



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Friday 15 September 2023

Dear Families,

This week we had our OFSTED inspection. It was an ungraded inspection which means that the purpose of the visit was to establish that Coombe Hill Infants is still a Good school, which was our outcome in our 2018 Inspection. The grade cannot be changed at this point. Once we receive the report we will share it with you and I will be able to discuss things in more detail with you then.

The Inspector commented on how confident, articulate and respectful your children are. We were all so proud of them. He was also impressed by the number of responses to the parent survey he received and how overwhelmingly positive they were. Thank you all so much for doing that, it means so much to us all and it really helped the inspector to find out more about our lovely school.

It has been an extremely busy week, but the most important thing that has happened is the arrival of our new Reception children. They are a delight and they have settled so well already. They seem happy and ready for their school journey. Please don't be alarmed if, after a straightforward start, they have a wobble about coming into school. This is perfectly normal, they will be tired and possibly a bit overwhelmed a few days in. Please ensure they get plenty of rest and keep as positive as possible, even if they are feeling less happy about coming to school. It will all settle very soon. We are all here to help with this process, please let staff know if your child is worried about anything. Our partnership with you is so important. Please come along to the Reception welcome meeting on **Wednesday 20th September at 9.00am** to find out more about the year ahead.

Roof repairs

I am sure that you have all noticed that the long awaited roof work has commenced. Work has started in the Junior school and will eventually move over to the Infant school building. We will keep you fully informed about how this will affect us nearer the time. We will all work hard to ensure that there is minimal disruption to the everyday business of the school. The project will last for at least 8 months. The initial impact has been on parking. Staff parking has been greatly reduced and parents in Coombe Connections are unable to drop off on site, we understand that this may cause inconvenience but it is necessary to ensure the work runs smoothly and safely. The pressure on the side roads has therefore increased. Unfortunately we have already had several complaints from residents, particularly on Crown Road and Lord Chancellor's Walk. Residents tell us that cars are parked over their driveways and also on double yellow lines. Please avoid this. I believe the Council will be patrolling the area to reduce the issues we are seeing.

Road safety around the school

Please could we also ask that if your child uses a scooter or bike that they **DO NOT** use them as they immediately leave the site and go down the hill along Coombe Lane West. The junction at Crown Road is always very busy and children can pick up speed very quickly on scooters and bikes. A child has already had a nasty accident on the hill this term and it is really unsafe.

Please always use the pedestrian crossing directly outside the school rather than trying to cross the busy road. Staff will be reminding parents of this in the mornings and at drop off. It is so important that we teach our children about road safety.

Year Group Information Meetings

We hope that the re-scheduling of the information meetings for our year 1 and year 2 parents did not cause too much inconvenience, all year group meetings will now take place as follows:

- **Reception** - Wednesday 20th September
- **Year 2** - Friday 22 September
- **Year 1** - Monday 25 September

Please make every effort to come along as important practical information will be given out as well as expectations for the year. We look forward to seeing you there.

In addition to the year group meetings all parents and carers are invited to meet our Education Wellbeing practitioner, Shazia, on Thursday 21 September who will give you information on how she supports our school families. More information on the work that Shazia does with our families will follow next week.

Coffee Morning with Education Wellbeing Practitioner.

Come along and have a coffee and a chat with other parents and our Education Wellbeing Practitioner around your child's emotional wellbeing needs.

The coffee morning aims to understand what emotional wellbeing support you would like help with for your child in future workshops.

The coffee morning will be held next Thursday 21st September at 9am.

We look forward to seeing you.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (MHST)
Emotional Health Service
Achieving for Children
42 York Street
London TW1 3BW

Whole school Welcome Meeting

On **Tuesday 26th September at 6.30pm** all parents/carers are invited to come in and meet the staff and find out more about the school, next steps and how you can support your child. There will also be an introduction to CHIPTA (Coombe Hill Infants' PTA) and a second-hand uniform sale afterwards. We look forward to seeing you all there. Refreshments will be provided and we request that the event is for adults only. Thank you.

Forest School

This week we started our Forest school sessions with Mrs Jade. The Squirrel class children had a wonderful time in the grounds and every class will have this opportunity each term. Apologies for the last minute change of class this week.



Rock up to Read

Each Friday morning we open our school at 8.15am and welcome you to come in with your child to read books from our fantastic selection. Please come in via the blue side gate (gate code 2626) and use the door next to the ICT suite next to Tiger Class.

