

Friday 25th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a restful half term break. Your children have been telling us all about the things they have been doing and they are really settled and ready for the new half term.

Our thoughts are with all of our families who are affected by the awful situation in Ukraine. Please try to reduce exposing your young children to the news or to adult conversations about the situation. They have already been through so much and have so many worries and we really want to avoid the impact these events can have on such young minds. I think it is important to be available to answer their questions honestly but also to reassure them. Some of our young children have been talking about it today and this worries us. We have attached some guidance which might help you in talking to your children and answering any questions that your children might have. Please let us know if your child is anxious about anything.

World Book Day - Thursday 3 March

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day next Thursday with the children. We would like your child to bring their favourite book into school (named please!) to share with their class. If they would like to, they could dress up as a character from the book - please don't feel you have to spend lots of money on an outfit, the best outfits are usually home made and simple. Take a look at the World Book Day website for ideas <https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas/>. We will be sharing and discussing our favourite books with our friends, writing book reviews, designing book covers, playing book quizzes, joining a World Book Day Live lesson with author Nathan Bryon and illustrator Dapo Adeola **and** listening to stories! Every child will receive a £1 book token to either buy a book <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/> or to put towards any book of their choice. For more information please see <https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-stars/younger-bookworms/>.

Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing - Coffee Morning on Thursday 3rd March

Please use the Google form to let us know if you are able to join us for our coffee morning with our Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Shazia Yakoob-Ajmal - <https://forms.gle/6J4WUDEz4Fetxa8GA> - we would love to see you there. To find out more about the work of the Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner team, please take a look at the [Leaflet](#).

Covid

The lifting of Covid restrictions is certainly encouraging news, and has brought a sense of optimism for things to get back to normal at last. However we do want to proceed with caution. The Department for Education has sent through school specific changes to the Covid guidance this week. The key changes are as follows:

- Children and staff are no longer advised to take lateral flow tests twice a week - these will therefore not be provided to schools unless there is an outbreak.
- **If your child has any Covid symptom (cough, raised temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell) you are still advised to arrange a PCR test for them, please continue to be cautious and do this promptly.**
- If your child tests positive we ask that they do not come to school. They should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and until they have received 2 negative lateral flow test results on consecutive days.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

National Child Measurement Programme for Reception children

A reminder that the School Health team are booked to visit our Reception children on Monday 28 February to weigh and measure the children in Reception as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

Parents in school

We are delighted to tell you that we would like to invite parents in to help us in school, we have really missed this. Please ensure that you have a valid DBS certificate in place before you offer to help in school, if you don't please get in touch with us for advice. If you do have some time to spare and would like to help please talk to your class teacher.

Clubs

All school clubs are now open again and it is so lovely to see our youngest children making the most of this opportunity. Please find the clubs timetable attached so that you know when your child's club sessions are. Some clubs still have spaces, please contact the School Office if you are interested and we will adjust the cost accordingly. We will be booking clubs for the Summer term just before the Easter holidays so please look out for information in due course.

Forest School and our resident badger

We are so fortunate that Mrs. Young is our qualified Forest school teacher. She is very skilled and passionate about this role and your children all learn so much and enjoy her sessions. We are so grateful that your fundraising through CHIPTA enables us to have this fantastic resource. We are so excited to have a night camera in the forest school and that a badger has been visiting. Please follow the link to see what happens in our school when we are all asleep! <https://photos.app.goo.gl/XNbAt99cnK4AZq7P6>

Matrix

Next week the Matrix theatre will visit the school to work with Year 2 and their Castles theme. We are only able to offer these wonderful enrichment opportunities with your financial support. Your generous voluntary donations help to provide trips, theatre visits, additional resources, swimming and so on.

CHIPTA Pizza and Cookies evening - Friday 11 March

A reminder of the upcoming Pizza and Cookie evening organised by CHIPTA in conjunction with local pizza company Doughies. You will receive everything you need to make artisan margherita pizzas and cookies at home whilst raising valuable funds for the school at the same time. This will take place on the evening of Friday 11 March and all orders are due in by Saturday 5 March. Full details are in the flyer attached, and here is the link to place your orders <https://doughies.co.uk/products/coombe-hill>.

CHIPTA finances

CHIPTA are looking for a Treasurer. This is not an onerous role and one which is vital to the smooth running of our PTA - we do not have a Treasurer at present and are looking for someone to fill this role as soon as possible. Please contact chiptachair@gmail.com or speak to the School Office if you can help.

We are also requesting help from a qualified accountant to help us with a one off job. CHIPTA is a registered charity and has to submit annual accounts to the Charities Commission. In order to submit the accounts, we need an independent reviewer - a qualified accountant registered with one of the accounting bodies in the UK - to have a quick look over the accounts and to sign a report to confirm the review (academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 need to be reviewed). We require an independent person to do this - we cannot have anyone who had children at the Infants' school during the periods in review. If you were new to the school academic year 2020/21 OR new to the school this academic year 2021/22 and are an accountant happy to spare a couple of hours, please contact chiptachair@gmail.com or speak to the School Office. The cost of buying in the services of someone to do this would be £1,000 in total for both reviews so we would be extremely grateful if someone could help us with this. Many thanks.

Easter Holidays - Love the Ball camp

Please find attached details of Love the Ball's camp being run once again at Coombe Hill over the Easter holidays. Bookings are now being taken.

Have a good weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry