



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

Friday 20 September 2024

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Welcome Meeting on Wednesday evening. It is so important that we work together with you and there are so many ways that you can become involved in the life of our school. Please catch us at the gate in the morning or drop us an email if you would like to know more. Many thanks to our CHIPTA chair, our CHIPTA Treasurer and our Governors for coming along to introduce themselves, and of course our staff. I have attached the PowerPoint presentation from the meeting. [Welcome meeting September 24](#)

Your children have settled down well into the routines of school life. There is a lot to learn and it can feel a little overwhelming for some. Please talk to staff who will be at the door each morning if you have any concerns. If you think you need a longer discussion then please arrange this. We are finding that some children are play fighting quite a lot, this can result in children getting hurt. Many of them are re-enacting things they have seen on their ipads or on television, please keep an eye on what they are exposed to. We try to stop this as much as possible. Staff will talk to you if your child needs help with this, your support is vital please. Our expectations of behaviour are clear and later on this term we will host a workshop explaining our approach with the opportunity for you to ask questions. Our approach is based around positive Relationships. I have attached our Relationship and Behaviour policy and our agreed approach.

[Relationship and Behaviour policy .docx.pdf](#)

[Relationship & Behaviour](#)

Year group meetings

As you will have seen from the list of dates circulated earlier this week our welcome/curriculum meetings for each year group will be held as follows:

- **Reception welcome meeting** - Wednesday 25th September at 9.00 am
- **Year 1 welcome meeting** - Thursday 26th September at 9.00 am
- **Year 2 welcome meeting** - Friday 27th September at 9.00 am

Please come along to these meetings, you will be given lots of important information about the year ahead about how you can support your child.

School photographs

The children will have their individual school photographs taken on **Wednesday 25th September**. Siblings **within** the Infants school will also have their photographs taken together (there will be an opportunity later in the school year for siblings across the Infants and Junior school to have their photographs taken together). **Year 1 should come to school in full school uniform on Wednesday (no PE kits that day please).**

Please register for your photo orders **now** by following these three simple steps:

1. Visit <https://order.fizz-photography.co.uk> on your phone, tablet or computer
2. Enter code: JRDZF9RMZY
3. Enter your child's name and your contact details

Please register **BEFORE** next Wednesday. Once registered, you'll be notified when photos are available for viewing and ordering, directly receiving your child's photo(s) via email/SMS (your details are used solely for sharing your child's personal gallery securely with you, and you can learn more about Fizz Photography's data protection practices here: <https://order.fizz-photography.co.uk/privacy-policy/>).

Clubs for Years 1 and 2

We received a high volume of requests for our Autumn clubs earlier today from the booking time of 10am. As always we look very carefully at all requests and try to be as fair as possible to everyone and aim to meet as many requests as we can. It is not always possible though and we appreciate your understanding in this. We will let you know early next week when clubs have been allocated and are on Parentpay awaiting payment. If any clubs have spaces we will let you know and offer these out again for booking. Clubs begin the week starting Monday 30 September until the end of November. I am grateful to all of the staff who give their time voluntarily to run these after school clubs for the children.

Attendance

We expect to see every child in school on time during term time, as long as they are fit and well enough to attend. Children who attend school every day make better progress both academically and socially. There is a direct link between under-achievement and absence. Children also find school routines, school work and friendships easier to manage when they attend school every day. We work very closely with any families where their child's attendance is a concern and track every child's attendance carefully. We do not authorise absence during term time for holidays and overseas travel and expect holidays to be arranged in the 13 weeks of school holiday when children are not in school, without any term time overlap. For fuller information please see our Attendance and Absence policy on our school website and refer to the following information on Attendance and Absence:

<https://www.coombehillinants.com/page/?title=Attendance&pid=272>

Each week we will let you know the overall attendance across the school for the week (our aim is 96% and above), and we will also tell you which class has the highest attendance of the week.

- Our overall attendance this week is **96.44%**
- **Tiger class** have achieved the highest attendance this week with **100%**, well done to Tiger class!

Attendance Matters



Illness absence

We of course fully understand that young children can become ill and are grateful to parents for keeping their children at home when they have a raised temperature, have diarrhoea and/or vomiting (for 48 hours), and are clearly not well enough to attend - these are authorised illness absences. If a child is absent from school for 5 consecutive days or more, we require medical evidence to support this. Again we attach the following guidance from the NHS on common childhood illnesses and when your child should or should not attend school, we hope you find this useful. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. Please contact the school office staff with any questions about illness absence.

