

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although the Covid restrictions are changing on Monday we have not yet had official guidance from the Department for Education on what this means for schools. This is making our planning for September rather difficult and this information will hopefully be shared with you next week. We are requesting that for the rest of the term we remain vigilant and continue to wear face masks and maintain distance when on the school site. We are still seeing positive cases within our school community and we very much hope that we will not have to inform you that you need to self-isolate at the beginning of the summer holiday.

### **Holiday and Absence requests**

We are receiving many requests for term time holidays. Whilst we understand the need for families to see each other and have a break after such a challenging year the absence will need to be unauthorised. We carefully monitor absence rates and will inform you if your child falls below the expected percentage.

### **Summer Concert**

We hope you all enjoyed watching the summer concert. Your children were wonderful and really enjoyed being together as a whole school. Thank you to year two parents and children for being so flexible about changing the leaver's event, thank goodness we did as the school was almost flooded.

### **Sports Day**

The sports day yesterday went really well, your children are a delight. We are so proud that they are happy for the success of others and they display such respectful behaviour. Thank you for supporting us with this throughout the year.

### **Attachment Aware Schools Award 2020/21**

We are proud to announce that we have successfully achieved an 'Attachment Aware Schools Award' 2020/2021. This was a perfectly timed opportunity in our current Covid climate, allowing us to truly reflect on what we do well and how we can improve further. The Attachment Aware Schools Award, is a recognition of a commitment to the steps the school has taken, to further develop a culture of compassion and nurture. This plays a pivotal role in getting our children and young people into a state of 'learning readiness'. The award recognises and celebrates best practice in attachment and trauma aware schools and settings. At Coombe Hill Infants' we believe strongly that relationships are at the core of everything we do. The personalised, individual approach to all pupils is evidenced through numerous practices. Knowledge of each pupil's developmental needs underpins relationships, interactions and planning. This is a particular strength of our school. Every interaction is an intervention. The year long attachment aware schools award programme involved: training from AfC virtual school, coaching from a team of Educational Psychologists, on-site whole school training in attachment and emotion coaching and development of a whole school change project based on findings from the attachment Aware schools audit. As a result of this award we have increased our knowledge of attachment and emotion coaching, we have made our language more trauma informed and

have adapted our practice and policies to reflect this attachment and trauma informed approach. Our work is not yet done and we plan to continue with our attachment aware policies and procedures for many years to come.

*"I feel safe in school because the teachers care. I love my special time with my teachers. The teachers make me happy and look after me"* **Year 2 child**

*"From the moment that I looked around CHI and met the staff team I knew that xxxx would flourish and be supported and cared for. Everyone has taken such good care of her, understanding how to meet her needs with care and compassion. The staff team have a good, thorough understanding of her background and are very aware of how attachment and trauma issues may affect her"* **Parent comment**

The Attachment Aware Schools Training came at the right time for us, following the school lockdowns and the implementation of our recovery curriculum. Some children were really struggling with the constant changes and uncertainty. As a staff we wanted a consistent approach and to continue to develop a culture which prioritises the emotional wellbeing of all children. The key elements which have resonated with our staff are the reframing of certain behaviours, the impact that language can have and the fact that every interaction is an intervention. This was extremely powerful and reinforces everything that we are trying to achieve at our school."

### **CHIPTA fundraising**

Huge thanks to our wonderful CHIPTA chairs Haena and Mahvish for organising such a successful online Summer Raffle, we are delighted to hear of the amount raised - £4,282 - which will be split between our two schools. We are also so grateful for your donations to our Friday Summer Mufti days, this morning we collected over £400 which is a wonderful amount and will go straight towards classroom resources.

### **RA Young Artists Summer show 2021**

As many of you know Connie, in Lion class, produced a piece of art work during the lockdown as part of the Young Artists Summer show 2021 and was accepted for the online display at the Royal Academy out of 33,000 submissions. Please follow the link below to view the exhibition. Look out for a special mention of Coombe Hill Infants in the catalogue. <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/2021>

### **Love the Ball summer camp**

Please find attached details of the Love the Ball summer camp which will be held here at the School over the summer. It is run by our wonderful coaches who your children are familiar with, it is always very popular.

### **School finish - Friday 23 July**

Please could we remind you that school will finish on Friday 23rd July at 2.00pm. Coombe Connections will finish at 5.00pm.

### **End of Year report**

Today you will be receiving your child's end of year report. We are very proud of what your children have achieved this year despite the enormous disruption they have lived through. Please enjoy the report as a record of achievement - academically, socially and emotionally. We really love to receive feedback about the report and also about the year in general. Please take a few minutes to fill the feedback form in, thank you. Every voice is important to us.

Early next week we will send our Year 2 parents more details of the Leavers' Assembly which will be held next Friday 23 July in the morning.

Have a good weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry