

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so lovely to see your children dressed up today - what creative families we have! We enjoyed a parade in the hall which was joyful and made us all realise how much we have missed these occasions. The parade is a culmination of our Health and Wellbeing week, with a focus on food. We have enjoyed cooking, celebrating the harvest, completing a mini marathon and a focus on positive mental health. It has been a busy week. Year 2 enjoyed a workshop lead by the Matrix theatre company, and each child had a part in the story of the Great Fire of London. They had a lot of fun and the workshop really brought the learning to life. Please ask them about it. We share these events on Twitter and also post photographs on the website, please take a look.

Today is World Mental Health day. Here at Coombe Hill Infants' this is a priority every day and we are fortunate to have several staff members who are trained in mental health first aid.

Please see the following link and a great resource to support positive mental health <http://www.mindinkingston.org.uk/>.

Thank you for your generous donations this week of food and essentials which will be collected by a local charity supporting the homeless and vulnerable. Many families are struggling at the moment. Please get in touch if you do need any support, all conversations will of course be treated confidentially.

#### **Mini Marathon and Book donations**

Thank you also for donating towards our book fund, we have raised over £300 which is a great start towards replenishing our books. For each £5 raised we are able to buy 1 new reading book.

#### **School Meals - Accent Catering**

We are delighted that most of our children are now taking up the offer of a free, hot and nutritious meal each day at school. We work closely with Accent caterers to ensure that the menu is balanced and healthy. The meals are freshly cooked on site and we work hard to make lunchtimes an important part of our educational offer. We would like to invite you in to school on **Friday 15th October at 9.00am** to sample some of the food and also to have the opportunity to talk to Marco, our chef and the Accent team.

#### **Parent Chats**

As we reach the final weeks of this half term we would like to invite all parents in for a parent/teacher meeting during the week before half term. Please look out for the sign-up sheets, they will be released on Monday morning at 10am and you can sign up online. We are offering a choice of afternoons and there is an expectation that teachers meet all parents and carers. Please avoid requesting separate meetings with staff - all of our teachers are running early morning groups and after school clubs so they are very time limited.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding your children is our main priority and here at Coombe Hill Infants' safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Please remain vigilant and if you are concerned about a child or young person please call Kingston Children's services on 020 8547 5008. If you feel that a child or young person is in immediate danger please call the police. Our safeguarding and child protection policies can be found on our school website. The NSPCC play a vital role in Child protection. Their website is very informative and has a section called Childline Kids which is dedicated to supporting children under 12. It allows young children to access age appropriate advice, play games, visit a 'Calm zone ' and create art. To find out more visit <http://www.childline.org.uk/kids>

May we also remind you that young children do need to be supervised when playing online. I have attached a letter for your information.

### **Behaviour focus**

Our behaviour focus this week has been Resourceful. Next week we will be thinking about Reasoning - listening to others and making the right choices. Please talk to your children about this, we will be particularly focusing on good listening.

### **Chicken Pox and general illness**

We understand that young children often pick up bugs, particularly during this term and we continue to be vigilant to coughs and temperatures, and we have also seen an increasing number of children with chicken pox this week. However, we are finding that there are more children currently absent than normal for minor illness. If you are unsure about whether to send your child in to school please call us. If your child has a mild cold or stomach ache it is often better to bring them in, we will closely monitor them and will always call you if they become unwell during the day. If your child has a bout of vomiting or diarrhoea they must be kept at home for 48 hours since their last bout. May we also remind you that if your child is absent you **must** call the school office before **9.10 am**, you may leave a message on our absence phone line or email [admin@chi.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@chi.rbksch.org). Our office staff are having to spend too much time chasing up absent pupils. It is our legal responsibility to account for every child on our register each day so we will call you each hour until we talk to you. Please help us by contacting us promptly on each day of absence.

### **Flu immunisations**

Please note that the deadline for registering your child for a flu vaccination has been extended to midnight on Sunday 10 October. Whether or not you consent to your child receiving the flu vaccination we ask you to complete the form. Information containing the link to sign up is attached.

### **Parent Volunteers**

Thank you to parents who have volunteered to help with Forest school sessions, staff are very grateful and we are hoping that we can start to invite parents/carers in to help in school with other activities after half term, please could we remind you that all parents/carers who help in school are required to have a valid DBS certificate. Please contact the School Office to arrange this.

### **Adventure Playground after school**

Following my message last week about an increase in litter on the Adventure Playground we are happy to report that this has improved, thank you. Please could you supervise your children carefully if using the playground. All children must be accompanied by an adult if they are being sent up to use the toilets. Please do not allow your child to use the bikes, patio toys or toys in the shed. We have also noticed that some children are climbing up the climbing wall and onto the top of the decking, this is really unsafe and your children know that this is not allowed, please support us with this. Can we also remind you that the children in Coombe Connections use the playground at 3.45 p.m. Please start to leave at 3.40 pm when the bell is rung.

### **CHIPTA**

We are delighted that so many of you have been in touch about supporting CHIPTA, we feel very positive about the next year. We will send the presentation out from last week's meeting early next week. Parental support is so important and comes in many different forms. We are currently looking to redesign a part of our adventure playground and wondered if any families have knowledge and skills in this area which they could share with us, we would also be really interested in meeting with anyone who has experience in fundraising. Please get in touch if you feel this is something you could help us with.

### **Golden Fireworks event - Thursday 4 November**

Tickets are now on sale for our Golden Fireworks event which will be held at the school on Thursday 4 November and the link for booking is here <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CH-Fireworks>. This is the first event to launch our 50th Anniversary celebrations this year and we are all looking forward to it.

### **Special Educational Needs (SEN) cake sale - Friday 15 October**

Our Friday cake sale next week will be for SEN support resources in the school. We welcome cake and biscuit donations from all parents across the school and would be very grateful for your support. Please bring any donations to the School Office on Friday morning - please ensure there are no nuts in any cakes or biscuits. The cake sales held by the Year 2 classes have been a great success and we are grateful to all parents who have helped to sell and have bought and sold cakes, all proceeds will be put to great use within school.

We hope you all have a good weekend.

Warm Regards

Janet Berry