Coffee morning with Shazia, our Educational Wellbeing Practitioner

Thank you to those of you who attended the coffee morning with Shazia yesterday. We were thrilled to see so many of you. We now have lots of suggestions for workshops. If you were unable to make it and have something you would like to talk about or run a workshop on, please email Mrs Jakob at admin@chi.rbksch.org

Parent workshops and webinars

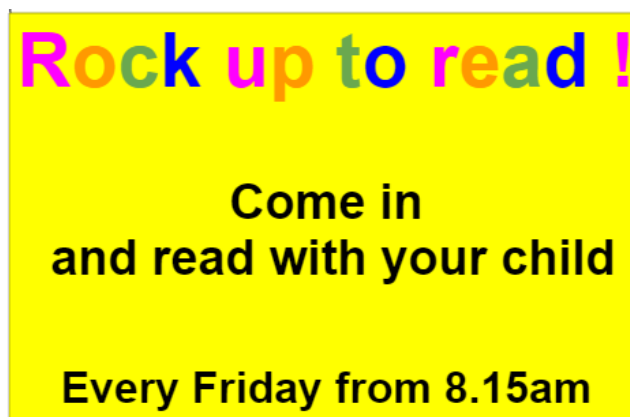
Shazia's first parent workshop of this year is a two-part workshop "**Strategies for Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way**". These will be held from 9 - 10.30 am on Thursday 17th and 24th October. Please email admin@chi.rbksch.org to register your attendance.

We also can offer you access to an excellent selection of webinars as part of the "Helping Children with " Series. 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.

📄 **Helping Children Series 24-25.pdf**

Rock up to Read! - every Friday at 8.15am

It was lovely to see so many of you sharing a book with your children this morning. Every Friday morning at 8.15 am, we will continue to open our Library doors and invite you in to read to/with your child. Parental engagement in children's reading is so important and what better way to start the day than sharing a story with your child - "*A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success*" - OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). So come along and join us at Rock up to Read, please come in via the blue side gate, the code for Rock up to Read is 2626.



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)



For more information about OPAL please click on the following link [Outdoor Play and Learning](#) Please can you help us by donating any unwanted construction toys eg duplo, wooden blocks etc and any wheeled toys eg scooter, pushchairs, wheelbarrows to help us resource of play times. Click on the link to find out more about the benefits of play. We would also like any donations of dinosaurs for our Reception garden.

Reception children family photographs

A reminder to our Reception parents/carers to send in a photo of your child and their family that we can share with the class, this might include siblings, grandparents, cousins, pets, etc. We will be framing these with the children and sharing them in the classroom. You may send photos to admin@chi.rbksch.org or give your photos to your child's teacher.

School Governors

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful team of school governors here at Coombe Hill Infants. The governing body supports the school at a strategic level. We are always looking for new volunteers with skills and time to join the team. We will soon be recruiting a **parent governor** and new **associate**

members. If you are interested to find out more, please come along when we hold our drop-in session before half-term and have a chat.



School governors needed!

**Become a governor at:
Coombe Hill Infants' School**

We are looking for governors & associate members to join our governing body.

It's an opportunity to support our school and the children and young people in our community.

Governors have 3 core functions:

- * Planning the strategic direction of the school
- * Overseeing financial performance of the school
- * Holding the headteacher and school leadership to account

We are particularly looking for people with **financial** or **HR skills** and/or people who have **time** to give to this important role.

To contact us for more information email: clerk@chi.rbksch.org

CHIPTA Newsletter

Please see this term's newsletter from the CHIPTA committees. If you have any questions or would like to get involved or offer your help in any way please contact chiptachair@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

Welcome to the
new school year!

CHIPTA News Autumn 2024

DBS Alert: If you would like to volunteer in school as a parent helper you will need to apply (re-apply if expired) for a DBS certificate. Please come to the School Office to collect an application form or if you have questions.



Message from CHIPTA

Hello!

We are a group of parent volunteers who give their time to help raise much needed funds and bring our school community together.

We are a friendly group with children across both schools and we always welcome new members and help from all parents and carers! You can commit as much, or as little time as works for you.

Coombe Hill Infants' Parent-Teacher Association (CHIPTA)

Recent events & fundraising:

- ☞ Summer Fair (joint with CHJ) £7,315.00
- ☞ Summer Raffle (joint with CHJ) £1,126.25
- ☞ Bounceathon £1,577.75
- ☞ Quiz Night (joint with CHJ) £590.00
- ☞ Easy fundraising (earn as you shop) £2,100

Upcoming events / fundraising: Autumn/Winter

- PTA introduction meeting – October – All welcome
- Celebrating Diversity - Walk & Talk – 20th September
- Bounceathon – 8th October 2024
- Fireworks evening – 7th November 2024 – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE!**
- Parents Golf Simulation evening – November
- Christmas Fair & Raffle – 7th December
- Tea towels – All Children

How we've used the funds 2024:

Swimming pool refurbishment ●
Forest school ● Drumming Bedtime bags ● OPAL ● Year 2
Leavers T-shirts ● Easter Eggs

