

Friday 11th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your generous donations of items which will help families who are fleeing Ukraine. The images of families suffering are very distressing for all of us to see. As adults this is hard, but for young children these images can cause great harm. Here at school we have a worry box and so many of your children have told us that they are worried about the war. We have reattached some guidance which may help you discuss things with your children.

Mrs Kryvoruchko, our year 1 parent who has organised the collection at Coombe Hill, has the following message that she has asked us to pass on:

We would like to say a huge Thank You for all your kind donations and support from all Ukrainian people at this hard time. We have managed to raise £620 and I have ordered some Aptamil baby formula milk , Calpol and Paracetamol. Please find attached photos and videos of your lovely donations, it's a huge amount and everything is needed. Well done and again thank you. Everything has been packed and ready to go tomorrow. Please see our Instagram page (help_for_children_in_ukraine) where you can see images of Ukrainian people and hospitals receiving the donations. It will be updated daily and hopefully we are going to see our donations soon there. Me, my husband, our Ukrainian friends and our company will continue to work hard to help children and vulnerable people in Ukraine. Thank you so much for your support, we are very grateful for all your help!! Kind regards, Tetyana Kryvoruchko

A reminder that each Friday after school Year 2 pupils will help to set up a book sale, all donations will be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee which supports refugees. Please note this will be cash donations only.

We have had another busy week in school and are currently planning a range of enrichment opportunities for your children, we will let you know about these in the next few weeks. Year 2 enjoyed a gymnastic competition, today every child is busy planning and designing a model as part of our Design and Technology curriculum and on Tuesday one of our Year 1 parents, a dentist, came in to talk to all of our youngest children about caring for their teeth. This is a new part of the revised Early Years curriculum and thank you to Mrs Nadesan for giving up her time to work with us on this.

Maths Day

On **Wednesday 23rd June** we will be celebrating World Maths day. More details to follow. We would love to see some of the Maths activities your children take part in in their everyday lives... counting, board games, cooking, matching, measuring etc. Please send any photos to admin@chi.rbksch.org, thank you.

Phonics meeting

Thank you very much to those Reception and Year 1 parents who were able to come to the Phonics Meeting yesterday - it was so good to see parents back in school again. Thank you for your feedback, we are planning other events soon, including a hands on Phonics workshop for Reception parents and another workshop to help parents support their child with phonics in Year 1. We will send the presentation and notes to all Reception and Year 1 parents separately. If you have any questions about how to support your child with their phonics learning, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact Chris Thomson (Phonics Lead) or Sue Jakob (Early Reading Lead) via the Office.

Science week

Next week is British Science Week and to mark this we have arranged for some parent visitors to come and talk to the children about their work as scientists and doctors. We will also have a Science Dome in the school hall on Wednesday and our year 1 and year 2 children will enjoy presentations about Space, Exploration, the Moon Landings and the Weather. Following on from Science Week we are excited to announce that the Night Owls Birds of Prey Demonstration team will be coming along to the school on Monday 21 March. They will give a talk and all of the children will be able to see a flight demonstration. The organisation does not charge for the visit, instead the children will be given a chance to have their photograph taken with their beautiful Barn Owl, Whisper. The photographs can be purchased for the cost of £8.00, or £10.00 for two, details will follow after the visit. There is no obligation for you to purchase the photographs of course, and your child will still participate. Historically our children love this event and enjoy the chance to see these magnificent birds in the school.

Covid cases in school

In line with national cases, we have seen a slight increase in positive Covid cases reported to us this week across the school. Please note that the guidance has not changed if your child has a raised temperature, a cough or loss of sense or taste (however mild) - you must still arrange a PCR test for them in the usual way via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Even though restrictions have been lifted we are still cautious and mindful of vulnerable people in our School community and we will send any child displaying symptoms home for a PCR test. We appreciate your co-operation and understanding if asked to arrange a PCR test for your child.

Helping in school

We are so pleased to be able to welcome parents back in to school to help with various activities. Please note that you **must** have a valid DBS certificate with our school before you can help. We cannot accept DBS certificates from any other organisation, they have to be issued from Coombe Hill Infants' School for your specific role as a parent volunteer. DBS certificates are valid for three years so if you have older siblings you may need to check with the School Office that your existing certificate is still valid. If you are registered with the DBS update service please let us know. We are beginning to plan for swimming in the Summer term and we rely on a lot of parent volunteers weekly to enable this to happen and safety is, of course, our utmost priority. Please contact the School Office to arrange a DBS check if you would like to help in school in any capacity.

Learn English at Home (LEAH) - first class starts on Tuesday 15th March at 9:15am

You may remember we organised a LEAH coffee morning last November, in the Coombe Hill Junior school library. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us. We are now extremely excited to be able to start our LEAH classes, once again. Our English classes are open to all Coombe Hill Infant parents and are aimed at adults who would like to improve their English. Please come along and if you'd like, feel free to bring a friend with you too. The first class will be in the **Junior School library at 9.15 am on Tuesday 15 March**, please see the poster attached or contact jheard1@chi.rbksch.org for more information.

Parental Engagement meeting - Thursday 24 March at 9.00am

We would like to invite all parents in to talk about how you can help your child's progress and work together with us to support your child. This meeting will be held on Thursday 24th March at 9.00am in the hall.

CHIPTA Diversity team Coffee morning - Wednesday 30 March at 9.00am

The CHIPTA Diversity team are hosting a coffee morning on Wednesday 30 March in the Studio from 9 - 10.30am and would like to invite all parents and carers. All are welcome to come and share ideas as to how we can celebrate the wonderful diversity of our school.

Doughies Pizza and Cookies evening

Thank you to all our families who ordered the Doughies Pizza and Cookies kits for this evening, we hope that you all enjoy them, you are helping to raise valuable funds for our school. We hope to repeat this event soon. One of our children is already busy in the kitchen!

Second hand uniform sales

Thank you very much to CHIPTA for sorting out all of our second hand uniform donations. The team will be selling second hand uniform again every Thursday after school in the Studio (on the year 1 playground). The sales will start next Thursday 17 March so do take advantage of this, all clothing will be priced up to £4.

Summer term club bookings

We will be sending out the Summer term clubs timetable in the next week or so. We have noted the fact that several clubs were suspended for a short time earlier this term due to the rise in Covid cases and those of you whose children missed sessions will have that payment carried forward to your child's new club bookings for next term.

Kingston Adult Education courses

Please find attached details of a number of different courses with qualifications which you may be interested to learn more about - Preparing to work in schools, Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties and Understanding Autism.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry