



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
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FUTURE FAMILIES

We would normally be planning an Open Morning for all parents/carers who are considering sending their children to our school next year. Unfortunately we will not be able to do this due to us having to limit visitors in school this term due to the COVID-19 situation.

As you know our budget is based on pupil numbers and in order to maintain 5 separate year groups we need at least 24 pupils per class. We are dangerously low on numbers overall as we have some very small classes and hence we are hoping for a good size year group for Reception class next year. To not be able to hold an open morning is not ideal for us advertising all the good work we do here at RCFS.

We would therefore ask for the community's help to advertise all the great things about Richard Clarke by recommending us to family and friends. Please reassure prospective families that we will resume tours of the school as soon as we are allowed, but in the meantime they can look at our website for information about us and I would be more than happy to talk to parents on the phone if that is helpful in any way.

If you are feeling really brave, maybe some parents could do a short video clip of themselves saying why they would recommend RCFS and we could load these up to our website! If you are willing please send those to me, I would be very grateful! We are also seeking to create a short film of our school environment to showcase this for prospective families. Are you a dab hand with a video editor?? Have you the expertise to help us create a fun, virtual tour of our school? Please contact me if you think you could assist us.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Lunches update

Lunches have gone well this week so we would like to continue offering a hot meal to Reception, Y1 and Y2. We are also going to trial hot meals for Years 3 and 4 from next week. It will mean them collecting their meal from the kitchen and taking it back to the classroom to eat, but we would like to give it a try. Reminder that for KS2 meals cost £2.35 and payment is via parent pay.

Next week's menu

Monday: Cheese and tomato pizza

Tuesday: Beef burger with potato wedges

Wednesday: Roast turkey with roast potatoes and gravy

Thursday: Pasta Bolognese

Friday: Fish fingers and chips

HARVEST

Sadly we will not be able to do our normal harvest celebration and invite everyone into school.

However we still think it is important as part of our harvest tradition, that we continue to make a collection of food to donate to the Rugeley food bank to support local children and families in need. Now, it is probably more important than ever, with everything that is happening nationally.

Donations of foodstuffs would be greatly appreciated. If you feel that you would like to contribute, then please deliver your donation to your child's class teacher in the last week of this half term and we will arrange for them to be collected by the food bank.

Please use the list on the right as a guide. We have also been advised that packets of chocolate biscuits are nice as treats for children. Thank you very much.

Milk (UHT or powdered)
Sugar (500g)
Fruit juice (carton)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Sponge pudding (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereals
Rice pudding (tinned)
Tea bags/instant coffee
Instant mash potato
Rice/pasta
Tinned meat/fish
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Jam
Biscuits or snack bar



Choosing your child's next school...

You will need to consider what happens once your children leave Richard Clarke at the end of Year 4. We highly recommend they follow the majority of pupils onto Oldfields Hall Middle School and then Thomas Alleyne's High School. Both of these schools offer amazing opportunities and I strongly recommend them to you. Unfortunately, they too will not be able to offer the normal open events. I will let you know if they have any alternative plans and in the meantime urge you to have a look at their websites/facebook page and talk to parents you know who have got children at those schools already to find out more. We hope opportunities to visit will resume once things can return to normal.

<https://oldfields.org.uk/>



<http://www.thomasalloynes.uk/>



School Photos

We have arranged for photos of the children to be taken outdoors next week as follows:

Monday	Reception and KS2 individual
Tuesday	KS1 individual
Friday	Siblings and whole class photos

If you would like younger siblings to be included in these photos, please arrive by 8.30am on Friday via your normal entrance and await your turn 'socially distanced'.

We will be adding in whole class photos for Year 1-4 as we didn't get these done in the Summer term. These will be taken with their class teacher of July 2020 (eg: Year 1 with Mrs Read and Year 4 with Miss Wain). Their class photo for their current class and teacher will be taken in July 2021 as normal.

Attendance

Whole school attendance figure from 2nd September to date: 97%
Congratulations!!! This is super!

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

Obviously lots of the normal dates for the diary are not going to be allowed under the current restrictions but we are working hard on what we can do, and possible alternatives for things, so watch this space.

22.10.20 Break up for half term
23.10.20 School closed for staff INSET day

Uniform reminder

Please can you ensure all children's uniform is labelled with their names. It is hard for us to get lost sweaters and cardigans back to the right children without names and you would be amazed at the amount of uniform that is not named. Please ensure all children bring a coat to school. It is turning cooler and we do try to go outside wherever possible. Jewellery and hair accessories should be minimal. Nail varnish and tattoos are not school uniform.

Corona virus update

Please can we continue to thank our wonderful community for their continued patience and support through these challenging times. Kindness is key to getting through this and all parents have been, without fail, kind and understanding of all the challenges we are facing trying to keep school open.

Staggered starts and finishes and parents remembering to social distance seems to be improving, thank you for this. Please don't arrive too early, this will avoid queuing and waiting.

We fully appreciate the difficulties we are all facing when ourselves and our family members are presenting with coughs and colds and other seasonal illnesses. We are aware of the national challenges for those individuals needing to get tested for corona virus and the consequences of the delay in this for staff, parents and children who are missing out on work and school. We simply have to stick to the guidance, despite the challenges, so as to not put anyone at risk, should any of us turn out to be tested positive.

I have created a 'Corona Virus information' page on our school website that I will up date regularly with the latest information, guidance and links for you check what you need to do if you are unsure as it seems an ever changing picture.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/news-events/corona-virus-covid-19-information-page/>

Remember:

If your child has a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal, you **MUST NOT** send them to school and **MUST** follow the guidance.

Again, your children are a credit to you. Their behaviour, manners and engagement in lessons has been fantastic. Our initial assessments have identified some specific gaps in learning, for example in phonics/spelling and some aspects of maths that were missed, but on the whole we are really pleased with how the children are progressing and expect to see rapid progress this term. If you can, please keep on top of homelearning and home reading and read to your children as much as possible. Remember the link between progress and vocabulary is huge, so the more words you can expose your children to the better their comprehension, understanding and progress will be.



PREVENT STRATEGY



What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How does Prevent relate to British values?

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy. British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

KEY TERMS: **Extremism** – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; **Ideology** – a set of beliefs; **Terrorism** – a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause;

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism.

Where to go for more information

Contact the school if you have any concerns or queries **or See our policies.** You will find more details about radicalisation in our Safeguarding Policy. We also have information about spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and British values.

External sources:

Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

Frequently asked questions, Prevent For Schools

http://www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

<http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>