



WELCOME

Firstly we would like to welcome you all, and your families, to Coombe Hill Infants. Those of you who have already had children through the school will, I'm sure, be familiar with some of the housekeeping news that we have highlighted below. For new parents, do please read through and if you have any questions at all, your class teacher will be happy to help you.

We hope that you have all had an opportunity to sign into Tapestry, our online learning journal, which enables us to keep in close contact with you, sharing your child's learning at home and at school. If you do need to have the email resent, again, please talk to your class teacher.

As the children settle into life at Coombe Hill, we will be assessing them in a very informal way, to enable us to see where each child is and how we can enhance their learning in a number of areas.

When they first begin we will be focusing on their Well-being and Involvement and Personal, Social and Emotional skills. We will look at their Physical development and Communication and Language skills. We will work with each child individually to bring on their development.

Once the children are settled and have adopted a secure routine we will be focusing on the other early learning goals:

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Mathematics (Numbers and Shape, space and measure)

Understanding the world (People and Communities , The World, Technology)

Expressive Art (Exploring and using media and materials, Being Imaginative)



RECEPTION STAFF

Year Leader	Mrs Kill
Butterfly Class:	Mrs Thomson, Mrs O'Leary and Miss Semeria
Dragonfly Class:	Miss Tuck, Ms Carslake and Mrs Houghton
Ladybird Class:	Mrs Kill and Mrs Manuel

In addition we have Mrs Milosevic and Mrs Ramon who support the children in our free flow outside area.

READING IN RECEPTION

We are focusing on nurturing the children's love of books and reading. We will be reading to and with the children during these first few weeks to ascertain their abilities and enthusiasm. Once we have worked with the children we will send home a reading book, this may be a picture book, to help the children read using visual clues and develop their understanding of how books work.

After the initial settling period (usually 2 or 3 weeks) all children will be listened to every week, but **it is essential children read at home every day and are also read to**. Your child's Reading Record forms an important part of the home-school partnership. Please keep reading books and records in Blue Bags.

The Oxford Reading Scheme is our core reading scheme but your child may receive books from other schemes. Please do not worry about your child's reading level. You may find that it changes from week to week depending on the area of phonics we are working on, or the specific need of your child. Remember, reading is not a race!

It is very important that you keep the reading bag in your child's blue bag every day, so that we are able to read with your child at school on any day.



FREE CHOICE BOOKS

Your children will also be able to choose their own reading book in addition to the teacher chosen books mentioned above. These can be returned and changed daily, or whenever your child has finished enjoying the book. Free choice books should be kept in your child's reading bag and be brought to school every day. They should not be recorded in the Reading Record. Enjoyment for reading has flourished since children have been able to choose their own reading Books.

WORD SETS

In addition to their reading books, children regularly receive word sets to support their reading skills. Please help them recognize these words by sight (without the need to sound them out), in different contexts and not just on the word set. Reading and playing word games with the children, speeds up their sight recognition and helps build confidence. Sometimes your child will 'revisit' word sets to consolidate their sight knowledge of them. Each week we check your child's sight knowledge of words and once they know all the words in a set, they are rewarded and receive the next word set. If you would like any ideas for games, please ask your teacher. If you ever have any questions concerning your child's reading, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.

LIBRARY BOOKS

We plan to allow children to choose a library book every 3rd week, but hope to do it more often later in the year.

Please make sure that your child's Library Bag containing your child's book is in their Blue Bag on this day.

We are lucky to have such fun books and we hope that you and your child enjoy reading them together. As well as reading the text, ask your child to talk about the pictures, the characters, what might happen next, why something happened the way it did, what the main problem is in the story and how it gets resolved. If your child has a non-fiction book, discuss the structure of



BEDTIME STORIES

Each class has their own 'Bedtime Stories' box full of quality texts- fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Your child may bring one of these home after having heard it read to the class. Please enjoy this book together by reading to your child, or letting them read it to you, if they are able. Take time to talk about the book and discuss new vocabulary and ideas. These books are all picture books as research shows that children learn great reading skills such as inference, deduction, critical thinking and empathy by looking at the illustrations alongside the text. Don't worry if your child brings a particular book home more than once, as there is great value in reading and re-reading books as the words and pictures become more familiar on each reading.

Please support us in helping your child become a life-long reader by enjoying books together.

