



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 27th November 2020
Issue: Autumn 2 : 4

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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.

2.12.20 Christmas Dinner for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

4.12.20 Christmas Jumper Day plus special guests and activities

9.12.20 Christmas Dinner for Year 3 and Year 4

14.12.20 Theatre company in school

17.12.20 Class Christmas Parties in their bubbles

18.12.20 BREAK UP—NO uniform day (no charge)

Corona virus update

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.

See latest update from local authority sent out earlier this week:

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Update-from-LA-18.11.20.pdf>

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

MUSIC INSTRUMENT LESSONS IN SCHOOL TO RESUME!

We are pleased to let you know that our visiting, specialist music teachers will be returning to teach from January 2021. Lessons are subscription based (fees to be confirmed), fully risk assessed and, whilst the Covid-19 situation continues, children's bubble groups will not be compromised. We are able to offer violin, keyboard, clarinet and flute. Our specialist teachers will provide you with progress reports, children can take part in a music concert each year and, what's more, we have instruments available to loan so that your child can take part! If you would like your child to begin or resume having weekly lessons here in school, please contact the school office by email (office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) or telephone them on (01283) 840206 to let them know which instrument you would like your child to learn, whether or not you require a loan instrument and to ask any questions!

Thank You!

PTFA Events

As we are struggling to run our normal fundraising events we are asking for your support with the following. We intend to have a PTFA raffle, instead of the whole Christmas fair so would be grateful if any parents have any raffle prizes they would like to donate, please hand to class teachers by 27th November.

From 4th December raffle tickets on sale (details to come)

4th December - £1 donation Christmas Jumper Day plus special guests and activities

14th December - Theatre company in school delivering Covid safe mini Christmas plays for the children (£3 contribution required)

17th December - £1 donation for craft activity and Class Christmas Parties in bubbles

Many thanks to everyone who returned the Body Shop fundraising grids. It has so far raised a fabulous £347.92.

We do recognise that some have missed the deadline due to not being at school so if you would still like to return your grid, please do so to the office by Monday 30th November.

The PTFA now have a PayPal account should you wish to use this as a payment option.

RCFS.ws15.ptfa@gmail.com is the address you need to use and please can we ask that you choose the friends and family option so that we don't get charged fees by PayPal as we are a charity.

Shop AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1111098-0>, and Amazon donates to The Richard Clarke First School PTFA, at no cost to you.



Black Friday Week: 20th-30th Nov

More than discovering great deals. Shop at **smile.amazon.co.uk** or with AmazonSmile ON in the app and Amazon donates to us

amazon smile

School has come under increased financial pressure since lock down due to increased costs such as staffing, IT equipment, cleaning, hand sanitizer dispensers, extra bins, paper towels, disinfectant, etc etc. plus loss of income from clubs and lettings and PTFA events. Hence any support you can give us will be much appreciated. We are also mindful that many of you have also experienced your own financial pressures due to the pandemic so we equally understand if you can't help at this time. Many thanks.

Attendance
98.8%
(excluding those in
Isolation)

Remote Learning Reminder

Well done to those families who have had to isolate, on engaging with the homelearning. Please feel free to let us know your feedback on how the plan worked for you. Your positive feedback both motivates and inspires us and your suggestions help us make things better.

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.

Reading and the importance of it

Reading is an exercise for the mind. It helps children calm down and relax, opening doors of new knowledge to enlighten their minds. Children who read grow up to have better cognitive skills. Reading is good for everyone, not only children. Low levels of vocabulary set limits on literacy, understanding, learning the curriculum and can create a downward spiral of poor language which begins to affect all aspects of life and children's life chances. Developing a rich reading culture increases children's exposure to rich vocabulary.

Good news is research carried out post lockdown has found:

- Reading enjoyment is up from 48% pre- lockdown to 56%
- A quarter of children enjoyed reading more during lockdown
- A third read more during lockdown
- Children were reading more fiction, news, song lyrics and online
- More boys than girls accessing and enjoying audio books
- 1 in 2 boys said audiobooks increased interest in reading and 2 in 5 saying it increased their interest in writing
- Children said that they loved sharing stories with their family, and missed talking about them with their friends.

Please visit these resources to help you further increase reading at home:

Click on these links to find free virtual library, audio books, recommended reads etc;

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/curriculum-assessment/information-about-subject-areas/english/>

From this my message is make time for reading, make it fun, make time for quality conversations, increase vocabulary, this will make a big difference to your child's progress in school.

Many thanks,
Mrs Hanson