

The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 29th January 2021
Issue: Spring 1: 4

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

Whole school assembly on Google Meet **WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 1.30PM**

Whole school assembly on Google Meet **THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 1.30PM**

Week beginning 8th February—Parent consultation meetings on Google Meet

Friday 12th February BREAK UP HALF TERM—SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS OVER HALF TERM

Monday 22nd February BACK TO SCHOOL FOR KEY WORKER/VULNERABLE PUPILS

Save the date - GANAS homelearning project share - FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Monday 8th March—possible reopening, watch this space!

Thursday 1st April BREAK UP FOR EASTER

Monday 19th April SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE

You will probably have heard the Prime Minister's announcement that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

We will of course, be awaiting guidance of what reopening will look like and we will plan accordingly and communicate with yourselves as soon as we know. It seems education settings, as well as parents and carers will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education; let's hope so and not 8pm the night before!

The Prime Minister has also committed to providing a programme of catch-up into the next financial year. This involves a further £300m of new money for schools to develop specific initiatives and a coronavirus (COVID-19) premium to support catch-up. Watch this space! I know it's easy to say don't worry about the children falling behind, but I'm going to say it anyway, don't worry, we can and we will all catch up and all will be ok in the end! Priority one, get through it, we can sort everything else out after! It will be our mission and we will succeed!

As you know we have had a positive case in school this week and have had to temporarily close a bubble. This emphasises how important it is for us to follow the guidance and stick to the rules to help keep each other safe. Staff have begun to test themselves twice weekly and we hope this will also help to keep us all safe.

Please can I remind parents to report any cases in households to us for our records, thank you.

Thank you all again. We feel very loved from all your supportive messages. As I'm sure you are, we are very weary, so all kind messages of support are gratefully received and they really do give us the strength to keep going. Keep them coming! I believe it is kindness that will get us through.

Much love to you all, Mrs Hanson

Parent consultation meeting via Google meet in the Google Classroom

Please see the attached letter regarding parent consultation meetings. You will be able to book a 10 minute meeting in one of the slots in the table below.

This is our first time remotely, so please bear with us as we learn together. If you have any issues please contact us and we will sort an alternative.

Who would have thought a year ago we'd be learning all these new ways of doing things!!! Let's be proud of ourselves and how we are adapting and learning.

Tuesday 9 th February	1.30-2.30	3.30-4.30	5.30-6.30
Wednesday 10 th February	1.30-2.30	3.30-4.30	5.30-6.30
Thursday 11 th February	1.30-2.30	3.30-4.30	NOT AVAILABLE

Whole School Assembly

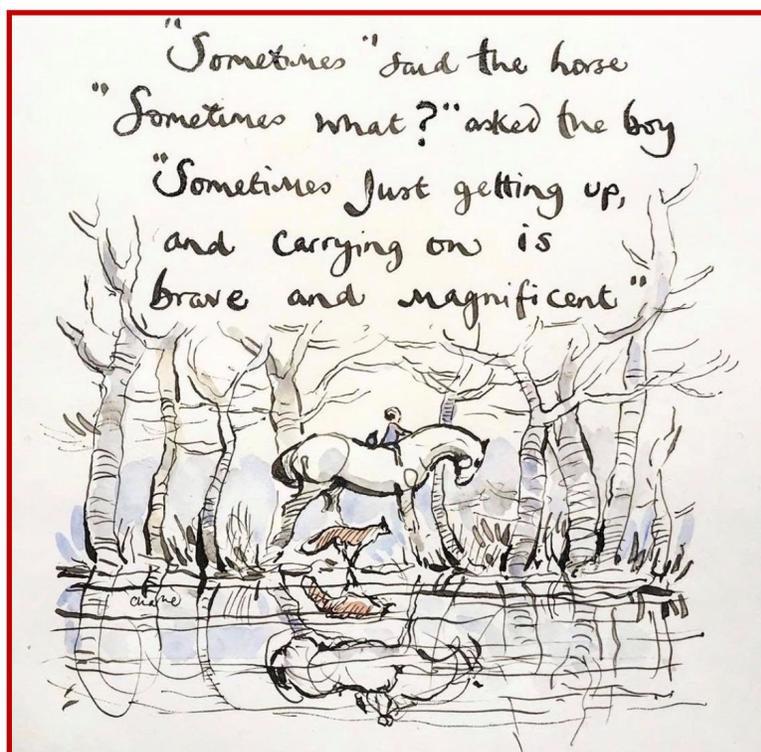
Thank you to all those who joined the whole school assembly this week. I was very nervous in case the technology didn't work, but it seemed to go well, I think we had 54 on the meet at one point.

