



Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 11th January 2019
Issue: Spring 1:1

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

Welcome back to everyone and we hope you had a wonderful Christmas. We send you all our very best wishes for a happy and healthy new year and we hope for another successful term here at Richard Clarke.

Dates for the Spring Term

Monday 14th January—Maths parent workshop, 6pm
Monday 28th January—Health and Wellbeing event for parents (see detail below)
Friday 1st February—PTFA funded Chinese New Year workshops for the whole school
Friday 8th February—PTFA school disco, 5.30-7pm
Wednesday 13th February, 3.30-4.15pm—GANAS project share opportunity
Friday 15th February—BREAK UP, Mid year reports out
Monday 25th February—BACK TO SCHOOL

MASTERY MATHS PARENT WORKSHOP! Monday 14th January 2018 6-7pm

Are you worried that you are showing your child the wrong method? Need a way to make times tables more visual? Unsure how we use physical apparatus to support children's maths skills? Are you looking for ways to support at home? Say no more! My interactive maths workshop is taking place on Monday, 14th January in the Year 4 classroom and will give you an overview of our 'Mastery' approach to teaching maths across the school together with the latest developments! The session is appropriate for parents of children in all year groups and will travel through the journey of a child from Reception to Y4 and beyond. I look forward to seeing you! *Mr. Hindhaugh*

Health & Well-being event, Monday 28th January

Happy New Year to you all. Have you made your resolution yet? Is the top of the list this year is to "eat healthier" and "do more exercise"? Well that's all sorted for you!!!! On 28th January our school partners Hoar Cross Hall will be hosting and part-sponsoring a Health & Well-Being event at our school. As well as launching corporate membership for the whole school community there will be parent workshops available with their fully qualified NHS Dietician and a chance to try out a Zumba class in the hall with one of their personal trainers. I have arranged some healthy food and drinks to be served during the event and there will also be an opportunity to ask the Hoar Cross team any questions you may have about their fantastic offer. Tickets will cost £2 each and will include some fabulous raffle prizes from our sponsors. Parent workshops will be from 3.45 - 4.45 and 5.30 - 6.30 and I will be hosting pupil childcare (school age children only) in one of the classroom's allowing you the freedom to attend. The Zumba class will be at 5.30 - 6.30 for those who would like to join in. Tickets for the event will be on a first come first serve basis so don't waste time get yours as soon as you can from the school office. *Mrs Care*

Deadline for new starters - spread the word.

As many are aware, applications for children to start school in September are done on-line through Staffordshire County Council. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 15th January**. We have been informed that we still have places left, so if you know anyone who may still be unsure as to where the best start for their child's education should be, then suggest they apply to The Richard Clarke First School. We do take many families from out of catchment too. Please ask them to contact the school office if they have any questions.

Prompt starts - reminder

Please could we politely request support for our new year resolution to begin lessons as promptly as possible so as to maximise valuable learning time during the Spring term. Even a couple of minutes lost every morning soon adds up over the year to quite a chunk of learning time missed. To help us in this quest we would ask you to make sure your children arrive at school before the whistle goes at 8.58am.

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher about anything, please can we ask that you come to school a little earlier at 8.45/50am in order to do this. Alternatively, please leave a message with the school office that can be passed on to teacher's at break time so that they can call you back. Or, if it can wait until the end of the day, ask to see teacher's then please.

Also knocking on windows to wave goodbye to children once lessons have started can cause distraction from the learning so we would politely ask you to say goodbye before the whistle. We appreciate your support and understanding with this and please be assured that a member of staff will always make time for you if the matter is urgent.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS FOR THE NEW YEAR REMINDER

Tues- Sports hall Athletics Rec & Y1 (12 max) with Mrs Care, 5 weeks starting 15th January until 12th February

Wed – Cheer Leading Y2,3&4 (16 max) with Burton Albion Community Trust, 6 weeks starting 9th January until 13th February

Thurs – Art and Craft, Y1&2 (16 max) with Miss Cooper and Mrs Read, starting 10th January for 6 weeks

If you would like your child to join one of the clubs available then please email the school office requesting a place. Each club is £3 per session (course to be paid in full cash or cheques in a labelled envelope - cheques to SCC).

finance@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

STOMP WORKSHOPS

Unfortunately the STOMP workshop provider really let us down on Tuesday by not only not turning, up but also not letting us know he was not turning up. It appears the company has folded. We are so sorry about this and together with the PTFA we have sourced an alternative event. We have booked a Chinese New Year celebration. This workshop brings the traditions of Chinese New Year into our school. The celebrations world wide begin on the 5th February 2019 and last for 15 days. 2019 is the Year of the Earth Pig. Our workshop is booked on **Friday 1st February**. Dragon dances will be performed at New Year to scare away evil spirits. The dragon symbolises good luck, long life and wisdom. Our day will include learning about the traditions and becoming a Chinese dragon, using the dragon and parasols and fans to create an exciting performance.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Homelearning

