

Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you know, we are fortunate to have a wonderful outdoor swimming pool in our grounds. The pool was built by parents 50 years ago and has continued to offer our children the opportunity to swim in the summer months. Swimming is not on the National Curriculum for pupils in Reception or in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) however we feel it is important that our young children learn basic water safety and also have fun in the water. We are only able to swim with the financial and practical support of parents/carers. The money for swimming does not come from our allocated budget. We need significant hands-on support from parents, helping such young children change and parents/carers also get into the pool to help ensuring all children are safe and happy. We also rely on parental donations to fund the sessions.

In September 2019 we were approached by Kingston Royals Swimming club with a proposal for them to look at the feasibility of covering our outdoor swimming pool with a roof structure. This would enable the club to train their cadets in the early mornings and into the evenings. A planning application was submitted, but due to initial objections from neighbouring residents, the plans were withdrawn. Mr Clutterbuck and I have continued to meet with the neighbours, alongside Kingston Royals and our governors, to refine the plans.

We are aware that there are posts on social media drumming up support, it is wonderful to have such an active and supportive school community. However, I would like to point out that the planning application is only the first stage of this process. The schools have yet to look at the business case for covering the pool and facilitating a swimming club to use it all year round. This includes any cost implications for the schools. In last week's email I informed you that our financial stability is a priority for our school for the next few years. We are currently facing a deficit budget which needs to be rectified. Obviously we would need to look very carefully at the financial considerations of keeping a swimming pool open all year. Whilst our governors do support the plans they are responsible for the financial stability of the school and this must be our priority. We will of course keep you informed.

Next week - Healthy eating and positive mental health

Each year we have a positive mental health focus week. Next week we will have a focus on food and how this has an impact on our wellbeing. Your children will be cooking and exploring different food. On Friday 8 October all children are invited to come in dressed as a fruit or vegetable and we will enjoy a parade. Please don't worry too much about the outfit. A green t-shirt can easily pass as a green bean and purple or green balloons attached to a top become a wonderful bunch of grapes!

As part of health and well-being week each child will be taking part in a mini marathon. We are hoping that every child will run 2.6 miles. This will happen each day during the Daily Mile. We will be collecting donations on Thursday morning next week at the school gate in support of this. For each £5 donated we can buy a new reading book.

Harvest Festival assembly and charity collection

Next week we will also be holding our Harvest Festival assembly at school and have organised a Harvest collection for a local homeless charity, the Ace of Clubs - please see <https://aceofclubs.org.uk/>. Attached is a wish list of items that the charity have requested. We will be collecting items at the front of the school outside the School office entrance from Wednesday 6 October until Friday 8 October.

New Parent Governors

In my email last week I mentioned that we are hoping to recruit new Parent Governors. Application forms will be sent out after half term. If you would like to find out more about what the role entails a couple of current governors will be outside school after school on Friday 5th November to answer any questions, then on Wednesday 10th November our Chair of Governors will host a coffee morning Q & A session at 9.00am in the hall.

CHIPTA update

Thank you to everyone who came to our CHIPTA meeting this morning. There were so many wonderful ideas and we feel so optimistic about this year. We all feel very fortunate to work with such amazing families. We will send the power point from the meeting early next week. This year we would like to raise money for new reading books, create a sensory garden, upgrade some of our playground, continue to fund drumming and Forest School.

Independent reviewer for CHIPTA accounts

We have a request from Mahvish, our CHIPTA chair - if anyone can help please get in touch with her.

"CHIPTA is a registered charity, and we have to submit annual accounts to the Charities Commission. In order to submit our accounts, we need an independent reviewer (who happens to be an accountant who is qualified and registered with one of the accounting bodies in the UK) to have a quick look over our accounts, and sign a report to say that they have reviewed these accounts.

Because this is for last school year (Sep 20 - Aug 21), and because we need an independent person to do the review, we cannot have anyone who had children at Coombe Hill Infants' school during this school period - so if you are new to the school this year, and are an accountant happy to spare a couple of hours to help us, please can you contact us on chiptatreasurer@gmail.com. Thank you."

School clubs

It is great to see so many children enjoying our after school clubs. There are still some spaces on the following clubs so please do contact us if you would like a place - Love the Ball multi-sports, Construction (now open to Year 2 as well), Fun with Books and Board Games, Film, Books and Stories, French and Wildcats football all have spaces. Staff run the clubs voluntarily and all money raised is spent on your children.

Learning Behaviour - Responsible

This week we have been focusing on being responsible, the Winnie the Pooh character is Kanga. If your child comes home with a sticker please ask them about it. Next week we will focus on being Resourceful, supported by Owl. For the children this means solving

problems, thinking about the best way to learn and changing things if they are not working. Thank you for supporting us by talking to your children about making the right behaviour choices. Some of the children are indulging in a bit of rough play outside, we are closely monitoring this and will let you know if your child is finding playtime difficult.

Warmer clothes

The weather is now getting colder, please could you send your child in with a coat as they do play out in all weathers. Please label all coats, this is so important as we already have a few unnamed coats in lost property. Please could we also remind you that children should not be wearing jewellery in school, small studs only please if your child has to wear earrings.

Appointments during school hours

Where possible please avoid making medical or dental appointments for your child during the school day. It is quite disruptive for your child to leave and return to the classroom during the school day. If this is unavoidable please make sure that you inform the School Office of the appointment and send evidence to support this, some parents are informing teachers of appointments but there is not always the opportunity for the message to be relayed to the School Office.

Flu nasal vaccinations - registration by Friday 8 October (midnight)

Please remember to respond to the flu nasal vaccination consent form link that was sent out last week. Flu nasal vaccinations will take place in school on Wednesday 13 October and it is important that you respond to say whether you wish your child to have the vaccine or not, by Friday 8 October at midnight. The letter outlining the process, together with the link to the online consent form, is attached.

Adventure Playground after school

It is wonderful to see that so many of you are enjoying the adventure playground after school, it is a lovely way to get to know each other and for your children to play in our grounds. Please leave by 3.45pm as Coombe Connections use it from this time. Unfortunately our site manager has reported an increase in litter, please take all litter home with you or use the bin provided, thank you. Please remember that scooters and bikes are not to be used on the school site if you are using the playground after school.

Love the Ball - October half term camp

Please find attached details of Love the Ball's October half term camp here at Coombe Hill, run by our brilliant Love the Ball coaches who work with your children in school and run some of our school clubs after school. For booking go to <http://www.lovetheball.com>.

Warm regards

Janet Berry
Headteacher