



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 10th January 2020
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 diary: (could be subject to change. Always check newsletters & website)

Friday 10th January Swimming starts for KS2 for 6 weeks

Wednesday 22nd January—PTFA meeting 9am Staff Room—all welcome

Tuesday 14th January Boccia Competition selected Years 3/4 (details to follow)

Thursday 13th February GANAS share event, 3pm, all parents, grandparents, friends invited

Friday 14th February Mid Year Reports out

Friday 14th February BREAK UP HALF TERM

Monday 24th February BACK TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March Parent Consultation meetings

Friday 3rd April Spring Sing 2pm and break up for Easter

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 **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.

SWIMMING PROGRAMME FOR Y3 & 4

Our Year 3 & 4 pupils will be swimming on Friday afternoons starting on 10th January for six weeks. Could I please ask for you to remember to have their swimming kits (NB trunks/tight shorts and swim suits, no Bermuda shorts or bikinis and no jewellery) and towels available for this half term and to let either Mr Hindhaugh or Miss Wain know of any changes to medical conditions that may effect your child's participation.

Message from the School Age Immunisation Team

Should your child still be outstanding their flu vaccine the School Age Immunisation Team will be holding the following Flu clinics:

Tuesday 14th January 2020 – Ryecroft Health Centre ST5 2BQ – Morning Session Only

Wednesday 15th January 2020 – Rising Brook Health Centre ST17 9LY – All Day Session

Thursday 16th January 2020 – Tamworth Health Centre B79 7EA – All Day Session

If you do wish to book an appointment please ring the team on 0300 124 0366 accordingly.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Aerobic Dancing and Meditation for Reception, Y1 and Y2 will be starting with Mrs Murray

Tuesday:

7th January, 14th January, 21st January, 28th January, 4th February, 11th February from 3.30 to 4.30pm.
The cost for the block of clubs is £18

Art club for Reception, Y1 and Y2 will be starting with Mrs Read

Wednesdays:

8th January, 15th January, 22nd January, 29th January, 5th February, 12th February from 3.30 to 4.30pm.
We will be focusing on different art skills to produce some winter and springtime art.
The cost for the block of clubs is £18

Mr. Hindhaugh's Boys' Football for Y2, 3 & 4

Thursdays:

I will be running a boys' football club for Y2, 3 and 4 in the spring term on Thursday evenings. We will be focussing on some skills but mainly enjoying playing some games together. It will run on the 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January and 6th, 13th February 2020 from 3.30 to 4.30pm.

Children wishing to take part should wear trainers (not studded football boots) and appropriate sports/football kit. Due to the time of year, it will be cold so please ensure children are appropriately covered. The price is £18.00 per child and this covers all 6 sessions. There are a maximum of 20 places for this club and it will be first come, first served. Thank you!

If you would like your child to join one of the clubs available then please email the school office requesting a place.

office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

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 - Thursday 13th February, 3.00-4.00pm

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!

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 		