



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter  
Friday 5th September 2018  
Issue: Autumn 1:1

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**Welcome!**

Welcome back everyone. We hope you've all had a happy and healthy summer holiday. We would also like to welcome all the new children and families that are starting in Reception class. We hope you will all have an enjoyable and valuable learning experience here at Richard Clarke. Here's to another very exciting learning journey ahead of us all - bon voyage!

Mrs Hanson

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

- 11.09.18 Recorder Club Years 2-4 starts (6 weeks, please email school office to sign up).
- 12.9.18 Year 3 and 4 dance club starts (6 weeks, no club on 19.9.18)
- Classroom and Curriculum Information meetings 3.30-4pm
- Year 1 - Tuesday 11th September
- Year 2 - Wednesday 12th September
- Year 3 - Thursday 13th September
- Year 4 - Friday 14th September
- 13.9.18 PTFA meeting, 6pm at school
- 13.9.18 Y3 Swimming starts
- 13.9.18 Rock Steady band lessons start
- 17.9.18 Individual photographs (families & siblings starting from 8.30am in school hall)
- 17.9.18 Reception Class - 2nd Parent Induction, 6pm
- 17.9.18 Hockey Club Years 2-4 starts (Please email school office to sign up. 6 weeks, 16 places).
- 5.10.18 School Disco (to be confirmed)
- 26.10.18 Harvest Festival (all parents and friends invited) 2pm, in the school hall
- Break up 26.10.18
- 5.11.17 Staff Training Day. **Children return to school on Tuesday 6th November**
- 12.11.18 Y4 Viking day (details to follow)
- 13.11.18 or 15.11.18 Parent/Teacher Meetings (save the date - details to follow)
- 14.12.18 Christmas Play Performance, St Nicholas Church, 2pm (all parents and friends invited)

There will also be a PTFA Christmas Fair and a whole school Christmas Activity. Future dates will be on newsletters to come once organised.

**IMPORTANT - NUT FREE SCHOOL**

**This is an important polite reminder we are a NUT FREE school. Please check all items you give your children for snack or packed lunch or things they bring in for their friends on their birthday's that they are NUT FREE. We do have children in school with severe nut allergies so it is really important you adhere to our policy.**

Thank you.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

## **IMPORTANT! New Class Information Meeting**

Your child's new class teacher will be doing an 'informal' session about classroom routines and their curriculum after school next week. Please go to the classroom at 3.30pm for a brief presentation and an opportunity to ask any burning questions. Please attend this session as you will be given valuable information about school learning and home-learning (homework) routines and expectations.

TUESDAY 11.9.18 **YEAR 1**

WEDNESDAY 12.9.18 **YEAR 2**

THURSDAY 13.9.18 **YEAR 3**

FRIDAY 14.9.18 **YEAR 4**

## **Reception Class - Second Induction Evening**

### **Monday 18th September 6pm**

All new Reception parents are invited to come and learn more about your child's class, their curriculum and how you can support their learning at home. All staff will be there to talk to you about different areas of learning. We look forward to seeing you all. **We really hope you can come as it is important as parental involvement in children's learning has a significant impact and hopefully you will pick up lots of tips on how you can help your children with their learning at home. Speak to us if you have any problems making this date.**

## **Key Stage 2 Swimming**

**Swimming for Year 3** starts next Thursday. Please see the additional letter for further information. Swimming for Year 4 will start January 10th.

## **Clubs for this half term - Autumn 1 2018**

**Monday: Hockey club** run by East Staffs Y2-4, 16 places, 6 weeks, £3 per session, starts 17/9/18

**Tuesday:** Get those musical fingers at the ready!

Miss Robins will be running a **recorder club** for years 2-4 on a Tuesday after school 3:30 – 4:30pm for 6 weeks. The first club will commence on 11/9/18, £3 per session

It is preferable if you have your own recorder as this will enable children to practise at home. These retail on amazon from about £3-£5. However, there are some recorders in school should you wish to borrow one. We will be able to learn a variety of familiar tunes and songs. Miss Robins can't wait to get started!

