ISSUE #05

COOMBE WOOD SCHOOL

Newsletter

20th November 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term at Coombe Wood School. I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable half term break.

It has been a very busy and positive first two weeks back, and it has been wonderful to see our students return happy, settled, and excited to be in school. Throughout the fortnight, they have consistently upheld our core values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, and Sportsmanship. In particular, I would like to celebrate a fantastic milestone from the week commencing 9th November, where 85% of Years 7–11 students upheld all of our school values, made consistently positive choices, and received zero behaviour points. Please join me in congratulating them on making such an impressive start to the term.

Well done also to our Years 10, 11, and 13 students for the maturity, focus, and pride they have shown throughout their mock examinations. Alongside delivering high-quality lessons, our staff are currently busy marking papers to ensure students receive thorough, constructive feedback, and we look forward to reviewing these outcomes with you at our upcoming Parents' Evenings.

Our school community has also come together for several meaningful events over the past two weeks. On 11th November, we marked Remembrance Day with a dedicated assembly and a respectful two-minute silence. Last week, our Sixth Form Open Evening was exceptionally well attended and busier than in previous years and it was a pleasure to welcome so many prospective students and families to the school. On Friday 13th November, our students also took part in the Volley Player Path American college trials, showcasing great ambition and talent. Most recently, both students and staff showed their support for the launch of Anti-Bullying Week 2026 by wearing odd socks on Monday 16th November to celebrate individuality and kindness.

To help keep our site safe and our students comfortable, please note a couple of important updates. Our new external gate is now in operation to provide additional security; it will be closed promptly at 8:35am and reopened at 3:00pm, meaning any visitors arriving between these times will need to use the intercom to speak with reception. Additionally, as winter has definitely arrived, please ensure your child brings a suitable winter coat, hat, and gloves to school each day.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome Gary Miles, our Link Trustee, into school on Monday. Please also save the date for our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day, which will take place on Thursday 10th December. Finally, thank you for your ongoing support and to everyone who took the time to complete our recent parent survey; we are currently reviewing your feedback and will share a summary and our next steps with you soon.

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us and supporting our high expectations. Together, we ensure that Coombe Wood School remains a safe, happy community where every student is committed to doing their very best

Ms Williams

Headteacher

Headteachers Recognition Awards

Each week we like to reward those students who achieve the highest positive achievement points in their year group with no Negative behaviour points.

Week Ending 23rd October
Year 7 - Lea S.
Year 8 - Molly B
Year 9 - Yaseen M
Year 10 - Max C
Year 11 - Emily T



Congratulations to them all.

Ms Williams

Term Dates 2027/2028

The term dates for the Academic Year 2027/2028 are now live on the school website.

Term Dates 2027/28

Please note that the October Half Term has been changed to the last 2 weeks in October to bring Coombe Wood School in line with other schools in the borough to assist with child care arrangements.

Please always check the school website before booking holidays. Any requests for Term Time leave will be considered in line with our Attendance Policy.

Parent / Student Voice Surveys

We encourage all our famillies to take part in the Parent and Student Voice Surveys.

Parent Voice Survey

Student Voice Survey

Your feedback helps us shape the future of Coombe Wood School

Year 10 Textiles

Our Year 10 Textiles students have been demonstrating remarkable focus and artistry this term as they dive into hand embroidery for their latest coursework module on the theme of Botanicals.

Our course started with a trip to Kew Gardens and the Fashion and Textiles Museum to get inspiration for their skills project and I have been bowled over by their dedication and enthusiasm so far. It truly has been a pleasure to see so many students coming back to an after school enrichment every week to work on their samples.





Mrs Baldock

Chefs of the Month - October 2026

Our Chefs of the Month for October were:

Year 7
1st Place: Casey-Rose P-P
2nd Place: Bosley B-B
3rd Place: Milaan A

Year 8
1st Place: Paign Hay
2nd Place: Gabriel H
3rd Place: Theo S

Year 9
1st Place: TJ W-B
2nd Place: Gimara S
3rd Place: Marky C

Year 10
1st Place: Hetty N
2nd Place: Lutfiyah S
3rd Place: Jamie P



Well done to all of our Chefs for the month of October!

Ms Kerslake and Ms Gordon

THE FOOD HUB

Merry Christmas

Thursday 10th December 2026

Roast Turkey (ALLERGEN FREE) with
Pig in Blanket (GLUTEN, SULPHITE) or
Festive Vegetable Slice (GLUTEN)
Served with
Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy (ALLERGEN FREE)
Stuffing (GLUTEN)
Yorkshire Pudding (GLUTEN, EGG, SOYA)

Christmas Yule Log (GLUTEN,EGG) or
Festive Ice Cream (MILK)

FUEL FOR EVERY FUTURE

Changes to Free School Meals

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Important Changes to Free School Meals & How to Apply

From the 1st September 2026 important national changes were made to **Free School Meal (FSM)** eligibility.

