



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 9th November 2018
Issue: Autumn 2: 1

Contact us: Phone: 01283 840206
Email:
Mrs Haywood: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk (Mon-Wed)
Mrs Lowther: finance@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk (Tues-Fri)
Mrs Hanson: headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk (anytime)

Dates for the diary: (could be subject to change. Always check newsletters & website)

11.11.18 Remembrance parade, Abbots Bromley, 11am
12.11.18 Y4 Viking day
13.11.18 Y1 Freshwater toys experience (in school)
13.11.18 or 15.11.18 Parent/Teacher Meetings
16.11.18 Children in need (no uniform and competition - see details overleaf)
22.11.18 Folk singing afternoon for Reception, Y1 and Y2, funded by Community Folk group
23.11.18 Y4 visit to Oldfields Hall Middle School
26.11.18 Y3 Space Centre trip
7.12.18 Influenza immunisations (consent forms need to be returned)
9.12.18 Christmas tree festival, St. Nicholas Church + school choir
7.12.18 3-5pm Christmas Fair
14.12.18 Christmas Play Performance, St Nicholas Church, 2pm (all parents and friends invited)
17.12.18 Reception class visit to Ash End House Farm
18.12.18 Christmas Dinner
19.12.18 Christmas Parties (with a special guest!)
20.12.18 Break up - no uniform/Christmas jumper day £1
8.1.19 BACK TO SCHOOL - Stomp Christmas treat funded by the PTFA (in school)

Poppy Appeal

We are again supporting the 'poppy appeal' in school and the Y4 pupils will be taking the poppies around each class every day to sell them for a donation. These will be on sale first week back up until 9th November. Some Y4 pupils will be laying a wreath on Sunday at the village parade. All welcome to watch and support.



Parent Consultation Meetings - Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th November

You should have received your allotted time space, please see your child's class teacher if you are unsure of your time. Please try to adhere to the 10 minute slots otherwise overruns can put the whole system out. If you feel you need a longer consultation for any reason then please make an alternative appointment.

PTFA News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Harvest Festival. The children sang brilliantly, the representatives from the food bank were thrilled with our donations and the raffle raised £122! The money raised which will go towards much needed English resources. (See photo on website of the winner's pumpkin!)

Also a reminder for any parents wishing to place an order for 2019 calendar to let the office know with cash / cheque - £8.50 per calendar. Next event: The Christmas Fair—watch this space!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

See attached posters advertising some events taking place locally

Parent Governor Vacancy

I'm delighted to inform you that 3 parents have kindly put themselves forward for Parent Governor. This is fantastic to have such support for a small school. Many schools really struggle to get anyone, let alone volunteers with such great skills to offer!

This does mean there will now be an election for the post. Please find attached the ballot paper outlining the skills offered by the 3 candidates. One you have read these, put an 'X' in the box of the candidate of your choice and please remember that you are only voting for 1 candidate.

Each parent is entitled to only return one ballot paper, irrespective of the number of children in the family attending the school.

Please return by whichever of the following methods suits you best:

Pupil post (if returned in an envelope please mark it 'Parent Governor Elections')
Royal Mail (envelopes marked 'Parent Governor Elections')
by hand personally placing ballot paper into the ballot box outside the school office

Deadline for voting by is Friday 23rd November at 3.45pm.

After school Clubs

Tuesday

Multi Skills with Mrs Care

Tuesday

Board Games with Miss Wain for Y2, Y3 & 4.

Wednesday

Magical Maths Y1-4 (external provider) - see leaflet sent home with children 12.10.18

Thursday

Choir with Mr Welsh & Miss Robins for Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y4. Unlimited spaces

Travel survey

We were asked by Staffordshire County Council each year to conduct a 'hands up' survey on how children travelled to school in October. I thought you might be interested in the result.

	%
Car	57%
Walked	42%
Park and stride	6%
Taxi	2%
Scooter	2%

Children in Need

It's that time of year where we don our spots and dig deep for children in need!

No uniform day for £1 donation

+

This year we are holding a t-shirt design competition. It is £1 per entry and all proceeds go to children in need. Use any materials to create your design and be in with a chance to win a kit to make your t-shirt! Please return your entries no later than the morning of Friday 16th November. Happy designing!

Philosophy for Children (P4C) in The Richard Clarke First School (October 2018)

It is an undisputed fact that children should leave school with the ability to read and write and to be comfortable with the manipulation of numbers. It is also true that articulation, presentation, creativity, imagination and social skills are highly regarded but deemed to be in short supply, by employers at least, in the world beyond school. RCFS is trying to close this gap at the earliest stages of a child's education by introducing P4C into the curriculum across all Year Groups. This can be expressed most simply as "learning to be reasonable". P4C is demonstrably worthwhile, in that it improves scores in literacy, speaking and listening and maths tests and also has a beneficial effect on emotional awareness and thinking skills. Despite the esoteric label, P4C uses children's imagination and reasoning to explore values, assumptions and vital concepts like justice, truth, knowledge and beauty. I admit that this sounds somewhat pretentious, but let me try to illustrate this by showing how RCFS has used the approach during its P4C week, which, as usual, was at the end of the first half-term.

The children are presented with a short story to read, or have it read to them in the younger groups. The story usually has an entertaining narrative with a twist in the tail. There are no value judgements offered nor are there any specific explanations of the unfolding events. These are for the children to identify and discuss during the week, if they think that they are important. Now for the story –

This story, entitled "**A Dinner of Smells**" is set in the Middle East but similar stories occur across the world, from China and South America to Africa and Europe.

A poor man who is almost permanently hungry goes to his daily work past an upmarket restaurant where he always pauses to enjoy the wonderful aromas. He cannot afford to buy a meal but the smells are free. Until that is, one day, when the enraged owner seizes him and accuses him of stealing the smells which he, the owner, has spent money to create. Payment or a visit to court are the choices offered and, in the circumstances, a visit to court is inevitable. The poor man knows that the owner and the judge are from the same social group and does not rate his chances highly of avoiding gaol. On his way home he encounters the local 'wise man'. He explains that he cannot afford a fine and does not like the thought of prison. What can he do? "I will attend court and speak up for you", says his new acquaintance. The court case duly arrives and the main actors assemble. The prosecution case is unanswerable and the judge prepares to pass sentence. At this point the 'wise man', who should be known as Mr Loophole, approaches the bench with a bag of gold coins which he repeatedly jingles. "Do you hear that sound?" he asks the restaurant owner. "Of course", is the reply. "Then consider yourself paid. The sound of coins and the smell of food are the same in the eyes of the law". At this point the curtain falls on a happy plaintiff and a bemused accuser. The story does not continue to the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court.

Discussion of the story during the week raised a huge number of questions and many disagreements. Issues as diverse as *Can you put a value on a smell?*, *Is it the moral duty of the rich to help the poor?*, *Can we prioritise our senses?*, *We pay to listen to music, why shouldn't we pay for wonderful smells?*, *Would the poor man and the restaurant owner tell the story differently?*. The results of the week were presented by all year groups with essays, drawings, statistics, an advertisement for a favourite smell and a debate about the welfare state. At the end of the session my brain hurt.

I was enormously impressed at the enthusiasm with which the children participated in the P4C week and the special assembly. P4C has promoted a forum for open dialogue in which children do not just exchange ideas and opinions as if they were bits of information. Instead they ask questions, sift arguments and explore alternatives. They learn to disagree without rancour and to argue without aggression; they learn, in fact, to be reasonable. It may be that, when the children move on from RCFS they will gradually forget about P4C but I am hopeful that the ideas and lessons will remain long after the label has faded.

John Hough – Chair of Governors, RCFS

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE