

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year 1 and Reception welcome meetings this week, we hope you found them informative. We are so pleased to have been able to start our traditional Friday Cake Sales again - today we held the Tiger class cake sale and each term every class will hold a sale to raise funds for classroom resources, thank you to all of you who donated and bought cakes. Next week is the Lion class cake sale.

### **Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)**

We are delighted to inform you that this week we have received a Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM), in recognition of the work we have been doing in this subject. Mrs Warland has been leading on this award and has put a great deal of time into improving our science curriculum across all year groups. I have attached the official letter for your information and there is also a link on our website.

### **CHIPTA meeting**

We would like to invite you to our first CHIPTA (Coombe Hill Infants' Parent Teacher Association) meeting on **Friday 1st October in our school hall at 9.00am**. This will be open to all parents and it will be an opportunity for you to find out what the role of CHIPTA is, how you can get involved and how you can support your child's school. Coombe Hill Infants' school will celebrate its 50th Anniversary next year and we would like to mark this as a school community - your thoughts and ideas on how we can do this are most welcome. If you are unable to attend the meeting but do have ideas please get in touch.

### **Our Governing body**

As many of you will be aware schools are facing a funding crisis nationally. Here at Coombe Hill Infants' we are facing financial challenges and it is something we very much need to focus on and plan for. We are so fortunate to have a talented, dedicated team of volunteer governors, ably lead by Dr Jo Taussig, our Chair of Governors. They are currently working on this situation with school staff and are looking at ways to reduce our costs but also to increase our income streams. Your support at this time is hugely appreciated and we will be letting you know more about how you can help in the next few weeks. We are always looking for more volunteers to join our governing body, we will shortly be advertising for these roles. Please do get in touch if this is something you would be interested in finding out more about.

### **Traffic problems and inconsiderate parking**

Unfortunately this week we have had complaints from local residents about the parking of school parents. I am sure that the vast majority of our parents understand that it is completely unacceptable to park across or even on people's driveways. We have been given vehicle registration plates by local residents who are very unhappy and we have now instructed the Borough to send traffic wardens to monitor the local roads at pick up and drop off times. Please walk to and from school if you are able to - we have a very small catchment area after all. There is nothing more important to us than your children's safety and with nearly 700 children arriving at and leaving our school site every day everyone has a

responsibility to be careful and considerate in how they go about this to ensure that an accident does not happen. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **School Clubs**

We have had a lot of interest in our School Clubs and have worked hard to meet as many of your club requests as possible. Payment for clubs should have been made by 10am this morning and your child's place may be reallocated if payment has not yet been received, please go to ParentPay or contact the School office if you have not yet paid. All clubs (except the French clubs) start next week, please make sure you know which classroom to collect your child from and collect them promptly at 4pm via the blue side gate, the access code was given out yesterday. Please note that you will not be able to park at the school for clubs pick up.

### **Covid symptoms and testing**

We continue to be mindful that Covid is still prevalent in our community and we are continuing to be vigilant if any child shows symptoms in school. **We urge you not to send your child in to school if they have a cough** - in all likelihood you will be asked to collect them and take them for a PCR test. Please remember that Lateral Flow tests (home test kits) are to test anyone who is **not** showing symptoms. A PCR test at a test site **must** be arranged for anyone showing any one of the Covid symptoms of a cough, a raised temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell. The PCR test turnaround time at the moment is usually within 24 hours so it is no great inconvenience to arrange one and it is so important for us as a school to stay as safe as possible. We have Lateral Flow test kits available from the School office for you to collect.

If you are in any doubt of when to arrange a test please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> and PCR tests can be booked via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

### **Coombe Connections Club**

**New bookings.** If you would like to make a NEW booking for our Breakfast and After School provision, Coombe Connections Club, for the second half term of the Autumn term 2021, please complete and submit the Connections Booking Request Form. A form is required **ONLY FOR NEW BOOKINGS**. You will find it in the Connections section of the school website, within "Booking and Payment - Autumn 2 2021". The deadline for submissions is 03/10/21.  
**Existing Bookings.** If you have a Connections booking currently, it will be continued into the second half of the autumn term and a Booking Request Form is NOT required. If you wish to cancel or make changes to your existing booking, please send an email to [connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org) no later than our deadline of 03/10/21.  
For more information on Connections, please go to <https://www.coombehillinants.com/page/?title=Coombe+Connections&pid=110>

### **Accent Catering information - Wednesday 29 September in the afternoon**

Next Wednesday our Accent school catering team will be on site at school pick up to talk to parents and give you information and more of an insight into the meals that your children enjoy with us. Please look out for them and ask any questions. If your question is more specific to your child and their individual dietary needs please speak to the School Office.

**Parent Volunteers in school**

We would love to begin to invite you into school soon to work alongside staff, we have really missed this. We are having to be cautious and are just waiting to see what the situation is with Covid cases within our school. Everyone who helps in school is required to have a DBS certificate and we can arrange this for you. Please contact the School Office if you would like us to put the DBS certificate application forms in your child's blue bag. Thank you.

Have a good weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry  
Headteacher