



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 6th September 2019
Issue: Autumn 1:1

Contact us: Phone: 01283 840206
Email:
Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Lowther: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk
Mrs Hanson: headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk
Website: www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

Welcome!

Welcome back everyone. We hope you've all had a happy and healthy summer holiday. We would also like to welcome all the new children and families that are starting in Reception class. We hope you will all have an enjoyable and valuable learning experience here at Richard Clarke. Here's to another very exciting learning journey ahead of us all - bon voyage!

Mrs Hanson

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

Wb 9.9.19 clubs begin (see page 2 for details)
Classroom and Curriculum Information meetings 3.30-4pm:
Year 2 - Tuesday 10th September
Year 1 - Wednesday 11th September
Year 4 - Thursday 12th September
Year 3 - Friday 13th September
Friday 13th September 3.30-4pm Have a chat with Mrs Read!
Monday 9.9.19 Horn dance day (see page 4 for details)
Tuesday 10.9.19 PTFA meeting, 7pm, The Crown
Thursday 12.9.19 Rock Steady band lessons start
Thursday 12.9.19 Healthy Eating day in school
Friday 13.9.19 Roald Dahl day in school
Thursday 19.9.19 Reception Class - 2nd Parent Induction, 6pm
Sunday 13.10.19 Richard Clarke Open day for prospective parents, 10-12pm
Thursday 24.10.19 Harvest Festival (all parents and friends invited) 2pm, in the school hall
Break up 24.10.19
Friday 25.10.19 Staff Training Day, school closed to children.

Children return to school on Monday 4th November

13.11.19 or 14.11.19 Parent/Teacher Meetings (save the date - details to follow)
Friday 13.12.19 Christmas Play Performance, St Nicholas Church, 2pm (all parents and friends invited)

There will also be a PTFA disco and a whole school Christmas Activity. Future dates will be on newsletters to come once organised.

IMPORTANT - NUT FREE SCHOOL

This is an important polite reminder we are a NUT FREE school. Please check all items you give your children for snack or packed lunch or things they bring in for their friends on their birthdays that they are NUT FREE. We do have children in school with severe nut allergies so it is really important you adhere to our policy.

Thank you.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

IMPORTANT! New Class Information Meeting

Your child's new class teacher will be doing an 'informal' session about classroom routines and their curriculum after school next week. Please go to the classroom at 3.30pm for a brief presentation and an opportunity to ask any burning questions. Please attend this session as you will be given valuable information about school learning and home-learning (homework) routines and expectations.

TUESDAY 10.9.19 YEAR 2

WEDNESDAY 11.9.19 YEAR 1

THURSDAY 12.9.19 YEAR 4

FRIDAY 13.9.19 YEAR 3

FRIDAY 13.9.19 Mrs Read will be available at 3.30-4pm to welcome new parents in for an informal chat to see how the first few days in school have gone!

Reception Class - Second Induction Evening

Thursday 19th September 6pm

All new Reception parents are invited to come and learn more about your child's class, their curriculum and how you can support their learning at home. School staff will be there to talk to you about different areas of learning. We look forward to seeing you all. ***We really hope you can come as it is important as parental involvement in children's learning has a significant impact and hopefully you will pick up lots of tips on how you can help your children with their learning at home. Speak to us if you have any problems making this date.***

Clubs for this half term - Autumn 1 2019

Tuesday:

3.30-4.30pm Multi-Skills Circuits for Years 2,3 & 4 (x6 weeks) with Burton Albion commencing 17th September £3 per child per session

Gardening club will continue to run up to half term from September. It will be on a Tuesday night 3.30 - 4.30. It will run for 7 weeks (10th Sept – 22nd Oct inclusive) at a cost of £21, cheques made payable to C Farrington, or bank transfer is available, monies with form please to guarantee a space.

Wednesday: Dance Club with Mrs Hanson for Years 2, 3 and 4, starts 11/9/19 - (£3 per session) 3.30pm-4.30pm

Session 1: 11.9.19

Session 2: 18.9.19

Session 3: 25.9.19

Session 4: 2.10.19

Session 5: 9.10.19

Session 6: 16.10.19 + **show for parents/carers/friends at 4.15pm.**

Please email or speak to the school office if you would like to take part in any of the clubs.

PTFA - you are invited to the first meeting of the year!

The PTFA would like to welcome all parents and carers, especially the new Reception parents to our first PTFA meeting on **Tuesday 10th September at 7.00pm at The Crown**. The PTFA meet every term to plan exciting fund raising events for the children and families at Richard Clarke. Please come along - it is a good chance to get to know other parents and learn more about the school and share ideas!