CHIPTA committee: Chair – Rachel (Lion mum) chiptachair@gmail.com; Treasurer – Jessica (Butterfly mum) chiptatreasurer@gmail.com; Secretary – Helen chiptasecretary@gmail.com; Diversity – Izzie & Jacqueline (Leopard mum) chiptadiversity@gmail.com

PTA Fireworks Event

Join us for an amazing firework event on Thursday 7th November! 🎆

- ★ Gates open at 4:30pm, with the fireworks display starting at 6:00pm.
- ★ Enjoy tasty hot dogs, popcorn, and candy floss, and there's a bar for adults.
- ★ **Tickets are £6 each and can be purchased on ParentPay starting Monday, September 23rd.**
- ★ Previously bought tickets for 2023 are still valid. For any questions, please contact chiptatreasurer@gmail.com.
- ★ Please note, all children must be accompanied by an adult, with a maximum of three children per adult.
- ★ We are also looking for volunteers! If you can help, even for just 30 minutes, please contact chiptachair@gmail.com.
- ★ Everyone is welcome. Don't miss out on the fun!

Fruit & Vegetable costume donations please

We will be holding our annual Health & Happiness week at the beginning of October, as part of this week the children will be invited to dress up as a piece of fruit or vegetable on Friday 11th October. We kindly ask, if you have any fruit & vegetable costumes at home that you no longer need, please donate them to the school office, from the week commencing 30th September. CHIPTA will then hold a second hand costume sale after school on Friday 4th October.

A welcome from the Celebrating Diversity committee

The Celebrating Diversity group, part of CHIPTA, is dedicated to creating a casual, fun, and caring environment for all. Run by parents at the school, our aim is to foster a warm, inclusive atmosphere and continue to build our amazing community. Our goal is to help families feel connected and supported through activities that encourage socialising, having fun, and showing kindness, all while genuinely appreciating and learning about each other's unique backgrounds.

Everyone is welcome to join our monthly walks through Richmond Park. We also hold monthly Diversity meetings, where you can share ideas, discuss topics of interest, and meet new people.

We would love to see you become a part of our group, which celebrates and embraces Coombe Hill schools' amazingly diverse community!

Celebrating Diversity Dates for the Diary

- Tuesday 24th September - **“Walk and Talk to Richmond Park”** - Come along for a relaxed walk in the park to meet and chat to other parents, our first “Celebrating Diversity event of the year”, babies, toddlers and dogs are all welcome too. Meet at the school straight after drop off or at Ladderstile Gate at 9.30am.
- Tuesday 22nd October - **“Walk and Talk to Richmond Park”** - Come along for a relaxed walk in the park to meet and chat to other parents, our first “Celebrating Diversity event of the year”, babies, toddlers and dogs are all welcome too. Meet at the school straight after drop off or at Ladderstile Gate at 9.30am.

Smartphone Free Childhood movement



#CHANGETHENORM

We as a school are in full support of the group of parents who have come together to raise awareness of the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, a reminder of their message below:

“Some of you may have heard of the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, a parent-led initiative focused on protecting children from the potential drawbacks of early smartphone and social media use.

This movement aligns well with Coombe's focus on fostering a distraction-free learning environment, and we know many parents are already involved.

For anyone interested in learning more, please review this [one-pager](#) with information and a link to join the Coombe Hill Smartphone Free Childhood [WhatsApp group](#).

There is no obligation to join the group, but it can be a valuable resource for parents who share these concerns”.

[House of Commons Committee report - Screen time: impacts on education and wellbeing- report summary](#)

Routine childhood vaccinations - NHS information

When your child starts or returns to school, they will have increased contact with other children. If they are not up to date with their routine immunisations, they may be at risk of catching preventable diseases, including measles, whooping cough, meningitis, diphtheria and polio. Please check that your child is fully up to date with their routine immunisations. You can check if your child is up to date with immunisations by checking their Red book or contacting your GP surgery. For a full checklist of vaccines and when they should be given please visit - [NHS vaccinations and when to have them](#). For further information on Immunising primary school children please see this link [Postcard](#).

Lion class cake sale

The Lion class cake sale held last Friday raised £171.70 for the Lion classroom. Mrs Warland and the children will be deciding which resources the money will be put towards and we will share this information with Lion class parents and carers in due course. Thank you to all of the parents who baked and donated cakes and biscuits and to those of you who ran the sale on the day. We will let you know how much the Tiger class sale held this afternoon has raised, next week.

Term dates 2024/25

Please find attached a link to the term dates for this academic year, please note the INSET dates when children are not required to be in school.

