



COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Friday 8 September 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome back to everyone after the summer break. It has been lovely to see our year 1 and year 2 children back, they are so enthusiastic and ready to learn, thank you for preparing them so well. Welcome to the new families who have joined our year 1 and year 2 classes. The newly formed year 2 cohort seems to be working well, we can see some lovely new friendships forming and the children have settled well. Please remember that we have an open door policy. Please chat to the staff on the door if you have any concerns. If you would like a longer conversation please arrange this with them or email the office directly. It is vital that we work together to support your children.

Welcoming our new Reception children

We look forward to seeing our new Reception families again on Monday and Tuesday next week for the half day settling in sessions, and then on Wednesday 13th September when all of our Reception children start school full time. Reception parents have received an email earlier this week about the arrangements for the settling in sessions, please check this. A reminder that our school uniform supplier is PMG schoolwear <https://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk/>. However, the majority of our uniform can be purchased from high street shops and supermarkets. We also have Coombe Hill branded second hand uniform in stock to buy, please get in touch if you require any help with this.

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.

Year Group Information Meetings

We have arranged year group Information Meetings on the following dates at 9.00am in the School Hall:

- **Year 2 parents/carers** - Wednesday 13th September
- **Year 1 parents/carers** - Thursday 14th September
- **Reception parents/carers** - Wednesday 20th 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.

[Please look out for an email next week containing further important dates for the Autumn term](#)

Packed lunches

Through our school lunch provider, Accent Catering, we are pleased to be able to offer your children a varied, healthy and nutritious lunch menu. As well as the main menu items we also have a salad bar and fresh fruit available every day for the children to choose from.

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. Please note the following in terms of what to include, this is very important.

- 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>

New drop off and pick up times

A reminder of our new drop off and collections times:

Morning drop off:

- **8.40am** ALL classroom doors open
- **8.50am** ALL classroom doors close (all children should be in their classrooms)

Afternoon collection:

- **3.05pm** Reception children to be collected from their classrooms promptly
- **3.10pm** Year 1 and Year 2 children to be collected from their classrooms promptly

Attendance and punctuality

We sent an email to all parents earlier this week outlining our new attendance policy. We monitor and track attendance weekly and we record all reasons for late arrivals and collections, and meet our Education Welfare Officer every half term to discuss any issues. Please read the email carefully if you have not done so already, thank you.

Medical Information

All families are asked to provide us with any medical information about your child when you join the school. We hold this information on record and ask you to update us if anything changes or if a child should develop a condition i.e. allergies, asthma. Please contact the School Office with any questions or changes that we need to know about, and ensure that you supply us with any emergency medication that might be needed.

We also ask you to note the following if your child is unwell:

- If your child is feeling unwell please keep your child at home and phone the school office by **9.15am** (you can leave a voice message) on 020 8942 9481 or email us at admin@chi.rbksch.org.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea they must not come back to school until a full 48 hours has passed since their final bout of vomiting or diarrhoea. Please ask the school office if in any doubt on this before you send your child back to school.

Raised temperature

If your child has a raised temperature of 37.8° or above please do not dose them up with Calpol and send them into school – please keep them at home and contact the school before 9.15am.

If your child is ill and requires a GP appointment but is well enough to come in to school, e.g. they have an eczema rash, please send them in and make an appointment for after school.

Head lice and threadworms

It is a fact that head lice and threadworms are common in young children. Please check your

child regularly for both. If you do have an outbreak ask your chemist for an over-the-counter treatment; you do not need to visit the GP or to keep your child off school. In both cases you will need to treat the whole family very diligently. One easy way to reduce head lice is to make sure your child has their hair tied up; and, an easy way to reduce the transfer of threadworms is to make sure your child knows how to wash their hands thoroughly.

Medical and dental appointments

Please avoid making medical appointments during the school day. Dental appointments must be made after school hours. If your child has a scheduled hospital appointment please show the office the hospital appointment letter in order for your child's absence to be authorised.

Adventure playground

Our beautiful adventure playground will be open to families after school from Monday 11th September. 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 the 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, including when you leave the site
- unfortunately we do not have toilets available during this time, please do not ask to use them
- 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 please).

The car park is obviously very busy now with the building works, with heavy trucks and deliveries after school and it is so important that you do not allow your children to run ahead of you out of the blue gate, it is your responsibility to supervise them at all times. Thank you.

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. Please refer to the message sent earlier in the week. 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>.

Gas works

We have been informed by Scotia Gas Networks that they will need to carry out some urgent work on a gas valve outside the entrance to our school. Unfortunately, this work will need to start early next week and is expected to take approximately two days. Apparently, it was not possible to carry out this work during the school holidays. The pedestrian crossing will be maintained. A team will be on site using diggers and other machinery which will increase noise levels. There will also be welfare facilities for the engineers positioned close to the work area. The company has apologised for any inconvenience this work may cause.

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.

Food Bank vouchers

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 - over the summer 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>

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are concerned about the wellbeing or welfare of a child please let us know. The designated safeguarding leads for our school are;

Mrs Berry - Head teacher
Mrs Jakob - Deputy Head teacher
Mrs Heard - Inclusion Lead
Mr Morris- Year 2 Lead
Mrs Cottee- Coombe Connections Manager

If you are concerned about a child or young person please call children's services on 020 8547 5008. If it is out of hours and you are concerned about a child please call 020 8770 5000 or in an emergency situation contact the police.

We are all looking forward to a happy and productive Autumn term,

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