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Newsletter

We will be sending the weekly newsletter out electronically as this saves an enormous amount of paper which is great for the environment as well as the budget and also saves office staff and teachers valuable time printing and handing out the letters. Please continue to support this by reading the newsletter on your devices. We know you are busy but we don't want you miss out on vital information. The newsletter is also posted on the school website.

New reading books, library books and homelearning

It is important for teachers to take the time to assess children so they know what skills have been retained over the summer break and make sure children have appropriately pitched reading books and homelearning. It is also important that teachers take the time to settle children in and establish good routines. We therefore ask for your patience whilst this is being done and understand that you will get reading books and homelearning in due course. Meanwhile encourage your children to read home books, practise existing skills and research into new topics. Thank you. *Mrs Hanson*

Homelearning

We have listened to parent feedback on home learning and parents and children are very positive about the learning benefits of our GANAS projects but recognise there are some issues with the timing of projects clashing with Christmas and Easter. We have therefore decided to reorganise our programme:

Autumn term, Spring 2 and Summer 2: Traditional style weekly homelearning tasks

Spring 1 and Summer 1: GANAS project homelearning

Reading, spelling, mental maths activities will be ongoing throughout the year.

End of the day procedures - reminder:

Please can we remind you of our end of day procedures for collecting your children.

Reception class - your child will be passed to you by a member of staff from the Reception door, moving to the courtyard door later in the year.

Y1/2 - your child will be passed to you by a member of staff from their class door in the courtyard.

Y3/4 - your child will be dismissed by a member of staff to go and meet you at your agreed place. Children are instructed that if you are not at the agreed meeting place they are to come straight back to class or go to the school office (see letter).

All parents must let school know who is picking their child up regularly and all parents must let school know if there is a change to the normal routine. Other parents must not offer to or just take left children for friends unless we have been informed by the child's parents that this is their wish. We know this is well intentioned helpfulness but unfortunately it goes against our safeguarding guidelines.

Please also remind your children that if ever they are not sure who is picking them up, then please stay with a member of school staff until we can sort it out. We will be reminding the children in a whole school assembly. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all children safe. It is as always, our main concern and priority.

Staffing news

Staff news

As mentioned before the Summer holiday Mrs Care's husband has recently retired and, as a family, they have exciting plans to sell their house and move to their dream property in Norfolk. It means, therefore, she will be sadly leaving us at October half term. We intend to mark the occasion in Richard Clarke style during the last week of the half term in order to say a massive thank and goodbye to Mrs Care. With this in mind the staff will be having a collection so we can buy a leaving gift for Mrs Care to remember us by. If you would like to contribute to this gift please send your contributions into the school office in a clearly marked envelope. However if you prefer to get your own gift or card that is fine too. Mrs Murray is currently being trained to take over PE sessions from Mrs Care. She will be wonderful. Children will have their own class teacher for one session per week and Mrs Murray for the other. May Mrs Care's legacy live on!

Other news

Just thought I would let you know I have completed my 25th year at The Richard Clarke First School, quarter of a century, makes a girl think!!! Not sure if this breaks any records as the longest serving member of staff ever but it definitely is dedication! As they say that's what you need, if you want to be the best, and if you want to beat the rest, dedication's what you need.

Mrs Hanson

Community News

ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE

Monday 9th September - All day

The Crown Car Park will be in use so drivers must make alternative provision when dropping off/picking up from school.

School will be open as usual from 9am - 3.30pm. We are aware of possible difficulties getting to school on time. If you live outside the village and cannot avoid driving your children to school then we understand your children may need to be dropped off late and picked up early. We would urge this only in exceptional circumstances and not just generally as it is very difficult for teachers to lead the lessons purposefully with only half a class. Please don't panic if you are late dropping off on this occasion, we will not record the late and we will always keep children safe with us if you arrive late at the end of the day.

We have been advised by the Horn Dancers that the main road through Abbots Bromley will be closed between 8-9am and 3-5pm. Notices will be put up on the Sunday. Volunteers (the event will not be policed this year) will be redirecting traffic using one-way systems via Seedcroft Lane, Goose Lane and Radmore Lane. They have asked for yours and our patience so this historical event can continue to take place. Unfortunately the police suffered verbal abuse last year from disgruntled drivers.

Please discuss with us if you have any problems.

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

VACANCY

Lunchtime Supervisor - Casual, part time

We are looking to employ a Lunchtime Supervisor to join our team, hours to be negotiated. The successful applicant will be required to help in the dining room over the lunchtime period, playground duties and returning pupils to class as well as other duties deemed necessary.

Applicants will uphold and work to the whole school behaviour policy and ensure the safety of all pupils at lunchtimes.

Applicants must be able to relate well to children and be sympathetic to their needs.

Richard Clarke is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The post is subject to an enhanced DBS Disclosure check along with relevant employment checks.

If you are interested in this position please approach the school office.

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