

Friday 18th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week your children have been enjoying a whole week dedicated to science. This week, being British Science Week, the children have been immersed in science. On Wednesday we had a Science dome set up in the hall and the children explored our Weather Systems and Space. The children have also had the opportunity to meet real Scientists with parents coming in to talk about their work, we are so grateful to those parents for giving their time. Year 2 have been learning about several famous scientists and considering what type of scientist they would like to be. Today Dr Riccardo amazed us with the immensity of space and performed some explosive experiments before our very eyes. Next week we look forward to some beautiful owls visiting our school and flying around the hall. We also hope to welcome one of our parents to talk about his work as a doctor. Your support via parental donations enables us to offer such fantastic enrichment opportunities, thank you.

World Maths Day

On **Wednesday 23rd March** we will be marking World Maths day with a range of exciting mathematical activities. Please continue to send photographs in of your child enjoying maths in everyday activities - games, cooking, measuring, time, matching etc.

Welcome Back meeting

On **Thursday 24th March** we would like to invite you in for our 'Welcome Back' parental engagement meeting. We feel that we are finally getting back to normal here in school and would like to share some of our plans with you and keep you involved in the life of the school. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and give us feedback. We hope to see many of you there. All being well we may also be able to give you a little tour of the Swimming pool, Forest school, Pond area and other areas of the school that you may not have had the opportunity to see yet. The meeting will be in the school hall at **9.00am** and all are welcome.

Lion Class assembly

On **Friday 25th March** Lion class Parents and Carers are invited in to watch the first class assembly in two years. This is always a highlight and we are so pleased that we are able to begin to phase this event back in. Please could you drop your child off as normal and then wait outside the School Office entrance. Please could we request that you do not film your children as some parents have not given permission for this to happen. We will create a film and send out a secure link. You will have the opportunity to take photographs of your child at the end of the assembly. Thank you for your support. The Leopard and Tiger class assemblies will be held in the next few weeks.

Summer term Clubs bookings

You have received full information on the clubs for the Summer term in a separate email. Please note the booking date and time of **Tuesday 22 March** at **11.00am**. The cost charged to you for your child's club place will be reduced if they were enrolled on any clubs last term that were cancelled. If you have any questions about the School Clubs please

contact the School Office.

Reception classes trip to Bocketts Farm

All Reception families will have received information by email about the trip to Bocketts Farm on Tuesday 26 April. Payment is due by Friday 25 March and you also need to consent for your child to participate at the time of booking on ParentPay - if you have any questions please contact us. We are hopeful that all adults accompanying the trip will now be members of school staff (there will be many opportunities for parents to lend your support in other ways soon). We are in the process of arranging trips for Years 1 and 2 and we will send out details of these in due course.

Helping in school

If you would like to help in school 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. Please contact the School Office to arrange a DBS check if you would like to help in school in any capacity - we will put the application forms in your child's blue bag. We will be looking for lots of parent volunteers for Swimming next term and a DBS certificate is essential.

Collecting children from school

If someone else is collecting your child from school please let the School Office know as early as possible in the day. We do understand that sometimes in an emergency you need to tell us that someone else is collecting your child close to pick up time but our Office Staff are not always able to leave the Office to pass a message to the classroom quickly at the end of the day and this can cause confusion. Thank you for your co-operation.

Covid cases in school

Once again this week we have seen an increase in positive Covid cases across the school and within our school families. If your child has a raised temperature, a cough or loss of sense or taste you must still arrange a PCR test for them in the usual way via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Cases are also still being detected in children with no symptoms so we encourage you to order Lateral Flow Test kits via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> as these are no longer supplied to schools. Even though restrictions have been lifted we ask you to continue to support us - we are still cautious and mindful of vulnerable people in our School community.

Learn English at Home (LEAH)

Thank you to those parents who were able to join us for the first Learn English at Home session on Tuesday. We would love to have more of you joining us. Our English classes are open to all Coombe Hill Infant parents and are aimed at adults who would like to improve their English. Do feel free to bring a friend with you too. The classes are held in the **Junior School library** at **9.15am on Tuesday mornings**, please see the poster attached or contact jheard1@chi.rbksch.org for more information.

Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing

A reminder that our school is part of the local Mental Health Support Team's early help project which gives us access to a variety of resources. Our Emotional Wellbeing practitioner, Shazia, has already started to work with families with Parent led Guided Self Help around children's anxieties or challenging behaviour and the feedback from this has been very positive. Please find attached a form to complete if you would like to get in touch with the team - bring this to the School Office in a sealed envelope and we can pass this on confidentially. For more information please see this [Leaflet](#).

Sustrans

We are really excited to be taking part in the 2022 Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event, which is running from Monday 21st March to Friday 1st April. We are encouraging children to walk, cycle or use a scooter to get to school on as many days as possible during this period - and beyond! There are also ways for those children who are unable to make an active journey to school (due to special physical needs or SEN), to take part. We are very keen to encourage our children to make healthy choices and this helps in so many ways - improving their physical fitness and less air pollution for example. Please support us with this - we have attached some information about how everyone can get involved. Do send us photos of your children cycling, scooting or walking to school, we would love to see them!

Second hand uniform sale

We will be holding another second hand uniform sale next **Thursday 24 March from 3-4pm in the Studio**. Please use this opportunity to stock up on items, maximum price for any item is £4 and we will accept cards or cash. Thank you to CHIPTA for running these sales again.

Love the Ball Easter camp

Please find attached details of Love the Ball's Easter camp, to be held at the school. The camp is running over both weeks of the holiday and you can book individual full or half days as you wish.

Kingston Children's centre programme

Please find attached the Kingston Children's Centres programme for the Easter holidays.

End of term

The Spring term will finish on **Friday 1st April at 2.00pm** (and Coombe Connections will finish at **5.00 pm**). This will be a wear your own clothes day and Easter hat parade - another traditional Coombe Hill Infants' event that we are very much looking forward to after a two year break. The Summer term begins on **Tuesday 19th April** .

Warm regards

Janet Berry