



Parent Newsletter

Friday 10th December 2021

Please support the PTA raffle - £1 a ticket and over 80 fantastic prizes to be won - simply click on the link below.

<https://raffall.com/277588/enter-raffle-to-win-cracking-christmas-raffle-hosted-by-chjpa>

Please find below a link to an important letter that I have been asked by Public Health Kingston to circulate to parents today:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17H3hBqGG-gAcRfqnr6PK9X5uM0_a8Pix/view?usp=sharing

End of term is next Friday 17th December. Please note that school will finish for all pupils an hour earlier than the usual departure time:

Year 3: 2.15pm
Year 4: 2.20pm
Year 5: 2.25pm
Year 6: 2.30pm

- Christmas Carol Concert
- Forthcoming Year 3 and 4 performance
- Stall Day run entirely by Year 6/Christmas Jumper Day
- Lunchbowl charity
- Year 3 DT project
- Spark! Book Awards; the longlisted books
- Courses for parents
- Learners of the Week

Dear All.

This week, I stood in awe at the singing during the Christmas Carol Concert and to be honest, had one of those sentimental moments that retiring heads get (the first of many, I fear). I really wished parents could have been in school to hear the pupils in person but I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed the video which was recorded as live (miscues and all). It went as a live stream to the lower years so pupils had as near to the experience of doing a live performance and if you missed it, it can be watched here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0meB976C8wI>

My thanks to our team of media leaders from Year 6 who videoed the performances under Mr Held's directorial supervision.

Please can I remind you that while such performances (like the Year 3 and 4 one next week) are available to parents to watch, they really must not be shared on any form of social media. It is not just a general safeguarding reminder, we really do have children here who

need the protection that comes from not having their images widely circulated and families have only given permission for images to be shared to the school community and not further.

Year 3 and 4 have been practising regularly in the last few weeks and I look forward to seeing the final performance of their show - the two different casts will be performing to different year groups online this Wednesday through a live stream and the video will come out to parents shortly afterwards.

Thank you to all the families who have made contributions to the house tombola that was part of the Stall Day today - and thanks to the Year Six pupils and their teachers and families who have been preparing for this event for some weeks. As I write, the full ~~chaos~~ event has yet to start (I am writing in the morning as I suspect I will be quite busy this afternoon!). We have tried to limit what in the past has been a plethora of food stalls (most leant towards the chronically unhealthy in terms of sugar levels) and ask pupils to broaden their horizons to stalls with more craft and games, etc.

It has of course been Christmas Jumper day today which is a fundraising initiative of Save the Children Fund so a percentage of the money raised by the stalls will go towards that important charity, and the rest to our PTA.

[Post script: Year 6 did a fantastic job on the stalls and while I do not know how much was raised, I do know that it seemed to be a massive success and the year 6 pupils really enjoyed themselves as well as learning a few things about making money and organising themselves.]

In the coming weeks, we will continue to sell items for the Lunchbowl Charity in Kibera, Kenya, which has a huge place in Coombe Hill's heart and which feeds and educates some of the poorest children in the world. Most items cost around £2 and all were made in Kibera.

My congratulations and thanks to our Mental Health Ambassadors who conducted an assembly on the issue of good mental health and how we manage those times when we feel nervous or stressed - my thanks to Mrs Carlton who is organising this initiative.

I also want to thank the Year 3 team who are ensuring that pupils return home with some lovely (often Christmas themed) decorations. I should add though that the curriculum is clear that not every DT project will come home perfectly formed. There is a much greater emphasis on getting pupils to problem solve or reflect on how they might have improved their product than ever before and while we would not want any pupil to sink, there is little learning in getting a friendly adult to do it all for you!

Behind the scenes, we have been gearing up for next year's Spark! Book Awards again and teams of teachers from around Kingston and Richmond have been busily reading books for the award, which as you may recall began here, and which Mr Held and myself work on in our spare time.

The longlisted books for next year's awards are being announced as the Spark! **12 books of Christmas** each day until next Friday, if you are looking for inspiration for some Christmas book gifts. In a sneak preview, I can tell you that one of the longlist, yet to be announced, was the subject of our latest book podcast this week - my thanks to Leila and to Leo for their work on this alongside Mr Held.