Next week's assembly will be Wednesday 3rd February, 1.30pm.

You should have received a parent mail with the instructions of how to join.

I will also try to post a recorded assembly for you to listen to at a convenient time.

Many thanks for joining in when you can.



Remote learning

Thank you again to all those working at home, both children and parents, it really isn't easy and we are grateful for all your efforts. Please do what you can and don't worry if some days you can't manage it all. We have been impressed with all the work that is coming in.

Google meets

On the whole we are really pleased that the google meets are helping children to touch base with school and for us to see the children and it is a great tool for facilitating the home learning, for communicating and sharing. We would like you to know that on the meets and on the Whole School Assembly, we can't see all the children, all of the time, nor is there always time to talk to everyone. The normal interactions we have face to face are not easy to replicate with the restrictions of the technology. Lessons in real life are so much more interactive, lively and fluent, it is very difficult to recreate this on the screen, so thank you to all for your patience with this

The vast majority of children have been behaving really well and interacting brilliantly in the meets. However, there have been occasional moments when the behaviour is not as good as we would like. Hence we have come up with a set of rules/expectations for us all to adhere to. Please can you go through these with your children and ensure that they understand the rules and I ask that you keep an eye on them to ensure that they adhere to these. It is very difficult for teachers to manage behaviour remotely as well as manage the technology and the meeting and could be embarrassing for your child if they have to be reprimanded in front of the class and other parents. I would like the children to understand that they should behave in the same way they would in the classroom. It is their time to listen to their teachers. We understand it's novel and exciting, but if they are to get the most out of it they do need to pay attention. I thank you for your support with this, it's all about clear and high expectations, the children can do it.

Here are our rules:

When in the google meets, remember this is an extension of the classroom and you would behave as you would in the classroom.

This includes:

- Be on time for your meet
- Be dressed appropriately for learning (no pyjamas, swimwear etc)
- Remain attentive during the session (no jumping on furniture, eating etc)
- Interact patiently and politely with your teachers and friends
- Wait your turn to speak and mute while not your turn
- Provide feedback to teachers about your experiences and learning
- You must not record each other's online interactions
- Make sure you end the session as soon as the teacher indicates to do so and don't leave and re-join in the middle of sessions, commit to the session
- Only show toys/pets to your class if you have been invited to do so
- Please don't share anyone's private information
- Please keep passwords safe

These rules are designed to help keep children safe and if they are not followed school sanctions could be applied and parents will be contacted.

If parents could please read the attached [Online Home learning Responsible User Agreement](#). This could be printed and signed by yourselves and the children. I have also attached our in school acceptable user policy. You had this when your children started school, it could be a good time to refresh your memory.

We appreciate your support with this.

PTFA fundraising update:

We raised £834 in total from the Christmas raffle and contributions towards our fun activities in December. Many thanks to everyone involved for all your support!

We used the money raised to fund the cost of the activities in December, which included the Zoom call from Santa, the visit from the reindeers, the performance by the theatre company and the class parties and craft activities.

Since the start of the Spring Term, we have also used some of the PTFA funds held in reserve, to fund the purchase of 5 new Chromebooks which were needed to support home learning.

Next term we are planning a sponsored event that can be taken part in whether in school or by those who are homelearning.

Watch this space!

Thank you for your support!

For Parents

Google Meet (use the whole school assembly meet and your child's log in)

Monday 8th February, 6.30pm

Mrs Hanson will be hosting the meet and it will include a wellbeing talk with Jane Rushton (parent with background in Nursing and wellbeing)

This will be an opportunity to listen to some tips to help each other through these difficult times. You can share suggestions/ideas with each other on what's working well, and it is an opportunity to ask questions or share problems and solutions.

Be proud of all you have achieved this week everyone!

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