Class cake sales

We are pleased that we will be able to restart our Friday afternoon cake sales from next week. For parents and carers new to the school, it is a Coombe Hill tradition to hold a cake sale most Friday afternoons and each week a different class donates homemade or shop bought cakes. The parents and carers of that class volunteer to run the sale and all proceeds go straight back into the classroom, and the children help to decide with their teacher what to spend the money on. We are always grateful to those parents who donate and help to sell the cakes. Please never include any nuts or nut products in the cakes or biscuits that you donate. Cash only please. The sales are held on the grassed area in the car park come rain or shine!

Adventure playground

Our beautiful adventure playground is open to families after school until half term. You are welcome to pick your child up and use the playground until 3.40pm. It is a lovely way to meet other families and for your children to run off a little more steam before going home.

Please could we remind you that;

- the playground **must** be cleared by 3.45pm to enable Connections after school club to use it.
- please do not bring any food with nuts or nut products on to the site and please **don't share** food with other children without informing their parent/carer
- please take all litter home with you
- please do not use the log cabin garden, Junior playground or field
- please supervise your child at all times, all the way to the blue side gate exit - this gate opens on to a car park which currently has heavy goods vehicles moving around with the building works on site, it is your responsibility to supervise your child at this time in this area
- unfortunately we do not have toilets available during this time
- Please avoid using the play equipment outside the classrooms

Junior school children **must not** access the blue side gate to get to the adventure playground unaccompanied by an adult, this is a safety risk - please do not give them the gate code. If you need to come back to the school playground having collected your Junior school child, the gate code is 9876 (do not share this outside our community please).

International evening celebrating our cultural diversity

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our International Evening on **Tuesday 10 October** from 6 - 7.30pm, all are welcome to join this wonderful event to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our school. Tickets can be reserved via the following link and we warmly invite you to bring a

plate of food, wear traditional dress and perhaps perform for us. Or simply come along and enjoy the evening together.

<https://forms.gle/Aw3eBKNF99HTp6RW7>.

Reporting absence

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason you must call the school office by 9.15am every day that they are absent. We have to account for every child every morning and you must contact us by this time. If we have not been informed of your child's absence by 9.15am we will call you and your child's emergency contacts to find out why they are not in school, this is a part of our safeguarding procedures;

- contact us at any time via email admin@chi.rbksch.org
- leave an answerphone message on 020 8942 9481
- we can answer your call to the school office from 8.00am in the morning

Thank you for your co-operation.

Childhood illness

Please find a link to useful NHS advice on how to decide whether or not to keep your child off school with illnesses such as coughs, colds, head lice, covid, chicken pox conjunctivitis etc. If you are still in doubt please always call the school office to check.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

Lunches

We are so pleased to see so many children enjoying school lunches from our menu provided by Accent catering. If you wish to provide a packed lunch for your child on any particular day we ask you to also make this as healthy and nutritious as possible. A reminder of what, and what not, to include:

- No nuts or nut products of any kind as we have children in the school with severe nut allergies
- No peanut butter and no nutella in sandwiches
- Please always check the packaging of cereal and granola bars very closely for any nuts or nut products
- No sweets
- No chocolate bars
- No fizzy drinks
- If you include grapes in your child's lunch they must be cut lengthways. Whole grapes are a serious choking hazard for young children and we will have to remove them from your child's lunchbox if we see them.

Please see the following link for some healthy lunchbox ideas

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx>

School lunch menu - Halal food

All the food on our school lunch menu is halal and we currently do not include any items containing pork or pork products. The jelly that we serve contains vegetarian gelatine only.

Birthday celebrations

We are sometimes asked by parents if they can share cakes and sweets with their child's classmates to celebrate their birthday. We cannot give out or pass on cakes and sweets to the children at school as we very carefully monitor allergies and food preferences. Some parents occasionally choose to give out birthday treats after school but we must request that you ask a child's parent before doing this as they may have an allergy that you are not aware of. Please never bring any items to the school site containing nuts/nut products, nor hard sweets (which are a choking hazard) and no gum. A lovely way to mark your child's birthday in school is to donate a book to their class which the teacher will read on their special day.

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. Families entitled to this grant are eligible for free school trips, a termly after school club and other funded benefits including supermarket

vouchers for the school holidays to cover the cost of the lunchtime meals that your child would normally receive in school. Please complete the attached link and your status will be re-assessed <https://forms.gle/yrUZKUVsunMns7yc9>. You can complete this form at any time if you would like us to re-check your status and we will let you know if you qualify for the grant. We are an agency for Foodbank Vouchers and we are able to issue these directly to you. Please email the School Office - admin@chi.rbksch.org - if you feel in need of this support (email will be checked intermittently), all requests will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Community information

Please find the following information at the end of this newsletter:

- **Volunteer home start** - there is a particularly high demand for volunteers in Kingston Borough, please see the attached flyer
- **Kingston children centres** - please find to follow the Autumn programme for families with children under 5 <https://tinyurl.com/59tywjwc>
- **Kingston Adult Education** continue to run their most popular courses, including 'Practical ideas for happier living' and 'Reduce anxiety and develop resilience in your child', as well as a new course starting in September called 'Building confidence and self esteem' - see the link for full details <https://bit.ly/CL-NewsJul23>
- **HENRY - Healthy lifestyle programme** - healthy families workshops and programmes, please see the flyer attached at the end of this newsletter

Wishing you 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.



