saturday** for an exciting creative workshop and interactive reading of her charming picture book, Invisible Dogs. Ruby can't wait to meet everyone and will be happy to sign her book for you! This event is recommended for children aged 3+ and the £5 ticket price is redeemable against Invisible Dogs.

[Invisible Dogs with Ruby Wright](#)

Saturday 1st February, 3:00pm

£5 (redeemable against the book)

DBS certificates

A reminder that it is a requirement that we see your original DBS certificate when you receive it in the post, to complete the DBS check process - please make sure that you bring this to the school office so that we can take a copy as soon as you receive it.

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.

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

- **Love the Ball** are holding their half term Summer camp here at Coombe Hill in February, booking now and 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.
- **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**. This year, there are new light installations that feature **soundscapes** and **sensory functions** to create an interactive and exciting experience. There are also **exclusive offers and discounts** with local businesses throughout the duration of the event, for more information please see this link [Light Up Kingston 2025 - Press Release.pdf](#)
- Please find to follow some **useful resources from the Anna Freud organisation** covering topics such as parents separating, self care, promoting young children's self-regulation skills through play, supporting young children and families through bereavement, helping children to think about race in the early years etc, please take a look [For families | Anna Freud](#)
[Resources for under fives | Anna Freud](#)
- **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](#)
- **The Butterfly Group** - a support group for parents who are encountering a difficult time, perhaps bereavement, a relationship breakdown or another challenging event. A 5 week course on Thursdays, starting Thursday 27 February from 10 - 12 noon at Tolworth children's centre. For more information please see the attached flyer [Flyer February 25 TCC.pdf](#)

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 an enjoyable 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](http://kingstonuponthames.info/lightupkingston)

X f i
@inkingstonuk



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!

