



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 30th November 2018
Issue: Autumn 2: 4

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Email:

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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)

03.12.18 Continue with week 2 of free 10 minute Music Taster Sessions Y2-Y4 - see note below
07.12.18 Christmas Dinner deadline for school kitchen - see note below and sent via Parentmail
7.12.18 Influenza immunisations (consent forms need to be returned)
7.12.18 Christmas Fair 3-5pm
9.12.18 Christmas tree festival, St. Nicholas Church + school choir
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!) - please submit pre-order form via parentmail
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. Volunteers please see the sign up list on notice board.

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

Today we hosted our first cross-curriculum house competition. Our partner's Burton Albion came in to school for our Dance Day event. Every class, from Reception to Year 4 created a short dance performance based on the book of the week "The Snorgh and the Sailor". Each year group had a different theme and worked together to interpret the story. The classes achieved marks for creative story telling and collaboration.

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

The music teachers will continue the taster sessions next week. Please discuss this with your child if you put their name down so that they are prepared for next weeks lesson.

Request from School Kitchen

In order to assist the school kitchen with their planning for this years Christmas lunch, **we are assuming that all children will have the Christmas dinner on 18th December.**

Please email the school office by no later than 7th December if your **child does not wish to have Christmas dinner** and will bring a packed lunch from home **or to confirm that the vegetarian option for Christmas dinner is required.** Thank You.

Staffing News

We are pleased to let you know we have successfully recruited a new teacher for our Reception class for January 2019. Her name is Mrs Read and she has great experience and excellent references. Governors were very impressed with her performance in our rigorous interview process. Mrs Read will be coming into school as much as possible before January to enable a smooth transition and to get to know the children, staff and parents. We very much look forward to welcoming her and supporting her in her new role in our fabulous school.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are pleased to inform you that Mr Joel Perkins was the successful candidate in our Parent Governor election. Thank you to all the parents who voted and enormous thanks to the other nominees.

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.

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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.

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