



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 4th December 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.

9.12.20 Christmas Dinner for Year 3 and Year 4

14.12.20 Theatre company in school (£3 contribution)

17.12.20 Class Christmas Parties in their bubbles (£1 contribution)

18.12.20 BREAK UP—NO uniform day (no charge)

Guess what?.....Santa and his reindeers came to school today!!!!

You'll not believe what happened today in school!!! The children and the teachers wrote letters to Santa and I posted them yesterday with a letter from me saying sorry we couldn't invite Santa to our Christmas fair and parties this year.



Then, would you believe, this morning I had a 'zoom' invite from Santa, because he wanted to talk to all the children and thank them, not only for their letters but also for their hard work and brilliant brave attitudes to all the changes they've had to put up with this year. It was very exciting to see Santa, in his grotto, on our computer screens! He asked us to promise to go to sleep on Christmas eve so he can safely visit us all with presents. He told us we were all on the 'good' list because we've all been so brilliant in these difficult times. Santa gave a special thank you to all those children who have had to work from home. He also sympathised with Y4 because they are missing out on their lead roles in the nativity this year, but he admired how sensible they are being about coping with the disappointment. We all look forward to making up for it all next year.



Then Santa organised for some of his reindeers and one of his elves to visit us to deliver presents to all the children.

We've had a wonderful end to the week to make up for no fair this week! Thank you to all parents for your donations today for our PTFA.
(photos to come on the website!) Mrs Hanson

Corona virus update

Thank you for all your ongoing understanding and support during the ongoing pandemic. As a county we return to Tier 3 restrictions this week, so need to continue to stick with all our Covid restrictions and procedures for a little while longer. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We've come this far, let's all continue to try our best to keep each other safe so we can enjoy the rest of the term and enjoy the Christmas holiday when it comes.

This link is quite useful:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51048366>

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.

PTFA Events

PTFA Christmas Raffle

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Prizes include:

- Cadbury Hamper
- Cadbury House
- Body Shop Hamper x 2
- Afternoon tea for 2 - The Deer Park.
- Voucher from Squitch Wick Candles.
- Prosecco magnum.
- Waitrose biscuit selection.
- £25 Voucher from Russell's butchers.
- £25 Lesser Spotted Voucher.
- Bottle of champagne.
- 3 X Restaurant vouchers (£50 each)
- Plus more



**From 4th December raffle tickets on sale until Wednesday 16th December, £1 per strip
DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER AND PRIZES SENT HOME ON
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER**

Other events:

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
Christmas films on website—last week of term! (no charge)**

(Pay on the day of the event or £5 total in one go!)

For raffle tickets and the above events please either send cash, in a sealed, labelled envelope, into your child's class teacher, or pay via the PTFA paypal, details below.

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

RCFS.ws15.ptfa@gmail.com is our PTFA PayPal address you need to use.

IMPORTANT: 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.

Please also state in the "add a note" section that your payment is for "Raffle" and include your child's name and class too, otherwise we are unable to log your payment against a ticket number.

*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.*

Inclement Weather

The forecast is pointing to very cold weather so please ensure that your child is suitably equipped with a warm coat, plus hat and gloves if necessary. Staff will always try to take the children outside for fresh air regardless of the weather, so warmer clothing is a must. If children need to wear boots to walk to school please bring their school shoes to change into. Boots are not school uniform.

Snow is not forecast, *thank goodness*, but we normally give out this information this term just in case! If it does arrive and a decision to close the school is made, then we will text/email out to Priority 1 contacts in the usual way. Please can you make sure that all contact information is up to date. We will post up to date information on the school website and the SCC website. Closed signs will also be put on the school gates so please check before dropping children off.

IN ADDITION, YOU CAN LOG ON TO <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/sln/schoolclosures/> TO CHECK ALL SCHOOL CLOSURES. THIS IS UPDATED FROM EARLY MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL OPENING TIMES AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

Please note a decision to close the school is never made lightly and is always a very difficult one. The safety of the children and community travelling to school is very important. Consideration must also be made to the safety of staff who travel into school from as far away as Ashbourne and Burton and the suitability of roads can vary from area to area. We need to ensure enough staff can make it in safely to manage staff to pupil ratios. We must also make sure the site is safe enough to enter, exit and move around. As you can imagine, making an early call can catch us out if the situation improves, whilst also leaving a decision too late can cause practical problems, it is a very difficult call to make. We will make every effort to open where possible and we appreciate your understanding when having to make difficult decisions that will never suit everyone's opinion and circumstances. We will also appreciate your help with communication to ensure everyone gets the message in as timely a way as is practical.

Should we need to close this academic year, due to inclement weather, the good news is we will be better equipped now to put learning on line. However, we will always encourage time to go out and play in the snow should it happen!!!

Thank you for your support and consideration in this regard should the situation arise.

Lunches update

A big thank you to our lunchtime staff for Christmas dinner this week, it was fab!

Next week's menu

Monday: Vegetable pizza/veggie sausages, mash & gravy
Tuesday: Chicken tikka masala & rice/mac 'n' cheese
Wednesday: Roast gammon/pastry slice, roast potatoes & gravy
Thursday: Cottage pie/vegetarian meatballs & pasta
Friday: Southern fried chicken bites/soft veggie taco & chips

Attendance

98.9%
(excluding those
in isolation)

TOGETHER **E**VERYONE **A**CHIEVES **M**ORE