[Term Dates](#)

Tesco “Stronger Starts” scheme

A reminder that **until Monday 30th September**, if you make any purchase from the Tesco stores listed below, please make sure to request a handful of blue tokens and put them into the Coombe Hill Infants section of the large plastic box. It will be situated close to the till area. As you know we are raising money for our OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning) initiative. By being listed as one of 3 schools and charities, we are guaranteed to be awarded £500 by Tesco to put towards new OPAL items for our children. However, if Coombe Hill Infant School receives the largest number of blue tokens across the branches below, we could be presented with £1,500 and then entered into a larger draw to receive £10,000. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this so far.

- **Norbiton Express**, KT1 3RT (at the Triangle)
- **New Malden High Street Express**, KT3 4DQ (under the bridge by New Malden train station)
- **Kingston Thames Express**, KT2 5EB (opposite Kingston train station and cinema)
- **Hook Express**, KT9 1EL
- **Tolworth Express**, KT6 7DQ
- **Chessington Express**, KT9 1SG
- **Surbiton Hook Road Express**, KT6 5AR
- **Worcester Park Express**, KT4 7NW

ASDA “Cashpot for Schools”

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with ASDA, who are making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their ‘Cashpot for Schools’ initiative. All you have to do is opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our school and shop and scan in store or shop online at <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024. Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started. One of our parents has said “My personal cashpot for the school is £69.92, it's amazing, it quickly adds up!”

Easy Fundraising scheme

Coombe Hill Infants School has raised £2.1k so far through the Easy Fundraising scheme. You are able to support this every time you shop online at no extra cost. Sign up today to easyfundraising and raise free donations when you shop online with over 8,000 retailers. All the big names like eBay, Argos, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat are ready to donate. Join today and we could win a £100 bonus donation:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/coombe-hill-infant-school-kingston-upon-thames/ydh9x7/s2s/FZ9Up2Ac/SE870/whatsapp>

Community Information

- **Flu vaccination catch up sessions** - If your child did not receive the flu vaccination in school this week for any reason there are catch up clinics available for you to book for your child, please see the information at the end of this newsletter.

Wishing you all a restful 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.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

NHS
South London
Children and Young
People's Community
Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

**Live in the boroughs of Kingston or
Richmond? Aged 4-16?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and
protect yourself this winter!

**Call 020 3691 1043 to book an
appointment**

**Tuesday 29 October 09:30 - 12:30
Teddington Health and Social Care Centre,
TW11 0LR**

**Or come down to one of our
walk-in clinics**

**Saturday 16 November 09:30 - 12:30
Southborough School Clinic, KT6 5AS**

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

Our processes and procedures

As we start the school year, we would like to remind you of a few important procedures which enable us to work smoothly together for the benefit of your child.

- **Reporting your child's absence**

Please report your child's absence in the following way:

- email admin@chi.rbksch.org any time **before 9.15 am** every day of your child's absence
- call 020 8942 9481 any time **before 9.15 am** every day of your child's absence, you can leave a voicemail on our system at any time, we always check this
- if you are dropping off a sibling at school, please come to the school office and report the absence

All absences must be reported to the school office team, not to teachers on the classroom door or to other school staff.

- **Morning punctuality**

Classroom doors open at **8.40am** for all year groups, when learning starts. We expect all children to be in their classrooms by 8.50am at the latest. The classroom doors then close. If your child's classroom door is closed you should make your way to the school office where we will ask you to complete a late form and our school office staff will take your child from you to their classroom. If you arrive late this is noted on your child's attendance record, with the reason for lateness and number of minutes late, we monitor this carefully.

There is always very limited parking around the school site and the roads are always heavily congested.

- **Afternoon collection**

All Reception children should be collected from their classroom at **3.05pm** and **year 1 and 2 children at 3.10pm**. It can be very unsettling for your child if they are not collected with the rest of their classmates from their classroom.

- **Illness**

Please find attached the following guidance from the NHS on common childhood illnesses and when your child should or should not attend school, we hope you find this useful.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. If you have any questions about this please contact the school office.

- **Vomiting and Diarrhoea**

We ask you to strictly 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 and then appears well they must remain at home for the full 48 hour period. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

- **Parking around the school**

The school car park is for staff/visitor parking only, we are unable to offer parking for parents at drop-off and pick-up times. Please walk or cycle to school whenever possible. If you need to drive please park considerately, and do not park over driveways, on the pavement on Coombe Lane West and not on the double yellow lines. Traffic wardens regularly patrol the roads.

- **Labelling items**

Please check that every item of your child's school uniform is clearly labelled, including each of your child's shoes, as well as their coat, hats, scarves and each glove when the weather becomes cold. Please also ensure that water bottles and lunch boxes are all clearly named.

- **Coats**

Please make sure that your child wears a named coat to school every day at this time of year. The children play outside several times during the day and must have weather appropriate clothing. We have a few second hand coats available in the school office entrance if you would like to have a look.

- **Dogs on the school site**

Please do not bring dogs onto the school site.