



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter  
Friday 16th November 2018  
Issue: Autumn 2: 2

**Contact us:** Phone: 01283 840206  
Email:  
Mrs Haywood: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk (Mon-Wed)  
Mrs Lowther: finance@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk (Tues-Fri)  
Mrs Hanson: headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk (anytime)

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

22.11.18 Folk singing afternoon for Reception, Y1 and Y2, funded by Community Folk group  
23.11.18 Y4 visit to Oldfields Hall Middle School  
26.11.18 Commence 4 weeks of free 10 minute Music Taster Sessions Y2-Y4 - see note below  
26.11.18 Y3 Space Centre trip  
30.11.18 Dance Day (see details below)  
7.12.18 Influenza immunisations (consent forms need to be returned)  
9.12.18 Christmas tree festival, St. Nicholas Church + school choir  
7.12.18 3-5pm Christmas Fair  
14.12.18 Christmas Play Performance, St Nicholas Church, 2pm (all parents and friends invited)  
17.12.18 Reception class visit to Ash End House Farm  
18.12.18 Christmas Dinner  
19.12.18 Christmas Parties (with a special guest!)  
20.12.18 Break up - no uniform/Christmas jumper day £1  
8.1.19 BACK TO SCHOOL - Stomp Christmas treat funded by the PTFA (in school)

**PTFA News - Christmas Fayre 7th December**

Our Christmas fayre will be on Friday 7th December 3-5pm. Entrance is free. There will be a mix of professional stalls selling unique Christmas items and lots of stalls for your children to enjoy making decorations, buying special reindeer food, other festive activities and of course a special visit from a special guest! To raise funds and make this a really fantastic event, we need donations and help with the following:

- Jam jars filled with special gifts (chocolates, bathroom smellies, marbles, beads, hair accessories, stationery- anything) for our tombola
- Any used and loved toys for our toy stall
- Cakes, mince pies, biscuits etc (shop bought and home-made) for our refreshments stalls - to be donated nearer to the fayre date
- Professional stalls can hire a table at £10 and we would appreciate any small donation for our luxury hamper
- Luxury donations (alcohol, Christmas pudding, candles, chocolate etc) for our Christmas hampers
- Your time and help on the stalls (a rota sign up sheet will go up next week).

We are looking forward to marking the end of the term full of festive fun for our children. Watch this space for more news about the Christmas hamper raffle!

**Dance Day Friday 30th November 2018**

On the 30th November we will be hosting our first inter-house competition. Our partner's Burton Albion will be coming in to school for our Dance Day event. Every class, from Reception to Year 4 will create a short dance performance based on the book of the week "The Snorgh and the Sailor". Parents/Guardians can you please make sure that pupils wear their house t-shirt on the day for this whole school competition event.

**FREE 10 MINUTE MUSIC TASTER SESSIONS FOR 4 WEEKS TO ALL CHILDREN Y2 TO Y4**

Entrust Music Services are offering free 10 minute taster sessions every week for **4 weeks commencing 26th November 2018**. If your child would like to have a go at playing STRING KEYBOARD or WOODWIND instruments, or you would like more information, **please contact Mrs Lowther by no later than 21st November 2018 so that we can book their place.** Thank You

## **Parent Governor Vacancy - reminder to make your vote**

Last week you should have received your ballot papers for our parent governor vote.

Each parent is entitled to only return one ballot paper, irrespective of the number of children in the family attending the school.

Please return by whichever of the following methods suits you best:

Pupil post (if returned in an envelope please mark it 'Parent Governor Elections')  
Royal Mail (envelopes marked 'Parent Governor Elections')  
by hand personally placing ballot paper into the ballot box outside the school office

**Deadline for voting by is Friday 23rd November at 3.45pm.**

To help you with your decision you may wish to look on the school website to see the skill set of our other Governors and see which candidate you think best compliments what we already have. We would genuinely be happy with any of these strong candidates as they all have valuable skills that would strengthen our already fantastic set of Governors.

