

COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 21 March 2025

Dear Families,

This week I have been showing lots of visitors around our school and they have all again commented on how polite, happy and engaged your children are. We spend a lot of time talking to your children about the need for good manners and they are trying so hard to be respectful. Thank you for supporting this at home.

Our Behaviour focus next week is all about positive relationships. Rabbit knows that relationships with family, friends and grown ups at school are important and he teaches us to listen to our friends, use kind words and to 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

Science week in school

There has been great excitement this week with our annual Science Week. **Year 1** launched science week with an Astronaut training day! They learnt all about what life is like for astronauts living on the International Space station, from how they brush their teeth to how they exercise. They took part in team and fitness challenges throughout the day and all passed their training with their very own certificate. Some children wish it was astronaut training every day!





Year 2 designed and made aeroplanes, explored how Mobius strips work and completed a castle building challenge in teams! A Möbius strip, Möbius band, or Möbius loop is a surface that can be formed by attaching the ends of a strip of paper together with a half-twist.



Reception children began thinking about our topic 'Pets'. We explored a real fish to learn all about its scales and then we compared them to real feathers. Once we'd found out even more about pets we used all these new facts to help us write riddles, using our knowledge to guess an animal just from its description. We also carried out an investigation in our role play, that puppies need an absorbent bed so we explored the best materials to help the vet! Finally we were able to look at a real life dinosaur fossil, obviously we can't have a dinosaur as a pet! Can we?

Thank you to Sebby and Lillie's mum for sharing a real T-Rex fossil with each class. Children were full of awe and wonder and lots of questions!



A huge thank you also to Luke's mum for sharing some real space suits and talking to Year 1 and 2 about space travel. What a way to inspire our future scientists!







Recycling Rockstars assembly for Year 2

On Wednesday, Year 2 had a visit from a representative of Veolia, the local waste management services. We learnt about how our waste is recycled in Kingston, including the 3 'Rs' - reduce, reuse and recycle, what can and can't be recycled, the recycling and waste journey, littering and fly-tipping and how we can all take pride in our local neighbourhood. The children asked some insightful questions at the end and we are grateful to Veolia for coming in to talk to the children. Veolia has also kindly donated five lovely apple tree saplings to our school which we will plant in the log cabin garden with some of the children.



Forest school for Butterfly class

From Miss Lee: "We had a glorious time in Forest School this week, the Butterflies were able to enjoy such a sunny morning. We spent our morning sawing and drilling to make beautiful Spring Birds before enjoying a woodland story around the campfire, watching popcorn pop over the flames. We built dens and tried to make our own fishing rods, no luck this time but perhaps in the summer we will catch something".



All of your children have enjoyed wonderful Forest school sessions once again this term thanks to your support of our CHIPTA events which allow us to pay for Mrs Jade, a trained Forest school teacher. Mrs Jade has many years of experience, running Forest school on our lovely school site in the woodland and pond areas. We are so fortunate to be able to provide this opportunity for every child, if you would like to find out more about Forest school please see this link to our website

Thank you for your continued support of our CHIPTA events.

https://www.coombehillinfants.com/page/?title=Forest+School&pid=285.

Summer term clubs

We had a very high level of demand once again for our Summer term clubs and we are working hard to place as many children as possible in the clubs that have been requested. It is not possible to meet every request due to the number of places we can offer to ensure that the clubs run safely and effectively but hopefully the children will be happy with the clubs they are allocated. Please check your Parentpay accounts on Monday, we hope to have allocated all clubs by the end of the day.

Leopard class assembly

It was wonderful to see all of the children on the stage, sharing everything they have been learning about this term. The children shared their home languages, showed us how to sing an action song played by the children at our link school in Malawi, displayed their amazing artwork showing the new techniques they have learned, taught us about Florence Nightingale and reminded us of the importance of good nutrition and working together as a team. Well done, Leopards!

The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel



For two weeks from Monday until Friday 4 April we are once again taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. **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.

National Skipping Day

We are hoping for some lovely Spring weather next Friday as we take part in National Skipping Day. The children will take part in some skipping activities outdoors.

https://www.skipping-workshops.co.uk/national-skipping-day

Year 1 and Year 2 Maths meeting

A reminder that 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 also 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.



We need your help! 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)

Save the date! International evening - Wednesday 30 April from 6 - 8pm



We are looking forward to our annual International Evening next term on **Wednesday 30 April**. This is an annual event which brings together our wonderfully diverse community to celebrate our cultural heritages. We encourage you and your children and extended families to come along for an evening of food, music, dancing and celebration. We will be inviting you to bring plates of food to share and also encouraging anyone who might be able to dance, sing or play music to perform. More information to follow soon!

Bee class cake sale today

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Bee class cake sale a success today, you have raised £256.64. Miss Zolobajluk will be planning what to spend the proceeds on with the children for their classroom.

SEND mini cake sale this week

We are pleased to tell you that we raised a further £57.57 at the additional SEND cake sale that we held on Monday, making a total of £277.17 for SEND resources, thank you to everyone who supported these sales.

OPAL cake sale next week

Our cake sale next week is in support of OPAL resources across the school, we would be most grateful for donations from parents from every class and any volunteers to run the sale would be greatly appreciated. Please bring all donations to the school office next Friday, many thanks.

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 <u>admin@chi.rbksch.org</u>) giving full details, <u>at least 2 weeks in advance</u> 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 96.48%. Otter class has achieved the highest attendance this week, with 98.33% attendance, closely followed by Ladybird class with 98%, well done to both classes.





Punctuality

We have noticed an increase in late arrivals in the morning over the past two weeks with traffic delays given as a common reason. There are a lot of roadworks in the local area at the moment, where possible please make active journeys to school and leave plenty of time every morning for your route to school. Being late causes disruption to the class teacher and classroom staff and can unsettle your child as they arrive late into their classroom.

Eid al-Fitr celebration

If you are celebrating Eid on Sunday 30/Monday 31 March and you are intending for your child to be absent should Eid fall on Monday 31 March, please make sure that you email the school office at admin@chi.rbksch.org or call us to let us know that your child will not be attending school that day, if we do not hear from you and your child is absent we will need to call you. Thank you.

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/NzlwMjI2NzI5Mzg1
- Year 1 classroom https://classroom.google.com/c/NjI0MTI0MjM3MDg5
- Year 2 classroom https://classroom.google.com/c/NjI0MTI2MTg0NjMy

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

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

- 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 **11am-12pm** 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
- 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

Wishing you a restful wee	ekend.		
Warm regards			
Janet Berry			
Headteacher			

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

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

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.

WE'RE BACK!

EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP - BOOKING NOW!



Now into our twelfth year of offering education through sports to 4-11 year olds, we can't wait to welcome you to our Easter Camp at Coombe Hill Schools.

We have an experienced, friendly group of coaches and we offer sports and activities that will appeal to all age groups and interests. We are delighted that we are part of this amazing community and look forward to working with you and your children this Easter. See you all soon, Coach Jon



7th-11th April 2025

JOIN US FOR:

AT COOMBE HILL

JUNIOR SCHOOL KT2 7DD



HOLIDAY &
MULTISPORT

CAMP

Matches

Gymnastics

Hockey

Team work!

The Famous Match Attax Cup

Morning Wake Up Shake Up

Dodgeball

Basketball

Benchball

Athletics

Arts and Crafts

Colouring

Coombe Kilometre

Games

Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 10th is EASTER EGG HUNT DAY!



Easter Camp 2025 is booking now!

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

www.lovetheball.com

