

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of term has arrived and we would all like to say thank you for the numerous gifts, cards and kind messages. We all appreciate your continued support.

The term has been so successful in many ways, your children are making great progress and are happy and settled at school. They really are a joy and we are so fortunate to spend our time with them. It is such a shame that it has ended with worry about a new variant and increasing cases of Covid within our community. Understandably families are worried that plans to see family during the break will be derailed. We have not yet had any guidance about next term and very much hope that things will all be normal. However if there are any changes for schools we will inform you as soon as possible.

### **Covid update**

Yesterday we gave each child a Lateral Flow test kit and we ask that one of these tests is saved to test your child the on the evening of Monday 3 January before returning to school the next day. As always if your child has **ANY** Covid symptoms, however mild, they **MUST** isolate and have a PCR test. Be aware that the symptoms of the new omicron variant can vary and if you are in any doubt at all, arrange a PCR test for your child please. We all want to come back to school in January as safely as possible and all of us in our community has a part to play. If you are in any doubt please call us before you send your child back to school, thank you.

We currently have several children isolating, awaiting PCR test results. When you receive these results please forward them to the school admin email address over the holiday as we need to record results, thank you. Several families are travelling over the holiday and obviously with PCR testing this has become more challenging. Please make the School Office aware of any travel return dates so that we know when your child is isolating - any holiday absence and the required PCR test isolation is unauthorised absence.

### **Spring term menu**

The school lunch menu will remain the same for next term and we will start with the Week 1 menu, the new menu sheets with dates will be circulated in due course.

### **Academic term dates 2022-23**

Please find attached the term dates for the 2022-23 school year.

### **Swimming pool**

The planning application for a roof over our outdoor pool has now been passed by the Council. This is the first step in this process, we have yet to work out the finances and practicalities of this potential project. We will keep you informed of any updates.

### **Coombe Hill Junior School**

Mr Clutterbuck, the head teacher of the Junior school has decided to retire next Summer after 8 wonderful years leading his school. Our two schools work very closely together and

share the same families, and we are confident that this relationship will continue. This week an email was sent out to all Year 2 parents with a reminder about applications for Junior school. Please let us know if you need any help with this process.

### **Online Safety**

Several children have been telling us about the presents they are hoping to receive and many of them are hoping to play the Fortnite game. This game is for children/teens over 12 years old and is not suitable for young children. It has violent content and open chat, both of which can cause significant harm to young minds. Please see the following guidance on Fortnite <https://parenthub.thekeysupport.com/parent-online-safety-zone/child-safety-fortnite-parent-factsheet.html>. Please also see the attached letter which gives information on how to ensure devices are safe for children to use. If your child is exposed to inappropriate games or material we have a duty to report this to Children's Services. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Spark! Book Awards**

If you are still looking for books for Christmas, take a look at the books on the longlist for the 2022 Spark! Book Awards. The shortlisted books will be announced in January and we will be reading them all in school to the children and then we will vote for the CHI favourite book.

[3-5 picture fiction](#) / [6-11 picture fiction](#) / [7-9 fiction](#) / [9-11 fiction](#)

If you wish to make a donation to help provide one of the Spark! shortlisted books to a disadvantaged pupil you can do so through our [JustGiving fund](#).

### **Self-care plan - Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families**

Please find to follow a link to a booklet from the Anna Freud National Centre which contains wellbeing activities and creative challenges to enjoy over the holiday - [My Self Care Plan](#)

### **Adult education - Community Learning news letter Spring 2022**

Please find attached a copy of the Community Learning newsletter for Spring term 2022. There are a range of wellbeing courses on offer that you might find useful.

### **Storytime with the Book Trust**

Enjoy [storytime with BookTrust's free online books](#) and videos, play games, win prizes, test your knowledge in their book-themed quizzes, or even learn how to draw some of your favourite characters.

### **Course at Coombe Hill Junior School "How to reduce anxiety and develop resilience"**

If your child is showing signs of anxiety or stress and finds it hard to bounce back from adversity, this course will give you the understanding and practical tools to guide your child to building their resilience and coping with change. A fully interactive 5 week course which means you can work out the best way to help you and your child improve their emotional wellbeing and enjoy life more.

Wednesday 12 January - 9 February 2022 from 9.30am to 11.30am at Coombe Hill Junior School - £50 (free if your personal income is below the London Living Wage of £21,157.50). To book your place please click on the following link <https://bit.ly/KAE->

[CLflacch2122](#). Applications will close 7 working days before the course starts so book early to avoid disappointment.

We hope that you all manage to have a healthy, relaxing break and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Best wishes

Janet Berry