

Friday 10 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we took Year 2 on a trip to the Cornerstone church in Kingston to find out more about the Nativity story. We travelled by bus which caused great excitement! So many people commented on how well mannered your children were, and how engaged in the learning they were. We place great importance in good manners and we are so pleased when people notice this. Thank you for supporting us by reminding your children about good manners and respectful behaviour. We realise that everyone is tired, it has been a very long term, and also there are a lot of excited children. We will be renewing our focus on good listening next term.

We are delighted that we are now being sponsored by Robert Holmes. They have invited your children to create art work and the winners will have their work displayed in their window. The details are on the attached poster.

We are also asking the children to write cards for residents in local care homes who might be lonely over Christmas. If you would like to do this just drop your cards in to the classrooms and we will make sure they are sent to the residents. The charity is also asking for any small donations of chocolates and toiletries. If you would like to donate, again please just drop in to your child's classroom.

School Clubs

We had huge interest in booking places on our Spring term school clubs. I am so grateful to all of the staff who give up their time to run these clubs, the clubs raise valuable funds for our school. We have tried hard to place as many children as possible in the clubs that were requested but spaces do have to be limited and unfortunately we could not meet every request. **Payment is due on ParentPay by 10am on Monday 13 December, please note that we do not accept childcare vouchers as payment for the School clubs.** After this time, if payment has not been received, places will be offered to those on waitlists for clubs originally requested. An email will be sent on Monday at 11am with details of any clubs with spaces and places will again be allocated on a first come/first served basis.

Covid

We continue to remain vigilant to any suspected Covid cases in school. Thank you to every parent who has supported us by not sending your child in to school with a cough or a raised temperature and who has kept your child at home and arranged a PCR test. We have managed to contain the cases that we have identified in school over the past few weeks and have limited the spread (for now). We ask you to be extra vigilant over the weekend and next week and be very cautious about sending your child to school even with very mild symptoms, we hope to minimise any disruption to Christmas holiday plans as far as possible to everyone in our school community. Attached is a letter to all school parents and carers from Iona Liddington, Director of Public Health Kingston. We are now looking at new guidance on how to manage any Omicron variant cases in our school families and information on this will be communicated to you in due course.

Christmas Raffle

Tickets for our annual Coombe Hill Infants' and Junior schools Christmas raffle are now on sale. There are over 80 fantastic prizes to win and we are very grateful to all the companies and individuals who have donated prizes. Please buy your tickets via the following link <https://raffall.com/277588/enter-raffle-to-win-cracking-christmas-raffle-hosted-by-chjpa>. All money raised from sales of the tickets will be split evenly between both schools (even though the promotional material states the Junior school only), so do share the raffle link with family and friends.

Class Parties next week

Next week we will be having class Christmas parties to celebrate the end of term. The children may come to school in their own party clothes on the day of their party and will enjoy some party food and fun and games in their classrooms. The days of the parties next week are as follows - Reception on Wednesday, Year 1 on Thursday and Year 2 on Friday.

Menu next week

Please find attached the menu for next week, this has been changed slightly as the children will be enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner on Thursday 16 December.

Term dates

The term dates for the current academic year (2021-2022) are posted on our website. Please note that there is an amendment to the current year's dates to those previously published - the Summer term 2022 will now finish on Thursday 21 July 2022 (Friday 22 July is an inset day). Term dates for the next academic year (2022-2023) have now been finalised and will be published on our website early next week.

Kingston Adult Education Community Learning - Wellbeing courses

Please find to follow a link to a series of Wellbeing courses and workshops being offered by Kingston Adult Education next term https://bit.ly/KAE-CLnewsletter_Jan-Feb22

Kingston Borough Children's centres activities

Please find to follow the programme of activities for the first half of the Spring Term 2022 being offered at Kingston's Children's centres

<https://tinyurl.com/e8m3yvjh>. Also here is the link to the Children's Centre Facebook

page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kingstonchildrenscentres>

and the link to the Online Registration

Form <https://surveys.achievingforchildren.org.uk/s/4N2XVF/>

Christmas Camps at school

The poster for the Love the Ball Christmas camp is attached - this will run at the school from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 December. Another activity camp will also be run by another external company "Our Camps" from the school over the Christmas break - <https://schoolcamps.org/camp/coombe-hill-junior-winter-camp-2021>.

Christmas Mufti day for Spark! books - Friday 17 December

This year we have signed up to the Spark! book awards and we would like every child to have the chance to read the shortlisted books. We would like to purchase some of the

books to ensure that our more disadvantaged children have a copy. On Friday 17th December (the last day of this term) we will be collecting for this cause and this will be a Christmas non-uniform and Christmas hat day. Thank you for your support. There is also a Crowdfunding appeal, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sparkbookawards> if you would like to contribute in this way.

End of term collection times

A reminder that on Friday 17th December the school will be closing an hour earlier, so collection times will be: **Reception - 2pm; Year 1 - 2.05pm and Year 2 - 2.10pm.**

Have a lovely weekend.

Janet Berry
Headteacher