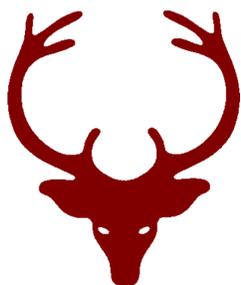


The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter

Friday 20th April 2018

Issue: Summer 1:1



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Newsletter

Feedback from parents, collected at the mid year parent consultation meetings by school Governors, on our electronic newsletter was very positive. Parents appreciated the need to be paperless and also appreciated the text reminder service. With this in mind I would like to say please transfer key dates to your own diaries/calendars as we cannot guarantee reminders will always be given. Also previous newsletters stay on the website for you to refer back to if you have missed information. I would urge you to make time in your busy schedules to read the newsletter regularly as there is always key information including dates of events, tips and hints, reminders etc. We recognise good communication is really important and we try really hard so thank you for working with us. Occasionally things are a bit last minute but that's usually because we know ourselves last minute, we will try to avoid this wherever possible. Many thanks!

What's on...

Friday 3rd May Launch of our Sponsored event (see letter for details)

Monday 6th May - School closed bank holiday

Thursday 9th May - Assembly with the NSPCC (see letter for details)

WB 13th May - SATS week for Y2

Tuesday 14th May - Class photo's with Academy Photographers

15-17th May - Condoval Hall residential trip for Y4

Thursday 23rd May - Y2 trip to Tamworth Castle

Thursday 23rd May - Y3/4 Swimming Gala

Friday 24th May - Deadline for sponsored challenges to be completed and returned

Friday 24th May - Break up for half term

Monday 3rd June - Back to school

Friday 7th June - GANAS homelearning share event 3.30-4.15pm

Friday 7th June - Sponsor money due

NSPCC

We have invited visitors from the NSPCC to come in to do an assembly for the children to help with our PSHEe curriculum. (Personal, social, health, economic)

Please see separate letter for details.

SPONSORED COMPUTING EVENT

To help us raise money to buy a set of lap tops for all the children to share we have decided to run a sponsored computing event. This has been launched in assembly today. We will be really grateful if everyone could take part, and it really doesn't matter if you raise £5 or £50, every little helps and it's the taking part that counts as they say!

Please see the attached letter, sponsored form and activity leaflet for details. Good luck!

Feedback from parent consultation meetings

Thank you to all the parents who spoke to Governors during the parent consultation meetings. Your feedback is very positive and you also make some useful suggestions for improvements.

Here are some quotes to share:

"Love how much effort the school goes to, to include parents with lots of assemblies/ events etc"

"Changes to homework have been amazing. Love the Ganas projects as it gives freedom for my child to explore a subject in the way they want to. It's been interesting and informative for all the family"

"We pinch ourselves that our child comes here. It's night and day against the school they previously attended"

"Miss Read is fantastic. Since she arrived, my child comes home full of energy and talks enthusiastically about their day and what they've been doing"

"Miss Cooper has a great relationship and understanding with my child"

"BRILLIANT! My child has flown this year. They went into the year struggling with English and writing, and is now at the expected level with potential to progress even further. Can't speak higher of the work that's gone into them this year"

"There seems to be a nice variety of different subject matter and tasks/ ways of teaching which really helps to hold the attention and capture the imagination of my Son, who does not naturally enjoy sitting reading or writing"

Suggestions and concerns for Governors to think about:

- ⇒ Car parking
- ⇒ Time taken for lunch
- ⇒ Break down feedback into subject areas more
- ⇒ More bins

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Homelearning

This half term is GANAS project time! Your child's class teachers will inform you of details of each project.

Save the date - GANAS homelearning project share - Friday 7th June - 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!

As the whole school begins the GANAS projects, which is all about creativity and imagination, I thought I would use this as an opportune moment to inform you of an exciting approach to story known as Helicopter Stories. If your child is in reception or year one, this is most pertinent to you but there are elements of this approach that can be beneficial to children beyond these year groups. In its simplest form, Helicopter Stories lets children dictate their stories which are written down exactly as they are told, by an adult. The children then gather around a taped out stage and the stories are acted out. Alongside the simplicity of this approach is an ethos that is child-centred, creating a culture of curiosity and wonder during both the telling and the acting out of their stories. This holistic approach uses the power of storytelling to develop key curriculum areas such as creativity, communication and language, personal, social and emotional skills in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classroom, giving children's stories a voice in a safe space and removing the barriers of writing independently. Whilst we fully recognise the importance of applying writing skills independently, the opportunity for children to freely express themselves without any barriers is a balance we must provide. This is certainly something you as parents and carers could develop within your child's GANAS projects, particularly if stories are something your child is inspired by. If you have any questions about this approach and how it could work at home, please don't hesitate to pop in and ask.

Mr Welsh

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Clubs this half term—reminder

Monday: [Parent & Child Cookery School](#)

Tuesday: [Are you a budding performer? New performing Arts Club for year 3&4 pupils](#)

Tuesday: [Gardening club](#)

Wednesday: [Girls Football](#)

Thursday: [Cricket with Mr Tolley, 3.30-4.30pm Y2, 3 and 4](#)

For any of the above clubs please email office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk to see if any places are left.

Community News

Community first responders Wild West Party on Friday 5th July

We're raising money for a new first response vehicle

Four Oaks, Radmore Lane, Abbots Bromley

Tickets £10 for adults & children over 12 & £5 for under 12s.

Ticket price includes a hog roast. 7.30-11.30pm

Please can they see either Claire Hartswood-Collier or Sarah Stevenson for tickets.

POLITE REMINDER TO LABEL UNIFORM

Please check all your children's uniform, clothes and PE kit including shoes and pumps that everything is labelled clearly with their name. We recycled a huge amount of unclaimed lost property left at school last term all without names in and this seems such a waste. If you have written names in please check these have not faded in the wash and that they are still legible.

Also please remind your children to bring home their water bottles for washing.

Many thanks.

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