The longlists are updated on these pages of the Spark! Website with a different book added each day:

3-5 picture book: <https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/the-awards/ages-3-5-picture-fiction>
6-11 picture book <https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/the-awards/ages-6-11-picture-fiction>
(I think the titles submitted for the category above are more aimed at the lower end of the age range)
7-9 fiction: <https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/the-awards/ages-7-9-fiction>
9-11 fiction: <https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/the-awards/ages-9-11-fiction>

More information about each book can be found on the Spark! Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/sparkbookaward>. The final shortlisted books are due to be announced in the middle of January and pupils will get down to reading the books, meeting authors online and then finally voting on their favourites. The winner is announced at the end of June.

And if you wish to make a donation to help provide one of the Spark! Shortlisted books to a disadvantaged pupil in our boroughs, you can do so here through our Just Giving page. [Help raise £3000 to provide books from the Spark! School Book Awards shortlist to disadvantaged pupils as nominated by their teachers](#) Thank you.



I have been asked to publicise the following, which are a series of free courses that parents can access and which might be of interest to some of you. Although our name is attached to the link, *I want to make it clear that these courses are not provided by our school and while they seem to be worth investigating, I am not in a position to endorse them formally.*

*Due to Government Funding in the Adult Education Budget, we have several **free online Level 2 Accredited NVQ's** (OFSTED, CACHE, CQC) courses available to help adults better understand key areas around young people's wellbeing and neurodiversity while also upskilling professionally at the same time.*

The following subjects are available, along with many others you may be interested in:

- **Awareness of Mental Health Problems**
- **Awareness of Bullying in Children**
- **Digital Skills**
- **Functional Skills: English & Maths**
- **Fair & Diverse Society**
- **Safeguarding, Prevent & British Values**
- **Information, Advice or Guidance**
- **Understanding Autism**
- **Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health**
- **Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties**
- **Special Education Needs and Disability**

*The courses can last anywhere from 8 - 12 weeks and are completed on a self-study basis, meaning you are free to **make your own schedules** and can access your material online at any time. **You can do as many courses as you'd like**, however, you can only do one at a time.*

Regarding eligibility, you must meet the following:

- *Aged 19+*
- *Have lived in the UK/EU for a minimum of 3 years*
- *Not already on a government-funded course/apprenticeship*

Please be advised to only enrol if genuinely interested. The courses are paid for via government funding so it would classify as a waste of funding for an individual to be granted this funding and make no attempt at the

course whatsoever with no reason. However, if you're approaching your deadline and need an extension, just let your online tutor know and you'll be granted an extension.

To claim your funding, please do secure your place via the funded link - [Coombe Hill Funded Link](#)

A member of the AIM Group will be in contact within 48hrs to process your chosen course through the college free and fully funded!

Any questions at all, feel free to contact Shola on shola.olla@theaimgroup.co.uk

Well done to our Learners of the week, who were nominated for the disposition: I work well with others and know how to be a good friend.

3P	Sophia	5D	Kyle
3C	Anna H	5C	Bobbi
3R	Lottie-Mai	5H	Sophia P
4R	Josh	6I	Kavi
4A	Tamanna	6L	Pareeshah
4BC	Nicholas	6C	Niamh
4M	Aubree	6S	Madeleine

And our writers of the Week

3R - James for an excellent diary entry showing wonderful progress in his writing.	4R - Florrie for a superb moderated write - very impressive!	5D - Eva for a very informative poster in RE on Eid Al Adha and consistently good writing.	6S - Maya D for a fantastic informal letter inspired by the Princess' blankets story.
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As well as our Maths Mountaineers

Year 3: Jacob (3R) for his growing confidence in Maths and for contributing to class discussions.	Year 4: Aran, for consistent determination and focus.	Year 5: Grace for persevering when she struggles with a new concept - showing great resilience	Year 6: Oscar for his consistently resilient attitude to maths - he has made great progress because of it!
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And Alice who was awarded her Maths Mountaineerbadge last week but was not here to receive it due to illness.

Attendance for the week

The whole school attendance this week is 96.3% The class with the highest attendance is 4M, who achieved attendance of 99.7%. Well done to the pupils of 4M.











Advice to parents/carers about sharing images of children on social media

We ask parents/carers not to share any of these pictures/videos on social media, where other people's children can be identified, as sharing images in this way could place some children and families at risk.

We ask that parents/carers who do want to share pictures/videos of their own children on social media to make sure they understand who else will be able to view these images. We suggest the use of privacy settings to make sure only friends can see your profile and photos, and that geo-location settings are not shared.