What changed?
Following new guidance from the Department for Education, FSM protections that have been in place since April 2018 ended in August 2026, and eligibility criteria was expanded. From September 2026, **every child whose household receives Universal Credit** is entitled to free school meals. We strongly encourage **all** of our families to complete an online application, even if you don't believe you meet the criteria.

What do I need to do if my child already receives Free School Meals?
If your child previously received free school meals you will still need to reapply, as your protections ended on 31st August 2026. If you don't reapply, it will mean your child will not receive free school meals in September 2026.

Please note: under the new national guidance, a child's eligibility will now be subject to an annual review to confirm their ongoing entitlement.

How do I apply?
Please apply as soon as possible via our secure online portal:

https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-greenshawlearningtrust

If you have already applied, please be patient with us. As I am sure you can imagine, this change has created a lot of extra work for the team whilst we upload the new approvals to our system. Please rest assured that any anomalies that occur to student parent pay accounts will be rectified in due course.

Kind regards,

Coombe Wood School Reception Team

Communications Update - Bromcom/MCAS

Please note that **Bromcom** is our chosen platform and works hand in hand with **My Child At School (MCAS)**

We will use MCAS for all communication regarding behaviour, achievements, and detentions. Parents and carers should already have access to this platform, however please do not hesitate to contact the school office team if you are experiencing any issues.

Please take a moment to check all your details are correct on MCAS. It is very important that you inform us of any changes to your contact details quickly to avoid missing important communications.

Please note that we no longer use SIMS / SIMS Parent or Classcharts as a method of communication.

This Newsletter will be sent out Bi-weekly on a Friday Week 1 to all parents and carers.

Changes to Parent Pay in March 2027

Changes to School Payments: After the February 2027 half term, we are moving from ParentPay to **Bromcom** for all school payments. Everything will be available in one convenient place via the **MCAS app**, making it much easier for you to manage payments for school lunches, as well as trips, using a single login.

We will share more details and information over the coming months.

Co-Curricular Clubs Initiative

Transforming futures and Unlocking Growth through the CWS Curricular Model. Please click on the attached letter to find out more about our new initiative to recognise student achievement in co-curricular activities. Co-Curricular Awards Scheme



Mr Smith

Assistant Headteacher

Running Club Winter Break

Due to the darkness drawing in earlier at this time of year, Running Club will be paused from Wednesday 25th November (our final run of 2026) and resume again on Wednesday 27th of January 2027.

Well done done to all those who have attended running club this year and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year!

Mr Harrison

Sports Club Timetable - Autumn Term 26/27

We are delighted to announce that our Sports Clubs resumed on Monday 14th September. Our exciting and varied timetable is linked below.

For any students who do not have HRF/Games on their chosen club day, should bring their HRF kit with them and change after school.

Our clubs are for all students, there is no sign up process for these sports clubs, students should come along to HRF after schoool where staff will direct them to the chosen club.

Sports Club Timetable - Autumn Term 26/27

Co-Curricular Clubs Schedule - Autumn Term 26

Dear parents/carers,

Please find attached the co-curricular clubs taking place this term.

Co-Curricular Clubs Timetable Autumn Term 26

Please keep an eye on the bi-weekly newsletter for further details as more clubs may be added throughout the term and it is here where we will celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students in clubs and events. This is in addition to the Key Stage 4 intervention schedule and Key Stage 5 football pathway.

Mr Smith

Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development & Wellbeing

Sporting Success

A short update on our recent sports fixtures:

Y8 Netball - 4-4 draw Vs Tenisons

Y7 Football - 5-1 Win vs Woodcote

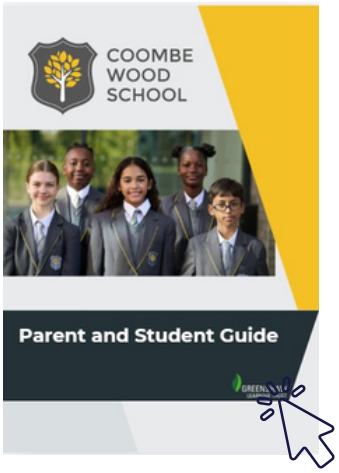
Y10 Football - 12-11 - Loss vs Tenisons

Y10 Football - 4-1 Win against Oasis Shirley Park

Miss Potkins

Parent and Student Guide - Academic Year 26/27

Please take a moment to read the Parent and Student Guide which has been updated for the new academic year.



Many thanks

Mr Vass

Deputy Headteacher

A New Look School Canteen - The Food Hub

We hope that the students are enjoying the new look canteen area known as The Food Hub. This will continue to evolve as we continue through the term. Following feedback, we have made a few minor tweaks to the menu for next term.

Autumn Term Menu - 2

Best wishes

Chris Young

Regional Catering and Development Catering Projects Manager
Greenshaw Learning Trust

Help Us Be Good Neighbours !!!

We would like to gently remind everyone to be considerate of our neighbours on Melville Avenue and the surrounding streets.

- **Parking:** Please be considerate during pick up and drop off and ensure you aren't blocking any driveways.
- **Environment**: Please turn off your engine rather than idling while you wait. and avoid dropping litter.
- **Behaviour:** Take a moment to chat with your children about staying on their best behaviour during their daily commutes especially whilst in school uniform and representing the school.

We truly appreciate your help in keeping our local community a pleasant place for everyone.

School Carpark

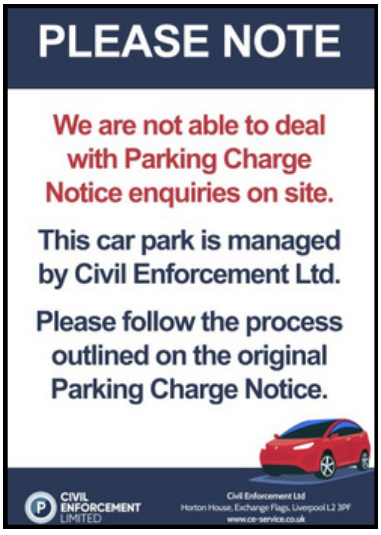
Our school carpark is operated by Creative Car Parks.

You will have a 20 minute grace period when dropping off or collecting your child.

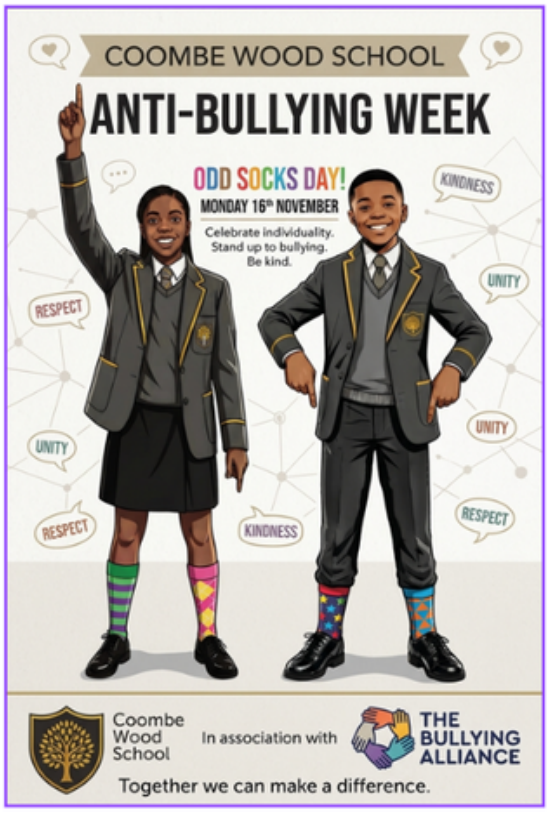
Should you need to stay longer than this you will need to enter you registration number into the i-pads which can be found in the main school reception or for out of hours in the HRF reception.

Should you incur a PCN, you will need to deal directly with Creative Car Parks, unfortunately the school is not able to intervene on your behalf.





Anti-Bullying Week - 16-20th November 2026







Key Dates for November 2026

Key Dates for December 2026

Tuesday 1st December 2026
Flu Immunisations

Thursday 10th December 2026
Christmas Lunch
Christmas Jumper Day
Year 13 Parents Evening - Details to follow

Monday 14th December 2026
Year 11 Parents Evening - Details to follow

Friday 18th Decmeber 2026
Last day of Term

Christmas Holidays

Monday 21st December 2026 - Friday 1st January 2027



Key Dates for February 2027

Monday 4th January 2027
INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students

Tuesday 5th January 2027
First Day of Spring Term for Students - Doors to open at 8am

Thursday 14th January 2027
Year 8 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Wednesday 20th January 2027
Sixth Form Interviews - Details to follow

Thursday 28th January 2027
Year 7 Parents Evening (all subjects) - Details to follow

Key Dates for February 2027

Thursday 4th February 2027
Year 10 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Half Term
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2027

Key Dates for March 2027

Wednesday 17th March 2027
Year 13 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Thursday 18th March 2027
Year 10 Curriculum Evening - Details to Follow

Monday 22nd March 2027
Year 11 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Thursday 25th March 2027
Last day of Term

Easter Holidays
Friday 26th March 2027 - Friday 9th April 2027



Key Dates for May 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027
Bank Holiday - School Closed to Students

Thursday 20th May 2027
Year 12 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Half Term
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027

Key Dates for June 2027

Monday 7th June
First Day of Term - Door to Open at

Thursday 17th June
Year 7 Curriculum Evening - Details to follow

Key Dates for July 2027

Thursday 1st July
Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Evening for New September Starters - Details to Follow

Friday 2nd July 2027
INSET DAY - School Closed to Students
National Transition Day - Year 6 to Year 7 (September 2027)

Thursday 22nd July 2027
Last Day of Term - Student to be dismissed at 12pm

Summer Holiday
Friday 23rd July 2027 -

Term Dates - Academic Year 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Wednesday 2nd September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
Thursday 3rd September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
Friday 4th September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
***
Monday 7th September - First Day of Autumn Term 1- All Students
***
Wednesday 16th September - School Open Evening - Students will finish at Midday
***
Thursday 17th September 2026 - Later Start - Students to arrive from 10.15am for their Period 3 lesson.
***
Friday 23rd October 2026 - Last Day of Autumn Term 1
***
Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 6th November 2026
***
Monday 9th November - First Day of Autumn Term 2- All Students
***
Friday 18th December - Last Day of Autumn Term 2
***
Christmas Holidays - Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2027
***
Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January 2027 - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students
***
Tuesday 5th January 2027 - First Day of Spring Term 1 - All Students
***
Friday 12th February 2027 - Last Day of Spring Term 1
***
Half Term - Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2027
***
Monday 22nd February 2027 - First Day of Term of Spring Term 2 - All Students
***
Thursday 25th March 2027 - Last Day of Spring Term 2
***
Easter Holidays - Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April 2027
***
Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April 2027 - First Day of Summer Term 1 - All Students
***
Monday 3rd May 2027 - May Day Bank Holiday - School is Closed
***
Friday 28th May 2027 - Last Day of Summer Term 1
***
Half Term - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027
***
Monday 7th June - First Day of Summer Term 2- All Students
***
Friday 2nd July - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students
***
Thursday 22nd July 2027 - Last Day of Summer Term 2
***
Summer Holidays from Friday 23rd July

Please always check the school website before booking holidays !!!

Term Dates 2026/2027

Term Dates - Academic Year 2027/28

Autumn Term 2027

Wednesday 1st September 2027 - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
Thursday 2nd September 2027 - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
Friday 3rd September 2027 - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
***

Monday 6th September 2027 - First Day of Autumn Term 1- All Students
***

Wednesday 15th September 2027 - School Open Evening - Students will finish at Midday
***

Thursday 16th September 2027 - Later Start - Students to arrive from 10.15am for their Period 3 lesson.
***

Friday 15th October 2027 - Last Day of Autumn Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 18th October - Friday 29th October 2027
***

Monday 1st November 2027 - First Day of Autumn Term 2- All Students
***

Friday 19th November 2027 - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
***

Friday 17th December 2027 - Last Day of Autumn Term 2
***

Christmas Holidays - Monday 20st December 2027 - Monday 3rd January 2028
***

Spring Term 2028

Tuesday 4th January 2028 - First Day of Spring Term 1 - All Students
***

Friday 11th February 2028 - Last Day of Spring Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 14th - Friday 18th February 2028
***

Monday 21st February 2028 - First Day of Term of Spring Term 2 - All Students
***

Friday 31st March 2028 - Last Day of Spring Term 2
***

Easter Holidays - Monday 3rd April - Monday 17th April 2028
(NB: Good Friday - 14th April and Easter Monday - 17th April)
***

Summer Term 2028

Tuesday 18th April 2028 - First Day of Summer Term 1 - All Students
***

Monday 1st May 2028 - May Day Bank Holiday - School is Closed
***

Friday 26th May 2028 - Last Day of Summer Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2028
***

Monday 5th June 2028 - First Day of Summer Term 2- All Students
***

Friday 7th July 2028 - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students
***

Friday 21st July 2028 - Last Day of Summer Term 2
***

Summer Holidays from Monday 24th July 2028

Please always check the school website before booking holidays !!!

Term Dates 2027/2028