As communicated last year research into the value of homework continues to give mixed messages. Research does suggest that too much homework can have little benefit for young children and that for homework to be truly beneficial it has to be highly personalised. Traditional homework assumes that every child has the same maturity, concentration and ability level, when in real life all children vary enormously from one child to the next which is why traditional homework is too much for some children and causes upset, anxiety and conflict with parents, while for other children it is simply not challenging enough. Some schools are abandoning homework altogether for these reasons. But at Richard Clarke, we do value homelearning and so have come up with a programme to try and suit all learners. This programme has been revised after feedback from children and parents last year.

We are proposing to incorporate a more traditional approach of homelearning with two opportunities per year for a more relaxed project based 'Ganas' approach. This is to try to get the benefits of both styles for all children as outlined overleaf. We appreciate everyone will have differing views but would really like your support with this new approach that is research led and not just based on opinion. Hopefully, if we work together, it will benefit all children.

The timetable overleaf covers Years 1-4. Reception class homelearning will focus on early reading, key words, WOW moments, number challenges and their version of the 'Ganas project' which is their 'Challenge board'.

Save the date - GANAS homelearning project share - Wednesday 13th February, 3.30-4.15pm

Parents, carers and friends are invited to come into classrooms to admire our homelearning projects. It will also be an opportunity to talk to the children about their projects and the topics they have been learning about. It's great to share our passion for learning! Learning is infectious!

Community News

QUIZ NIGHT **RAISING FUNDS FOR A COMMUNITY AED**



Coach and Horses
Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 7.30pm
£5.00 per person includes a meal



Contact the Coach & Horses on 01283 840256

More people could receive lifesaving defibrillation as quickly as possible, ahead of an ambulance, which would assist in giving them the best possible chance of survival!

HOMELEARNING TIMETABLE

AUTUMN TERM	SPRING 2nd HALF TERM	SUMMER 2nd HALF TERM
<p>⇒ Daily reading for as long as it's enjoyable both listening to child read, shared reading and reading to your child.</p> <p>⇒ Weekly spelling list to learn - look cover/write/check</p> <p>⇒ Times table practise ongoing – children can work through award scheme at their own pace</p> <p>⇒ Alternate maths / English homelearning weekly – practise of skills learned in class, parents to write note in book as to how children coped with the task and how much help was given, no more than 1 hour per week</p> <p><u>Advantages:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submitting homework provides a good lesson in responsibility and diligence ● Homework can be a good talking point during parent–teacher interviews ● Homework allows children to revise content learnt during the day with a fresh set of eyes and a clear head, away from their friends and other school distractions. This also provides parents with an opportunity to get involved in their child's school work, providing assistance and additional insight when needed 		
SPRING 1st HALF TERM (<u>THIS TERM</u>) and SUMMER 1st HALF TERM		
<p>⇒ Suggested daily reading for as long as it's enjoyable both listening to child read, shared reading and reading to your child.</p> <p>⇒ Weekly spelling list to learn - look cover/write/check</p> <p>⇒ Times table practise ongoing – children can work through award scheme at their own pace</p> <p><u>Ganas project</u></p> <p><i>Ganas means:</i> <i>Desire, urge; from the Spanish verb ganar, to win or gain. The term was popularized among English speakers by the LA mathematics teacher Jaime Escalante as played by Edward James Olmos in the movie Stand and Deliver.</i> <i>"You're going to work harder here than you've ever worked anywhere else. And the only thing I ask from you is ganas. Desire... If you don't have the ganas, I will give it to you, because I'm an expert." (from Stand and Deliver)</i></p> <p>These projects will be more child led. The teacher will provide a list of suggestions for lines of enquiry and suggested activities. But the project should be the child's choice and anything goes. The focus of learning may be science, geography or history but the medium for presenting learning may be technology, English, art or design & technology. The project can then be shared with other children and parents on our 'Ganas' days to celebrate our achievements and teachers and children can give feedback on the success of the projects.</p> <p><u>Advantages:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children will develop a whole range of essential life skills such as time management, organisational skills, independence, exploring different ways of presenting learning, researching and finding things out, creativity ● Children will be able to choose their project and will therefore hopefully develop a curious mind and a life long love of learning ● We hope children will be passionate about the project and get a lot of self satisfaction and pride in their outcome ● Families can work together and learn things from each other ● Children can then develop their communication skills when they present their projects to the rest of the school on sharing day ● Children can be inspired by each other's passion and successes 		