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

INVITATION

An evening celebrating our community and cultural heritage

Tuesday 10th October - 6pm - 7.30pm - School Hall



We would like to invite you, our children, parents and extended families, to an evening of **food, music, dance and socialising**.

This is an opportunity to come together as we start the school year.

We ask that you bring with you a plate of **food** to share, if you can. This may reflect your cultural heritage, if you wish.

No nuts please and we ask that you clearly label the ingredients of your dish, so that those with allergies or dietary requirements are aware

Families might also like to share their cultural heritage and history by wearing **traditional dress**. Please do this if you wish.

Finally, if there are any would-be **performers** out there who would like to do a short (3 minutes) performance, the stage is yours. Perhaps you, or your child, play a musical instrument or sing or dance, or perhaps you might like to rehearse a group of children to perform? Again this could reflect your cultural heritage if you wish.

The Kingston Ballet School and the Coombe Hill Infants and Junior Schools parents' choir will also be performing.

In past years, this event has been a highlight in our calendar. Please help us to once again make this evening a success and join us on 10th October.

Please fill in the google form (link attached) to register your interest
<https://forms.gle/Q7vaEKbs7nHmBkD8>



RECRUITING
NOW



Volunteer. Because childhood can't wait.

If you have **parenting experience**, a few hours spare each week and want to make a difference to a local family, join our network of trained volunteers, helping families with young children through challenging times. **Free volunteer course** runs in **Hampton Wick** on Thursdays 9.30am-2.30pm from 5 October to to 16 November (not half term 26 October).



To find out more, contact
Angie Ahmed
info@homestart-rkh.org.uk
07884 536161
homestart-rkh.org.uk

**HOME
START**

**Richmond, Kingston
and Hounslow**

Charity No:
1108975

HENRY Newsletter for Parents

September 2023



Update from Kingston's HENRY Coordinators

Hello from the Kingston HENRY Team, and a warm welcome to our third edition of the HENRY newsletter. HENRY continues to grow within Kingston and we are delighted to be able to offer FREE Healthy Families Group programmes, 1:1 programmes and workshops. Our new workshop 'Understanding children behaviour' is now available to be referred to (self-referral or professional referral).

We are also pleased to share is that we are continuing our partnership with Brite Box. Every family who joins a HENRY Growing up programme is offered 6 weeks' worth of BRITE Boxes. BRITE Box is a weekly recipe meal kit which contains all the ingredients for a family to prepare and cook a healthy, balanced meal together.



What is HENRY all about?

We know that everyone wants the best for their children, but it can be hard to ensure a healthy lifestyle for the whole family. The HENRY team offer 8-week programmes and one-off workshops for parents and carers of children between 0-12.

HENRY is for everyone, and topics covered include understanding children's behaviour, setting boundaries, parent wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, supporting children eating a wide range of foods, screen time, being active, family routines, sleep, self-esteem, and much more.

The programme and workshops are **FREE to attend for parents/carers** of children attending Kingston Schools. You can self-refer by clicking [here](#) or via the QR code or to find out more please feel to email us on henry@yourhealthcare.org



Upcoming HENRY Programmes and workshops

Healthy Families Growing up (5-12's) Programme - Online

Morning group - Wednesdays
10-11.15am

Dates: 11th October- 6th
December

Break: October half term

Healthy Families Growing up (5-12's) Programme - Online

Evening group- Tuesdays 7.15-
8.30pm

Dates: 14th November – 16th
January

Break: Christmas holidays

Understanding children's behaviour workshop - online

Morning – 10 -11.30am

Date: Thursday 30th
November

Healthy Families Growing up (5-12's) Programme - Face to Face

Dates: 24th January – 20th
March

Break: February half term
Venue: Queen Mary Hall,
Cambridge Gardens.

Healthy families

- **What do parents say who have already accessed HENRY?**
- I enjoyed that I was not being 'told what to do', but instead we had discussions around what would work for my family.
- The possibility to talk and listen with other parents, getting ideas to cope with difficulties.
- The food boxes are brilliant

[yourhealthcare](#)