



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 23rd November 2018
Issue: Autumn 2: 3

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

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 - please remember packed lunches.
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

Christmas Fayre: Friday 7th December 3-5pm

We are looking for donations for Christmas fayre for a number of stalls. We would appreciate it if you could bring into school any of the following:

- A jam jar filled with little goodies (erasers, beads, sweets, marbles, hair grips, smellies...anything!) –For the tombola stall
- Old toys, jigsaws- For our pre-loved stall

DON'T FORGET pre-order your Christmas Calendars at the school office to ensure you get a copy, out print order is going in soon!

Watch this space for more exciting Christmas news.....

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.

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

Parent Governor Vacancy

Thank you to all parents who took the time to vote for our new parent Governor. The voting has now closed and candidates will be informed later today. We will let the community know the result in next weeks newsletter.

Children in Need

Thank you to all the children and families who supported our children in need day. We all enjoyed seeing each other dressed in no uniform and it was great to see some children in their Pudsey t-shirts. The children enjoyed their 't-shirt' designing competition and the teachers enjoyed looking at all the different creative designs. Well done all. Congratulations to our Y1 overall winner whose design was really creative and effective incorporating collection boxes on the design. Congratulations also to some Y4 pupils who completed their own sponsored silences and added to our money raised. Our grand total to donate to this wonderful charity is £220.00. See our website for some photos.

Poppy Appeal

Our poppy appeal this year raised £59.10.

Information for parents

Situations can arise where classes need to be covered by supply staff. These range from staff illness or emergencies to staff training. We will always aim to:

- Minimize adverse effects on children's learning and progress
- Provide continuity in the curriculum
- Support cover staff with clear guidance of expectations

In the first instance or in an emergency TAs will be used to cover staff absence as this does provide the best continuity for the children in terms of known relationships, knowing children's needs, knowing planning and abilities etc. Supply cover staff will be used thereafter and will be monitored so we can build up a register of effective teachers for each year group. We will always inform the children of who is teaching them when changes need to be made, but it is not common practice to inform parents

formally when staff are absent for a short term period. We will however let parent's know should absence become long term who will be covering the class as soon as is practicable.

If your child's class teacher is ever away for any reason you should approach whoever is covering the class in the usual way if you have any questions, concerns or messages.

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

The music teachers will commence the taster sessions next week. Please discuss this with your child if you have put their name down so that they are aware. We will issue a list for the music teachers so that they can collect the children from their classes in time for their free sessions. Thank You.

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.

If snow 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 [School Closure List - Staffordshire County Council](#) 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 Derby 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.

Thank you for your support and consideration in this regard.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE