



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter  
Friday 13th November 2020  
Issue: Autumn 2 : 2

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**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.

13.11.20 Children in Need day (see page 2)

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

4.12.20 Christmas Jumper Day plus special guests and activities

14.12.20 Theatre company in school

17.12.20 Class Christmas Parties in their bubbles

18.12.20 BREAK UP—NO uniform day

**IMPORTANT Parent Consultations**

You should have received a brief email summary from your child's class teacher today. This is in place of our usual settling in parent consultation meetings and will let you know:

- How the children 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.

Your children's work will also come home 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.

**Children in Need Friday 13th November**

Thank you for supporting this year's Children in need charity event.

We have raised awareness and a total of £233

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/category/events/>



## **PTFA News and Christmas news**

Obviously our normal Christmas events cannot take place due to the current restrictions. However do not fear, Christmas is **not** cancelled... we are going to try to do some lovely alternatives:

4th December - Christmas Jumper Day plus special guests and activities (this will be a covid safe, fundraising event, during the school day, to replace the Christmas fair)

14th December - Theatre company in school delivering covid safe mini Christmas plays for the children (small contribution required, details to follow)

17th December - Class Christmas Parties in their bubbles

We will send more details in future newsletters.

We feel it safest to not permit the usual delivery of Christmas cards in school. As an alternative the classes will make (in school) Christmas greeting posters to put up in windows and around school instead. You may want to donate the money saved on cards to your favourite charities.

We are working on how to manage Christmas dinner. The most upsetting thing is we won't be able to do our Nativity Play in church, however, please see separate letter with a possible plan...the show must go on!!!!!!!

Reminder: Body Shop grids deadline for return is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Remote Learning**

You may be aware that the Government from 22nd October have placed a legal duty on schools to provide remote learning should children need to self isolate, or should we need to lock down again and work from home. With this in mind and with the results of the survey we did with yourselves regarding your thoughts on the previous lock down experience, we have made a remote learning plan.

We want you to understand that a task like this is fraught with difficulty. No one plan will ever suit everyone's personal circumstances and preferences. Some parents will want a very prescriptive plan and others will want a more flexible one. We also are very conscious that our age group of children means they do not learn independently, sat in front of a computer all day. They will need adult support to access the learning, and it can't be all computer learning, there needs to be play and exercise away from devices. We also understand for busy parents, working from home, looking after little ones, that this is not always going to be possible for you to facilitate the learning with your children. Our plan, is therefore designed, to be used as a guideline to support you to continue your child's learning in the event of them being off school for a short or extended period. We will do our best to provide a programme of learning and will work with families to adapt the plan to suit your needs as the situation arises and evolves.

From the feedback we received in the survey, quite a few parents wanted more live contact with teachers. With this in mind we are undertaking some training for staff to safely use google classroom that may facilitate face to face contact and we will continue to use the learning zones on the website and class dojo to video teacher inputs. We will continue to update you as we learn more.

Please have a look at our plan in preparation for when we need to put it in place. Again, please remember it is a guide, to be used flexibly and it will adapt and change as we all learn more.

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

Many thanks for your ongoing support with keeping your children's education going in these challenging times.

### **Lunches update**

#### Next week's menu

Monday: Vegetable pizza/veg sausage, mash & gravy  
Tuesday: Chicken tikka masala & rice/mac 'n' cheese  
Wednesday: Roast gammon/butternut squash & potato pastry slice  
Thursday: All day breakfast—see bottom of page  
Friday: Southern fried chicken bites/soft taco & chips

### **Attendance**

98.6%

### **Corona virus update IMPORTANT PLEASE READ**

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 continue to be so proud of your children and how they are responding to the current challenges, they are amazing and so are you!**

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.

[Click this link for the Government's updated guidance for parents 5.11.20:](#)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm\\_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

### **Sadie's All Day Breakfast**

Pork or Quorn sausage/ Crispy bacon/ Omelette/ Hash brown/  
Baked beans/ 5050 toast  
Chocolate orange crispy bar/ Fruit slices/ Yoghurt