

Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring term we would like to thank you for your continued support. We are delighted to see parents helping in school and attending events once again. We have attached the Summer term events with some notes to give a little more detail. It looks very busy and we will certainly need help with swimming. Please look out for the swimming rotas which will be outside each classroom - unfortunately we will be unable to swim if we don't have enough parent help (you must have a DBS check in order to sign up to help).

We have ended the term as we began, with many staff and children absent with Covid. This has been a challenge as we have had to move staff around to cover absence and use some agency staff. Your children have been so resilient and coped with the changes, we understand that it can be difficult for some of them to adapt. Our teaching staff have been amazing, so flexible and supportive of each other, I am sure that you will join me in thanking them. Hopefully the summer term will be less disrupted.

Changes to Covid guidance from today (Friday 1 April)

You should be aware that the government guidance around Covid testing has changed from today. Lateral flow test kits will no longer be widely available (only to specific high risk groups) and we will no longer ask you to arrange a Covid test if your child has Covid symptoms. If you have any LFT kits at home and are able to test your child if they are unwell that would of course be helpful. We would be especially grateful if your child could take a lateral flow test the day before we return to school after the Easter holiday if you happen to have a remaining stock of LFT kits at home. The new guidance is as follows - please make sure to follow this if your child is unwell:

- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

We are grateful to all parents this term who have continued to be vigilant, who have kept their children at home when they have been unwell and have arranged tests when advised.

Summer term dates

There will hopefully be no amendments to the Summer term dates attached but if there are we will give you as much notice as possible and likewise if we plan any more events we will let you know in due course. You will see that we will continue our weekly Friday cake sales. A particular mention and thank you to all of you who have supported the cake sales this term - whether that be baking, buying or selling. We are so grateful for the money

raised and all the teachers have put the money to great use in the classrooms, from which your children have directly benefitted.

Adventure Playground

We are delighted to let you know that we are able to open the Adventure playground for use after school after the Easter holiday. It is a lovely opportunity for you to meet each other and for the children to enjoy. You are welcome to use it after pick up until **3.45pm**. Please ensure that your children follow the rules;

- All litter is taken home with you or put in the bins provided, please avoid putting used nappies or food waste in the bins
- Children mustn't climb up to the top of the decking
- Children mustn't play on the Reception patio or on the bikes
- Children must be escorted to the toilet (please only use the toilets in the Year 1 playground at the back of the Studio)
- Children mustn't use the log cabin garden, field or outdoor library
- The playground must be cleared by 3.45pm (Coombe Connections children will be using it from this time)

Lateness and Punctuality

A number of children are continuing to arrive late to school via the Office in the morning after the classroom doors close. We monitor punctuality carefully - minutes late are recorded in the register on each occasion as well as the reason given for lateness on the late slips. It is disruptive when your child arrives late and they can feel unsettled and confused arriving in the classroom after their classmates. Please make every effort to avoid this happening, thank you. We also kindly request that if your child is going to be absent, you call the School Office by 9.15am, on every day of their absence. You can leave a message before 8am on our answerphone, email admin@chi.rbksch.org before 9.15am, or our Office staff are available from 8am to take your call. Thank you for your co-operation.

Appointments during the school day

We have seen an increase in the number of dental and GP appointments being booked during the school day. We understand that, on occasion in an emergency, this is unavoidable. However we request that you do not book medical appointments for your children during the school day or request to collect them early. Again, this causes disruption to the school day for your child and the staff. Thank you.

School clubs

Please note that school clubs start as soon as we get back after the Easter holidays so do make sure you know what time your child's clubs finish and where to collect them from. The gate code for clubs collection is 9876 (for security please do not share this code outside our community). All club payments should have been finalised by now, if payment has not been received, your child will not be on the club register and should be collected as normal.

Summer term menu

Please find attached our updated menu for the Summer term.

CHIPTA Fundraising activity - Grow £ pots

Grow £ pots with seeds have now been put in the children's blue bags for them to grow over the Easter holidays. The idea is for your children to do small chores and tasks over the holidays in return for some money to raise funds for the school whilst at the same time growing a sunflower. Please return any money raised back to school in a named envelope with their class on and they will receive a little growers badge to keep.

CHIPTA Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion group meeting

This week the Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion group held it's first coffee morning, please see the short summary below from the committee.

"The group was formed to encourage a sense of community for parents and caregivers of pupils and provide support where needed. Thank you to all of the parents who attended. During the morning, we discussed creating different ways to bring people together, and how to share celebrations of different cultures & faiths within the school. We also discussed various activities such as a support group to talk and listen, a walking group and putting together a recipe book. We welcome more ideas and input, please send your ideas to our email at (Chiptadiversity@gmail.com). Another topic was how the library can be used to explore and promote themes of Diversity and inclusion (<https://www.coombehillinants.com/news/?pid=0&nid=9&storyid=66>). The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 27th April from 9am till 10.30am, we look forward to seeing you there, further details to follow".

Learn English at Home (LEAH)

A reminder of our Learn English at Home sessions that take place on Tuesday mornings. Please come along to improve your English, the classes are free of charge and are open to all Coombe Hill Infants' parents, aimed at adults who would like to improve their English. The classes are held in the **Junior School library** at **9.15am on Tuesday mornings**, please contact jheard1@chi.rbksch.org for more information.

Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing

A reminder that our school is part of the local Mental Health Support Team's Early Help project and our Emotional Wellbeing practitioner, Shazia, is now working with some of our families. This involves parent-led Guided Self Help around children's anxieties or challenging behaviour. Please get in touch with Sue Jakob or your child's class teacher for more information, and see this [Leaflet](#) giving information on the support that we can offer you.

Adult Choir

One of our year 2 parents, Arani, has asked us to share the following message:

"We are small group who enjoy singing and meeting once a week at 8.30pm on Mondays in New Malden. The majority of us are parents at Coombe Hill Infants and Juniors. Although most have choir experience, many do not and enjoy being part of a friendly group who sing for happiness and well-being. We are currently singing four part songs from a range of genres including renaissance, folk , jazz, English contemporary part songs, and modern popular arrangements of well known songs. We are especially looking for tenors and basses

but all voices welcome! Come join us and see if you would like to be a part of it!" Please contact me on 07887 500970 if you are interested".

Help for Ukraine collection

Thank you again for your generous donations and support for our Ukraine appeal last week. Tetyana our year 1 parent who once again organised the collection has asked me to pass on her thanks to our school families - the donations were sent to Ukraine last Saturday and have been gratefully received.

Kingston Adult Education - Community Learning newsletter

Please find to follow a link to the Community Learning newsletter for Summer term 2022 <https://bit.ly/KAE-CLnewsApr22>. Courses include those focused on well-being and family learning.

We hope that you all have a good break and we look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 19th April**.

Warm regards

Janet Berry