



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Friday 24 November 2023

Dear Families,

This week we have been thinking about being Responsible, helped by Kanga. For our children this means knowing how to keep safe and look after the school. Next week we will have a focus on our Relationships with each other and how to be a good friend. We are still seeing quite a lot of rough play during playtimes and lunch times. Please could you talk to your children about this and about the need to respect others personal space.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Reception and Year 1 Phonics Workshops and today's Reading workshop. You will find the powerpoints on Google Classroom. Also, thank you for all of the lovely ideas of how we can help you support your child's learning - these include videos showing how we teach reading in school, how to "listen" to your child reading their phonics book at home, workshops demonstrating how to read story books to your child, a list of recommended books for when your child is ready to read independently and a writing and maths workshops. We will share dates and links with you as soon as we can.

Road Safety week

Our Road Safety week began on Monday with a whole school assembly about how to cross the road safely.

The Reception children had a special assembly to celebrate Road Safety week. Community Officer Neale and Officer Bennion helped the children see that they could be secret super heroes by knowing how to cross the road safely. We learned the three steps of Stop, Look and Listen among other tips such as making sure grown ups are concentrating too and not being distracted by phones. The children enjoyed seeing the special visitors and were given reflective stickers to use and help keep them safe.



The children also used our new road safety signs and the zebra crossing to understand the importance of crossing the road safely. They also spent some time with some police officers who came to visit the school and learnt about speed cameras and the importance of road users observing the speed limit. We are still concerned that some families are still crossing the road without using the crossing. We have asked the children to remind you of this. Please support us by teaching them how to cross the road safely.

Celebrating Diversity Group

CHIPTA's Celebrating Diversity Group met this week and they are very busy planning the International Food stall - thank you if you have already donated, if you would like to help or know more, you will find contact details in the message from the Christmas Fair Committee further on in this message.



At each meeting, we share new books which reflect the diversity of our school community. These are our recommendations

How we love our hair, by Ayoola, J. Discover a fun collection of stories about the wonders of natural, curly afro hair! Are you searching for the perfect way to teach your child about the basics of afro hair maintenance? Looking for a fun collection of stories that explain hair maintenance in an enjoyable way? Confidence, self-esteem and hair love? Then this book is for you!



All the ways the to be smart by Davina Bell

This colourful picture-book provides an alternative perspective on the culture of academic achievement by celebrating a diversity of talents.



I'm going to be a princess by Stephanie Taylor

This book redefines what a princess consists of and is a powerful image for little girls.

Malawi assembly

Mrs Speak, a former staff member, returned to our school to update children on the partnership that we have with the Namanyanga School in Malawi. It was rewarding to see that the Learning Resources pack that we sent over the summer was of use and very much appreciated. It is amazing to see some of our children's work on display in classrooms in Malawi! Mrs Speak shared some messages and videos from the children in Malawi and our children have all been inspired to write return messages over the coming months. Here is a link to the [presentation](#). Times continue to be especially hard, so we will again be raising funds later in the year. For more information about our partnership with Namanyanga school in Malawi, please visit the following page on our website <https://www.coombehillininfants.com/page/?title=African+Vision+Malawi&pid=105>



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) survey

Two weeks ago we told you our new initiative linked to playtime called OPAL. To learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children. **We asked parents to complete a short survey about what your thoughts are about playtime currently at Coombe Hill Infant School. The survey can be found by clicking [here](#).** We hope that every family will complete this questionnaire.

Autumn term school clubs - please note

Next week is the final week that clubs will run this term - **no clubs from Monday 4 December onwards**. Please make a note of this if your child attends clubs.

Spring term club booking dates

All families have today been sent details of how to book Spring term clubs next week, from 11am on Wednesday 29 November. If you have any questions about the school clubs next term please contact the school office.

Coombe Connections Club

New bookings

If you would like to request a NEW booking for our Breakfast and After School provision, Coombe Connections Club, for the first half of the Spring term 2024, our Booking Request Form will be available on the school Connections Club webpage from 27/11/23. The deadline for new applications is 03/12/23.

A form is required ONLY FOR NEW BOOKINGS.

Existing Bookings

If you have a Connections booking currently, it will be continued into the first half of the Spring term and a Booking Request Form is NOT required. If you wish to request a change to your booking you must email Connections by 29/11/23.

Connections email: connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org

We work on a 'first come, first served' basis and availability is prioritised to those with existing bookings.

Link to the Connections webpage:-

<https://www.coombehillininfants.com/page/?title=Coombe+Connections&pid=110>

Infants' School Availability for Spring 2024

Breakfast Club availability		After School Club availability	
Monday	Plenty	Monday	None
Tuesday	Some	Tuesday	None
Wednesday	Some	Wednesday	None
Thursday	None	Thursday	None
Friday	Plenty	Friday	Plenty

Junior School Availability for Spring 2024

Breakfast Club availability		After School Club availability	
Monday	Plenty	Monday	Little
Tuesday	Little	Tuesday	None
Wednesday	Little	Wednesday	None
Thursday	Some	Thursday	None
Friday	Plenty	Friday	Plenty

FINAL REMINDER - Flu immunisations - Wednesday 29 November

A final reminder that the consent form for your child to have the flu immunisation in school **must be completed by Monday 27 November** - the immunisation team cannot accept any late requests.

Please refer to the email that was sent separately today.

Google classroom

We would like every family to have signed up to your child's Google classroom. If you need a reminder of your child's login details and classroom code please contact the school office. We would be most grateful if those parents using Google classroom could provide us with some feedback on what you think of the communications by completing [this short form](#).

A message from the Christmas Fair committee



Christmas Fair 2023 - Saturday 2 Dec 12-3.30pm

Further information

The Coombe Hill Christmas Fair is now just a week away! We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. It is a lovely opportunity for us to come together as a community to celebrate this festive event. Come and have a tasty lunch, hot chocolate or mulled wine. Maybe join in the games, visit Santa's Grotto, create some lovely Christmas crafts, buy some preloved toys and books or try your luck in our tombolas and our Christmas Raffle. Our amazing Parents' and Children's choirs are looking forward to entertaining you. Every penny we earn will ultimately benefit our children so please spend generously.

Stalls & volunteering: Stalls have been allocated to classes. If you have not yet signed up to support your class then now is the time to do so. A huge thank you to all who have already volunteered to make this an amazing event. Also, feel free to help on the day by approaching the Christmas fair committee or talk to your class rep. If many help a little, a lot gets done!

Donations: We are now collecting donations, please see the information below on where and when to leave items. Collection points for donations are outside the Juniors office or in the Infants reception area/office.

Week starting Monday 27 November

Donations of **Toys, Games, complete puzzles etc** - in good and working condition, otherwise please recycle elsewhere. It would help our volunteers tremendously if you are able to wipe clean the toy before you donate it to the school. Please leave these in the INFANTS' office.

Donations of **new/nearly new Soft Toys** for the soft toy tombola (please only donate clean, undamaged soft toys in very good condition). Please leave in the INFANTS' office.

Donations of **new items for our Secret Room stall** where children can buy presents for their Parents, Grandparents, siblings and others. Previously we have received brand new, jewellery, makeup sets, cooking utensils, cups, candles and unwanted gifts. Please leave in the JUNIOR office..

We still need donations of lots of jam jars please and we still continue to accept donations for books, and junior size uniform only

Friday 1 and Saturday 2 December

Donations of **whole cakes / cupcakes / cookies /gingerbread biscuits** etc for the desserts and refreshments stall should be taken to either of the school offices on Friday 1 December or straight to the stall on Saturday 2 December. They should be in airtight containers to keep them fresh. Please no nuts or nut products in any item. Please clearly label all containers with

your child's name/class if you would like them returned to you. This stall is popular and celebrates the amazing talented bakers we have in the Coombe Hill Schools!

Friday 1 December - A NON-UNIFORM DAY FOR BOTH THE INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS. DONATIONS OF BOTTLES* AND/OR CHOCOLATES WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE SCHOOL GATES.

