

Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is difficult to believe that a year has gone by since the start of the pandemic and this week has been a week of reflection. So many people have been affected and many lives have changed. As I reflect on the year I feel so many different emotions. I feel enormous pride in the way that your children have coped with the disruption. They have been wonderful, showing real resilience and strength of character. Thanks and recognition of Coombe Hill Infants staff who adapted so well and worked so hard to provide the best possible remote learning provision and recovery curriculum in between each lockdown.

Well done to you also, we know how difficult it has been for you, trying to support remote learning, juggling your own jobs and other children. Our governing body have been so supportive throughout and continue to challenge and ensure that your children are at the heart of all of our decisions. I would like to thank Jo Taussig, our Chair of Governors in particular for her continued support and dedication to our school. We have such a wonderful school community and we all feel so fortunate to be a part of it.

We have had such lovely feedback from so many of you and each message means such a lot. One of our parents sent a note to Sarah Olney MP and she has mentioned CHI in her newsletter under the Community Spotlight section, which can be found here <https://www.saraholney.com/post/richmond-park-news-23-march-2021>

Summer term events

We are expecting further guidance from the Department for Education in the next few weeks. However I think that the need to socially distance will be in place well into June. Therefore we will still need to restrict some of our activities. We will plan for a sports day, summer concert etc. However we will make a decision on whether or not we are able to invite parents nearer the time. We hope that swimming can go ahead, but we will wait until 21st June to begin. Our swimming sessions involve a lot of parental help and we will not be in a position to allow parents into the school until then. We will keep you informed and hope to give you plenty of notice. We are really looking forward to the time that we can invite you in to help us again. In order to do this you will need a DBS certificate in line with our Safeguarding procedures.

DBS checks for Parent Volunteers

In preparation for being able to invite parents into school to volunteer with swimming, library duty etc, we have started to carry out DBS checks again. All parent volunteers in school need to undergo a check and hold a valid DBS certificate. Please contact the School Office for an application form and details of the documents you need to provide so that we can carry out your check (ideally between 9.30am - 2.30pm). If you would like us to put an application form and details into your child's bag please let the School Office know. If you would like to confirm if you still hold a valid DBS certificate with the school please ask us.

Class/Year group bubbles

Currently your children are working safely within class bubbles. We are hoping to reopen our Studio group from the week beginning 26th April which will create a year group bubble in Year 2.

Parent chats - Tues 27, Wed 28 and Thurs 29 April after school

We would like to see you face to face for Parent chats next term as we feel it is important. We would also like to show you some examples of the work your children have been doing. In order to do this we request that only one parent attends this meeting. We also ask that you wear masks and keep a safe distance. Please keep to time, each appointment will last for 10 minutes and must finish on time to avoid bottlenecks. **Parent chat bookings open at 10am on Monday 29th March** when the link for your class sign up sheet will be emailed to you - you can sign up electronically.

Considerate parking and behaviour

Please could we remind you to park considerately. The residents of Crown Road and Lord Chancellors Walk have been in touch with us complaining of parents parking over driveways, parking on double yellow lines and being rude when asked to move on. This gives our school a bad reputation and also shows your children a very poor example. Please try to walk to school if possible, there are so many benefits. We have requested that the council traffic enforcement team and local police monitor the situation for us.

Love the Ball Easter Activities

Please find attached a flyer with details of Easter Activities being run by Love the Ball here at Coombe Hill. The Love the Ball coaches run weekly sessions with your children in school.

Kingston Adult Education - Community Learning newsletter

Please find attached the Summer term newsletter from Kingston Adult Education.

Please remember that school breaks up for Easter and finishes an hour early next week on Wednesday 31 March. Pick up times are 2pm for Year 1, 2.10pm for Year 2 and 2.20pm for Reception.

Warm regards

Janet Berry