## **Remembrance and Poppy Appeal**

Well done to all our children in our remembrance assembly last week who respectfully remembered those who have died for us over many wars. Our history ambassadors proudly raised our remembrance flag which will stay up all through November to help us remember. Thank you to the two Y4 pupils who walked with Mrs Hanson at the village parade on Sunday and laid a wreath on our behalf. It was lovely to see so many Richard Clarke pupils, past and present at the parade. Our children make us all so proud. Thank you to our school community for supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. We will be handing over our donation to The British Legion next week.



## **Uttoxeter Learning Partnership**

As most of you know, several schools in the Uttoxeter Pyramid have joined together to create a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The schools include Thomas Alleyenes High School and Oldfields Hall Middle School but not, as yet, RCFS. The MAT are called the Uttoxeter Learning Trust. The trust have approached us and are keen to have us join their MAT to help their vision of a joined, seamless education from 3 to 18 year olds in the Uttoxeter area. To academise with our Pyramid colleagues could bring many advantages but we are also wary of the potential changes it may bring. In order to help us explore the benefits and challenges further before fully joining, the Uttoxeter Learning Trust (ULT) have offered us an associate membership for a year period. The RCFS Governors and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have agreed to sign up for Associated Membership on the basis that we have little to lose and a great deal to gain, particularly knowledge of and insight into what Full Membership could mean for RCFS in terms of monitoring, control and decision-making in this hierarchical structure. Throughout the trial period we will still be an LA-maintained school and will not have given up any safeguards that this brings. Please be assured that the prime role of the Governors and the SLT is to make sure that the best interests of RCFS and its children remain paramount in all decisions made. We intend to participate fully in the associate membership but will not hesitate to withdraw if we are not seeing benefits. We will, however, contribute fully to the ULT during our membership period so that good practices are shared, improvements are secured and knowledge gained. The decision that we make at the end of the trial period must be based on hard evidence and hands-on experience, not on uncertainties and fears of the unknown. Staff and our parent community will be communicated with regularly on how the trial is progressing and your views will be taken into account before any final decision is made. Please see our website for a fuller communication from our Chair of Governors explaining our Associate Membership further.

## **Anti Bullying Week**

This week has been anti bullying week nationally. To mark this we had a special assembly from Miss Wain and Mr Hindhaugh. As a school last year we all signed an anti-bullying oath and this is displayed in the hall. We reminded the children of our oath and teachers followed up this work in classrooms with stories and other activities.

Here are the key messages:

### **What is bullying?**

- 1) ...repeated behaviour - goes on for a while or happens regularly
- 2) ...is deliberate and hurtful - the bully wants to hurt, humiliate or harm the target
- 3) ...involves someone (or several people) who has power or hold over the target

Bullying is not a one off fight or argument or fall out with a friend.

We've learned in school that the bystander is just as bad as the bully and we all have the power to stop bullying - hence 'The Power of One'. It is our duty not to bully and if we see it to help the bully and tell a teacher!

Things you can do to help:

- Be a good role model in the way you talk about others - your child will learn that everybody deserves respect
- Model empathy for others - talk about how other people might feel in different situations
- Talk openly about what bullying is and how it feels
- Make it safe for the children to talk about bullying - let them know you won't make them feel silly whatever their worries
- Talk about different sorts of bullying. As well as physical harm, threats and taking stuff, name calling, leaving someone out (exclusion), rumour spreading or forcing children to do something they don't want to. All of these can be as hurtful and humiliating as physical bullying.
- Teach children how to avoid cyber (electronic) bullying.

If you are worried at all about your child being the bully or being the target - then please talk to us so we can work together.

See on the school website for our Anti-bullying Policy and other information.

*Sad facts:*

- ⇒ every 7 minutes a child is bullied on a playground somewhere in the world
- ⇒ Over 80% of teens use a mobile phone regularly, making it the most common medium for cyber bullying
- ⇒ Children who regularly bully others at the age of 8 are 5 times more likely to end up in prison



### **Job Opportunity**

Vacancy for a **Catering Supervisor Cook**  
**At The Richard Clarke First School**  
Monday to Friday working.  
9am until 13.30

**22.50 hours per week.**

**Call Debbie Cram on 07773792214**

This position is subject to an enhanced disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offences Act 1974  
Uniform & Training Provided