** We would be grateful for donations of new and unopened bottles of alcoholic drinks, non-alcoholic drinks, toiletries, olive oil etc for the bottle tombola stall.*

International food

Last request for anyone to cook a dish for the International food stall, at the Christmas fair! **Please bring it warm on the day to the juniors hall. You can arrive with your food at any time before 1pm.** If you are able to bring food could you please **let us know at chiptadiversity@gmail.com**. Please include your name, what type of dish and approximately what time you will arrive at the fair. Dishes that are super helpful to cook can be noodles, rice/veg rice, tomato pasta for the kids, mac and cheese, curry, chilli, pizza, noodles, mash, lasagna etc. These always sell out.

Feel free to cook as much or as little as possible. We are aiming for around **10-15 servings** from one dish if you can.

Please bring your dish in a container that is LABELLED with your name, ALLERGENS in the dish and the ingredients. *NO NUT OR SESAME DISHES PLEASE*

Please sign up below to offer food donations:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sG14amLty7zIWes3szHKB3hDRI_DK3ATzEnudkLzurM/edit?usp=sharing

We still really need volunteers for the stall to run, especially between 12-2pm. Even if you can donate half an hour of your time it would be greatly appreciated!

Please sign up below to volunteer on the food stall:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-FNoD-0azzZUOkH_FnCCETLddmvFhZepMt4u32UENk8/edit

Raffle

You need to be "in it to win it". Lots of amazing prizes donated by our generous local business and from our parents for you to win. Tickets can be purchased online:

<https://raffall.com/348500/enter-raffle-to-win-coombe-hills-christmas-raffle-hosted-by-coombehillschools>

Christmas Fair Choir Performances

The Junior and Parents' Choirs will be performing on the day. Timings are:

Parents' Choir 12-12.30pm

Junior Choir 12.45

What to bring to the Fair

Most stalls will only take cash and only selected stalls will accept card payments. So please bring plenty of loose change/coins!

We're aiming to make the fair more sustainable so feel free to **please bring your own cups/glasses/utensils and your own carrier bags (or trolley!) for things you buy.**

Note: 50p off drinks if you bring your own cup.

Thank you so much for your help and support! We hope to see many of you at the fair.

If you have any questions, please contact chiptachair@gmail.com (Infant school parents);
chjptachair@gmail.com (Junior school parents)

The Christmas Fair Committee

Accent catering tasting session and parent drop in morning

All parents and carers are warmly invited to a food tasting event provided by Accent Catering, our school lunch provider, on **Friday 8 December** from **9 - 10am** at the school. This will be a chance for you to talk to our chef Marco and his team, and to understand more about the school lunches that your children enjoy, and most importantly for you to taste them as well! For more information about Accent Catering please see www.accentcatering.co.uk. I will also be available for a drop in session at the same time for you to ask me any questions about the school in general and about supporting your children (as always, if you need a longer conversation please make an appointment).

Punctuality monitoring

We are continuing to monitor every child's morning punctuality closely and are concerned that some children are continuing to arrive late regularly. We ask that any families who are experiencing difficulties in arriving at school on time talk to us so that we can support you in trying to improve the situation as soon as possible. This also applies to afternoon collections which again are being closely tracked. Travelling to school by car and finding parking is always more time-consuming during the winter months and we make no exception for traffic and parking delays.

Parent volunteers and DBS checks

If you have completed a DBS check with us we must see your certificate for our records, to complete the process. Please bring your certificate to the school office as soon as you receive it. We also encourage you to sign up for the DBS update service (free to volunteers) within 28 days of receiving your certificate, <https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>.

DBS certificates are valid for three years, if you need to check if you still have a valid certificate with us please contact the school office.

Children using the blue gate keypad

A small request, if you are waiting outside the office entrance for any reason please do not allow your children to press and play with the keypad to the blue gate. The security system can assume that the gate is being tampered with, and automatically stop working or trigger an alarm - we are also alerted within the school every time the keypad is pressed. We appreciate your co-operation with this, thank you.

Pupil Premium Grant

When your child was admitted to the school we checked their eligibility for the Pupil Premium Grant. Please get in touch with us if your financial circumstances have changed since your child's 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/yrUZKUVsunMns7yc9>.

Community and other information

We hope you find the following information useful:

- Kingston First have asked us to pass on details of events around Kingston in the run up to Christmas <https://kingstonuponthames.info/christmas-in-kingston>

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry

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.