**Wednesday: Dance Club** with Mrs Hanson for Years 3 and 4 see letter, starts 12/9/18 - (£3 per session)

**Please email or speak to the school office if you would like to take part in any of the clubs.**

## **PTFA - you are invited to the first meeting of the year!**

The PTFA would like to welcome all parents and carers, especially the new Reception parents to our first PTFA meeting on **Thursday 13th September at 6pm**. We will meet **at school**. The PTFA meet every term to plan exciting fund raising events for the children and families at Richard Clarke. Please come along - it is a good chance to get to know other parents and learn more about the school and share ideas!

### **Newsletter**

We will be sending the weekly newsletter out electronically as this saves an enormous amount of paper which is great for the environment as well as the budget and also saves office staff and teachers valuable time printing and handing out the letters. Please continue to support this by reading the newsletter on your devices. We know you are busy but we don't want you miss out on vital information. The newsletter is also posted on the school website.

### **New reading books, library books and homelearning**

It is important for teachers to take the time to assess children so they know what skills have been retained over the summer break and make sure children have appropriately pitched reading books and homelearning. It is also important that teachers take the time to settle children in and establish good routines. We therefore ask for your patience whilst this is being done and understand that you will get reading books and homelearning in due course. Meanwhile encourage your children to read home books, practise existing skills and research into new topics. Thank you. *Mrs Hanson*

### **Homelearning**

We have listened to parent feedback on home learning and parents and children are very positive about the learning benefits of our GANAS projects but recognise there are some issues with the timing of projects clashing with Christmas and Easter. We have therefore decided to reorganise our programme:

Autumn term, Spring 2 and Summer 2: Traditional style weekly homelearning tasks

Spring 1 and Summer 1: GANAS project homelearning

Reading, spelling, mental maths activities will be ongoing throughout the year.

### **Holiday works in school**

You may have seen/heard that we have had significant work done over the Summer holiday. The local authority finally commissioned our KS1 toilet refurbishment. We are absolutely thrilled with the finish and fully expect the smart toilets to have a really positive impact on the whole school and are really grateful to the LA for paying for the work and to school Governors for their contribution. Thanks too to all the staff who gave up a lot of their summer break to be in school getting things straight again for the new term. We have talked to the children about looking after the new toilets so if you could help us in reminding children about flushing loos, washing hands etc. we would be grateful.

A big thank you to Mrs Care also for organising the new playground markings to add to our physical activity programme.

Money is very tight in our small school budget so we are always very grateful for all extra money streams we can access to enhance the environment, resources and ultimately the education and well being for our children.

I'm already planning the next projects! *Mrs Hanson*

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

**End of the day procedures - reminder:**

Please can we remind you of our end of day procedures for collecting your children.

**Reception class** - your child will be passed to you by a member of staff from the Reception door.

**Y1/2** - your child will be passed to you by a member of staff from their class door in the courtyard.

**Y3/4** - your child will be dismissed by a member of staff to go and meet you at your agreed place. Children are instructed that if you are not at the agreed meeting place they are to come straight back to class or go to the school office (see letter).

All parents must let school know who is picking their child up regularly and all parents must let school know if there is a change to the normal routine. Other parents must not offer to or just take left children for friends unless we have been informed by the child's parents that this is their wish. We know this is well intentioned helpfulness but unfortunately it goes against our safeguarding guidelines.

Please also remind your children that if ever they are not sure who is picking them up, then please stay with a member of school staff until we can sort it out. We will be reminding the children in a whole school assembly. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all children safe. It is as always, our main concern and priority.

TOGETHER **EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE**  
**Community News**

**Beavers**

We currently have spaces for boys and girls aged between 6 and 8. We meet on a Tuesday evening at 5-6:15pm and get involved with lots of exciting and interesting activities in order to achieve a range of different badges. So far we have grass sledging, pond dipping, farm and tank visits planned for month of September. Please contact me (Hannah Love) on 07807 102162 for further details .

**ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE**  
**Monday 10th September - All day**

**The Crown Car Park will be in use so drivers must make alternative provision when dropping off/picking up from school.**

**School will be open as usual from 9am - 3.30pm. We are aware of possible difficulties getting to school on time. If you live outside the village and cannot avoid driving your children to school then we understand your children may need to be dropped off late and picked up early. We would urge this only in exceptional circumstances and not just generally as it is very difficult for teachers to lead the lessons purposefully with only half a class.**

**Zumba Class**

Abbots Bromley Village Hall Tuesday 6-7pm  
Marchington Village Hall Wednesday 6-7pm