

Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

World book day

We had a wonderful World Book Day yesterday. The whole school was alive with amazing costumes, book talk, great writing and a real sense of enthusiasm for reading. Our priority as an Infant school is to develop a love of reading in every child and to equip them with skills to succeed. Reading success in the early years has a considerable impact on both educational attainment and wider life outcomes. There are some lovely photos on our website and also on our Twitter feed. This afternoon some of our Year 2 children ran a book stall. All donations will be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee to support families in crisis, this stall will run every Friday after school - please note that this will be cash only.

On **Thursday 10th March** we would like to invite Reception and Year 1 Parents and Carers in to find out more about our approach to teaching early reading and phonics and how you can help your child at home.

The meeting will be held in the hall at **9.00am**.

See below some lovely photos from our World Book day themed lunch yesterday.



A Special Visitor

Yesterday we were delighted to welcome Sarah Bern in to school to talk to our children about the importance of effort and resilience. Sarah is an ex Coombe Hill Pupil who has worked hard to become a successful member of the England women's rugby squad. She is about to embark on the Six Nations Championship and is busy training for the Rugby World Cup next year. We are very proud of her and she certainly inspired some of your children. She also happens to be Mrs Bern's daughter!

Bounceatahon

Thank you to everyone who has sent in sponsorship money. You have raised just over £2,100 which is remarkable. The children had a lot of fun. This money will go directly towards our new reading books, our Drumming lessons and our Forest school sessions.

Parents and volunteers

We are delighted that we are now able to welcome you in to school to help. Please let your class teacher know if you are able to spare some time. All volunteers **must** have a valid DBS check through our school as part of our safeguarding procedures, please ask at the School Office for more information. We are hoping that swimming in our school pool will resume after a two year break in the summer term. We are only able to offer swimming if we have parental support. Towards the end of this term we will be sending out timetables and requests for all. All parent and volunteers who help with swimming must have a valid DBS check, these can take several weeks to come through so if you are planning to help this should be done soon. If you have a DBS certificate with us already, please make sure that it has not expired and check with the School Office if you are unsure.

Year 2 assemblies

We would like to invite Year 2 parents in to watch their child's class assembly on the following dates. Prior to the pandemic, class assemblies were a regular annual event for each class and we are very pleased to be phasing them back in now:

Lion class - Friday 25th March 9.00-9.30am

Tiger class - Friday 29th April 9.00-9.30am

Leopard class - Friday 6th May 9.00-9.30am

Parental Engagement meeting

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.**

Coombe Connections Club

New Bookings: If you would like to request a NEW booking for our Breakfast and After School provision, Coombe Connections Club, for the first half term of Summer 2022, please complete and submit the Connections Booking Request Form. A form is required ONLY FOR NEW BOOKINGS. You will find it in the Connections section of the school website, within "Booking and Payment - Summer 1 2022". The deadline for submissions is 13/03/22.

Existing Bookings: If you have a Connections booking currently, it will be continued into the first half of the Summer term and a Booking Request Form is NOT required.

If you wish to cancel or make changes to your existing booking, please send an email to connectionsclub@chi.rbksch.org no later than our deadline of 13/03/22.

Connections

webpage: <https://www.coombehillinants.com/site/data/files/users/5/files/5F05EFCC0A3DD1F043540AF57F314477.pdf?pid=110>

Covid testing

Please continue to be vigilant to any Covid symptoms that your child may be displaying if they are unwell. 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>. We still have Covid cases being reported within our school community and even though restrictions have been lifted we are still cautious and mindful of vulnerable people and we will send any child displaying

symptoms home for a PCR test. We are no longer able to supply LFT kits to all families so please order test kits for your household via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

Bites and rashes

Several parents have mentioned to us over the last couple of weeks that their children have insect type bites or a rash on them. We have investigated this carefully to make sure that children are not receiving bites from any source in the school. Several classrooms have been fumigated and soft furnishings removed as a precaution. Today our pest control company checked the playground and outdoor areas and closely inspected the classrooms and there is no evidence of any pest that could be causing bites to children in school. Public advice is that if you are concerned about rashes or possible bites on your child, it is important that you seek medical attention.

The Alligator's Mouth bookshop events

We are very grateful to the Alligator's Mouth bookshop in Richmond who provided the books for the children to spend their tokens on for World Book Day yesterday. The Alligator's Mouth hold regular events in the bookshop that may be of interest to you and your children. The children's author Sophy Henn will be hosting a "Pizazz v the Demons" themed reading and activities event on Saturday 19 March at 11am for aged 5+ children. Those of you with pre-school children may be interested in their story time sessions on Wednesdays at 11am, no booking required, sessions are £5 each and if you make a purchase of over £5 on the day the session is free of charge. The bookshop staff read at least two picture books, often followed by a poem or song and is a great way for children to experience stories at a young age. For more information on these and more upcoming events please go to <https://www.thealligatorsmouth.co.uk/events>.

"Big Walk and Wheel" challenge - Sustrans

We will be taking part in the Sustrans "Big Walk and Wheel" which is an annual challenge, this year running from 21 March to 1 April. Children are encouraged to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event and schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of children doing this. This is a great event to be involved with in helping children to understand the health and wellbeing benefits of active travel. We will also participate in the "Amazing Me" fundraising day to celebrate the challenge and will confirm the date for this in due course.

Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy

We have registered our school with the Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy again this year. Last year one of our Year 2 children had her work included in the exhibition which was a wonderful achievement. For more information on the exhibition and how to enter go to <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>. The deadline for submissions is by 30 March 2022.

Pizza and Cookie Evening - Friday 11 March

Please don't forget to put in your orders for our Pizza and Cookie Evening on Friday 11 March. Orders to be placed via the following link by **tomorrow** Saturday 5 March <https://doughies.co.uk/products/coombe-hill>. The school receives £2 per pizza and

£1 per cookie kit sold and your order will be ready to be collect at school pick up on Friday 11 March.

Warm regards

Janet Berry