



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 6th November 2020
Issue: Autumn 2 : 1

Contact us: Phone: 01283 840206

Email:

Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Lowther: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

Mrs Hanson: headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

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.

2.11.20 Back to school

9.11.20 Viking Day for Year 4

11.11.20 Influenza team in to carry out immunisation programme (see Parentmail for e-consent form)

13.11.20 Children in Need day (see page 2)

13.11.20 Parent consultation email and work home (replacing Parent Consultation meetings)

18.12.20 BREAK UP—NO uniform day

Corona virus update

As you are aware the Government has announced a further national lockdown from Thursday. We hope you and your families are coping in these very difficult times. If we can be of any assistance then do not hesitate to contact us.

We are really pleased that schools are remaining open, as we would much rather be in school learning. However we will of course keep an eye on developments and update you accordingly if we are forced to close. We are working on our remote learning strategy using the feedback you gave us and we are having training on new resources. We will communicate this with you as soon as we are ready.

Extra care and compliance with our operational plan and risk assessment are vital. We continue to urge you and thank you for support with all the safety measures in place. We have considered if parents should wear face masks for drop off and collection. The government does not recommend the universal use of face coverings in schools or in outside spaces. However, where social distancing is difficult to maintain, they can be useful. It is our opinion, that with our staggered times, entrances, exits and large spaces, social distancing should not be difficult to maintain, as long as parents adhere to this. If it helps you to feel safer and you choose to wear a mask, as some parents/grandparents do, then that is fine also. We will continue to monitor and review this.

Sadly it is also inevitable that people in our community will have positive tests, so again, follow the rules and keep good communication. We are stronger together, and must support each other and be kind to each other. We will all be feeling very anxious to keep our loved ones safe and balancing that with life has to go on.

COLD WEATHER

As the weather gets colder, we are going to try to keep as ventilated as possible, which means keeping the windows open. With this in mind, if the children are saying they're cold, we are happy for them to layer up more, or even wear a fleece/body warmer in the classroom, over their uniform if this helps.

Remember:

If your child has a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back, 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.

New topics for a new half term

If you would like to know what topics each year group is learning about each half term follow the Teaching & Learning tab, Curriculum and Assessment and then year group tabs for up to date information on our school website:

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/curriculum-assessment/>

Reception - Once upon a time

Year 1 - Ancient Egyptians!

Year 2 - Vile Victorians

Year 3 - To boldly go!

Year 4 - Invaders and Settlers

Homelearning activities will be posted either in homelearning books, on class dojo or via the learning platform.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/learning-zone/>

Children in Need Friday 13th November

We will be supporting the national Children in Need campaign. Charities need our help more than ever in these challenging times.

Wear no uniform (anything goes day) to school for £1 donation to Children In Need



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This year we are holding a Pudsey activity sheet competition £1.

Please return your entries no later than the morning of Friday 13th November. (see sheet brought home by children)

PTFA News

The Halloween day was a great success. There were some brilliant pumpkin colouring competition entries. Thank you to you all for taking part in our ghost hunt. We raised a fantastic £256.75. Well done everyone and thank you for your support.

As you know, there are many seasonal events that we are unable to run this year due to the restrictions, but we really would like to be able to help to fund some festive experiences in school for the children.

You will have seen that we have brought back the Body Shop fundraising grids from last year. This was such a huge success and something that you can easily get involved in.

The letter has been sent out this week with the details of how it works. We have reduced the grid size this year. Remember, fill your grid and we will draw a winner from it to win a gift from The Body Shop at Home worth over £10. Every full grid gets a winner! The children will also receive a bath bomb for filling their grid too.

The deadline to return the grids to class is Friday 20th November. Please feel free to return it earlier if complete. Thanks in advance for your participation.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/category/events/> (see photos!)

Lunches update

Next week's menu

Monday:	Cheese and tomato pizza/vegetarian wrap
Tuesday:	Chicken burger/Mac 'n' cheese
Wednesday:	Roast turkey/Roast Quorn
Thursday:	Pasta Bolognese/hot dog
Friday:	Fish fingers and chips/Quorn nuggets and chips

Attendance

98.5%

May we remind you that we are a **nut-free** school. Please do not send in any snacks or food items for your child that contain nuts. Thank you

Poppy Appeal

We would like to support the 'poppy appeal' in school, however we are unable to sell poppies due to the restrictions. We have been given a collection pot so can collect any donations and we encourage children to wear their own badges/brooches to school to show their support. The teachers will be talking to the children about the occasion in class and we will have our minute's silence on the 11th.



The village commemoration will be different this year, however, Y4 pupils will be visiting the village memorial cenotaph, to lay a wreath on behalf of RCFS, during the school day.

Parent Consultations

As mentioned before, holding our usual parent consultation meetings will not be possible due to the restrictions on visitors in school. We are very sorry about this and hope you will understand that this is not how we like to do things and ask for your continued patience.

As an alternative, you will receive a brief email summary from your child's class teacher on 13th November. This will let you know:

- How they have settled in
- What their academic standards are
- How they have responded to Home Learning
- What their areas for development are

Once you have received this summary, you can email any questions or queries, directly to your child's class teacher. For the majority of pupils we hope this will be enough information at this early point in the year. However, we will arrange a telephone appointment if there is something pressing you and/or the teacher wish to discuss in more detail.

We will also be sending home, on the 13th November, your children's work for you to look through with them. We encourage you to ask them about their learning, and which pieces of work they are particularly proud of, what they think they need to target to improve and which lessons they really enjoyed. We kindly and firmly request that the books are returned, in pristine condition, on Monday 16th November. We welcome your feedback on the work you've seen and how you feel your child is progressing.