MATHLETICS AND READING EGGS

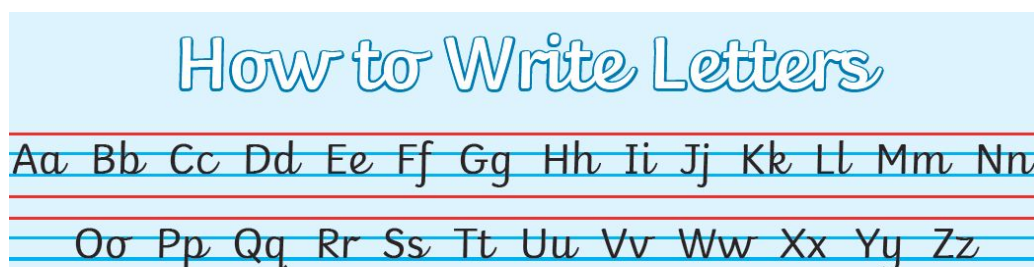
Weekly Maths Challenges will be assigned on Mathletics each **Friday**. These are activities designed to consolidate the learning from the week and to be achievable by all children with little or no support, other than accessing this online resource. Teachers check the completion of these challenges weekly, so please do encourage your child to have a go, and speak to your class teacher if there are any problems.

READING EGGS

Later in the term your child will receive a paid-for subscription to Reading Eggs, which is a fantastic resource for learning phonics, reading skills and spellings. Please make use of this subscription in short, regular sessions. We will be monitoring individual usage and asking for parent feedback in the weeks to come.

HANDWRITING

Below you will find an example of how we teach the children to form their letters. We do not expect the children to be writing like this at this early stage , this is for your information.





MONITORING OF YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

Children are assessed at the beginning of the year and then closely monitored throughout the year so that we can ensure that their learning is personalised.

We will be asking you to come in and discuss your child's progress at least once a term, however we will be happy to answer any questions you have between these times.

Your child will receive a formal report of their progress at the end of the year.

NAMING YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES

Please name all items that belong to your child. This should be your child's first name and family name. Please regularly check items to make sure that they are still clearly named and show your children where on the clothing they are labelled.

Items that should be named include:

Shirts	Jumpers	Skirts / trousers
Coats	Shoes	Socks
Gloves	Hats	
PE kits (tops and shorts)	Trainers	Water bottles
Lunch boxes		

Please be sure to check the weather forecast each morning and if necessary send your child to school with a named coat. Children will be expected to go out in light rain.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Due to the current situation we are not asking children to get changed at school at the moment, therefore please could you send the children into school in their P>E> kit on their designated days as follows:

Butterfly class	Tuesday and Thursday
Dragonfly Class	Wednesday and Friday
Ladybird Class	Monday and Wednesday



practise at home.

MEDICATION & SICKNESS

Medicines/inhalers, etc. must be handed to the School Office. If your child is unwell, please call the School Office and let them know that your child will be absent. If your child has been vomiting or has had diarrhoea, they should be kept off school for 48 hours from the last episode.

As per the Government guidelines for Covid-19 symptoms, stay at home for 14 days if you or any of your household have: a high temperature of 37.8

- a new continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

SCHOOL LUNCHES AND WATER BOTTLES

Children are able to have a free, school provided hot dinner, or can bring a healthy packed lunch in a box named on the outside. We are a nut free school so please do not pack lunch items with nuts in.

Each child should come to school with a freshly filled, **NAMED** water bottle.

Lastly

The staff at CHI are a teaching team but of course we are in partnership with parents/guardians at home. So,

- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep, exercise and has a healthy diet.
- Encourage them to be independent and confident e.g. teach them to tie laces, talk about what they are learning, take them on days out.
- Please support your child at home by listening to them , reading to them and spending precious time with them.

COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Learn together, grow together

www.coombehillininfants.com



Mrs Janet Berry
HEADTEACHER

Working within the Covid-19 guidelines, we hope to soon be inviting parents back in to help in school. There will be several ways you can give your time, so watch this space for upcoming requests. Each class needs Class Reps, Swimming pool support, help for trips, pencil sharpening, library, reading, cooking and sewing to name a few ideas.

DBS checks are required and forms can be collected in the office.

Finally, if you have any worries do talk to us. We have an open door policy, so please talk to your class teaching team, Mrs Kill the Year Group Lead, Mrs Jakob the Deputy Head, Mrs Berry the Head Teacher or Mrs Heard our SENCO. If you need longer to talk please make an appointment.

We are so looking forward to meeting all the new children and are sure they will have a very happy 3 years with us.

The Reception Team