



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 7th February 2020
Issue: Spring 1: 5

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

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

Friday 14th February Mid Year Reports out

Friday 14th February Governor nomination deadline

Friday 14th February BREAK UP HALF TERM

Monday 24th February BACK TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March Parent Consultation meetings

Friday 28th February - Year 2 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Friday 28th February PTFA School Disco, 5.30-7pm

Friday 13th March - Reception Class Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Thursday 19th March - Year 3 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Friday 20th March - Year 1 Parent Assembly 9.15am

Friday 27th March - Year 4 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

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

Clubs next half term:

Tuesday: Dance club YR/1/2 with Miss Cooper (No maximum)

3.30-4.30pm, Starting 25th February, 6 weeks, last week 31st March for show at 4.15pm for parents and carers. £3.00 per session.

Gardening club Y1/Y2/Y3 & Y4 with Mrs C. Farrington

Starting 3rd March, 5 weeks, £3 per session.

Wednesday: Dance club Y3/4 with Mrs Hanson (No maximum)

3.30-4.30pm, Starting 26th February, 6 weeks, last week 1st April for show at 4.15pm for parents and carers. £3.00 per session. **PLEASE NOTE NO CLUB WEDNESDAY 25.3.20 AS PARENTS EVENING SO CLUB WILL BE ON FRIDAY 27.3.20 THAT WEEK ONLY**

Thursday:

Choir with Mr Welsh and Mr Hindhaugh. All Year groups welcome. (No maximum, the more the merrier!) £3.00 per session. 6 weeks starting on 27th February with a performance at the Spring Sing. **PLEASE NOTE NO CLUB THURSDAY 26.3.20 AS PARENTS EVENING SO CLUB WILL BE ON TUESDAY 24.3.20 THAT WEEK ONLY**

Please email the school office to reserve a place in any of these clubs

office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

500 Words

Here at The Richard Clarke First School, it's one of our main aims to allow the children to use their imagination, express their creativity and have pride in their achievements. This is why we are encouraging children to enter the BBC Radio 2, 500 Words Competition. This is an opportunity for children to celebrate stories, creativity and writing for pleasure. It's super simple. All entrants must pen an original story, no more than 500 words in length, and submit it online. It can be about ANYTHING you want – space-ships, grannies, insects, microwaves. The list is endless. Details on how to enter the official competition can be found on the BBC Radio 2 Website under '500 Words'. Although this is an external competition, here at RCFS, we would still like entrants to be handed into school too (hard copies), where we will have our own in-house competition with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize. These stories will be recorded and uploaded onto the school website and myself, Mrs Hanson and two English ambassadors from year 3 and 4 will judge the pieces (anonymously). How exciting! All entries need to be uploaded on the BBC website by **Friday 27th February 2020**. We also ask for a hard copy to be brought into school on this date for our own mini competition. A blank piece of paper can be quite overwhelming for some children so planning, discussing and collaborating about the story is key. Writing it all in one go is not recommended but instead, chunking the experience into shorter bursts will really maintain your child's motivation and enhance the experience. We hope you have fun with this and we will be sure to value and celebrate every single entry we receive. Happy writing!

Golden Pen Award Newsletter

Teachers and pupils at The Richard Clarke First School take pride in the presentation of their learning. Handwriting is an essential part of the writing curriculum and can support children with their spelling, their ability to read/edit their own writing, the speed in which they write and thus, boost their confidence. To raise the profile of handwriting and motivate the children to be the best writers they can be, we are launching The Golden Pen Award. This is a competition that awards children for effort in improving their handwriting. This is not a 'neatest' child competition but instead, a competition that focuses on determination. Any extra practises at home will not go unnoticed and we encourage all children to try their best. There will be a winner from each class and they will win a golden pen and mini trophy! Wow! Our school handwriting policy and guide are both available on the school website.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Handwriting-Approach.pdf>

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Handwriting-Guide.pdf>

Mr S. Welsh

Year 2 Class Teacher
English Subject Leader

GANAS share event reminder - Thursday 13th February, 3.00-4.00pm

Your children's GANAS projects are due in next week. You are all invited to come in after school on Thursday to admire everyone's efforts! We look forward to sharing all the children's offerings and hearing all about the wonderful learning that has gone on around the project. Your children will direct you to the classrooms and projects they have been particularly captured by! Learning is infectious so come along and be inspired!

Parent Assemblies

This term we are inviting you to our class assemblies. They will form part of our celebration assemblies on Friday. Each class will have their turn and parents/carers and grandparents can attend for their child's class. It is an opportunity for you to share in our celebration of learning. The dates are as follows:

Friday 28th February - Year 2 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Friday 13th March - Reception Class Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Thursday 19th March - Year 3 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Friday 20th March - Year 1 Parent Assembly **9.15am PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIME**

Friday 27th March - Year 4 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 11th February is Safer Internet Day and activities and an assembly will take place in school to raise awareness of how children can keep safe online to make sure they are being digitally safe in an ever changing world.

The NSPCC has provided the motto **TEAM** to help ensure that children are safe online:

- **T**alk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen.
- **E**xplore your child's online activities with your child. Understand why they like using them and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.
- **A**gree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games.
- **M**anage your technology and use the settings available to keep your child safe.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Follow link for useful information and clips for parents. Please have a look and talk to your children.

Thanks,
Miss Wain

PTFA News—Our Richard Clarke First School Cookbook

This term we are putting together a fun fundraising cookbook which will be professionally printed and sold to raise money. So if you have a favourite family recipe we would love to add it to our book. You can contribute a recipe by filling out the form attached or pick up a paper copy from the office. Feel free to add a drawing or photo of your dish too. This would make a great gift for Mothers Day!!!!

*Please return the form to school by Tuesday **25th February** by hand or by email*

Disco Friday 28th February

A date was also set for the school disco. The disco will start at 5.30pm on Friday 28th February and finish at 7pm. Entrance to the disco £4 per child and this entrance fee includes a hot dog, a bag of crisps and unlimited squash. There will be some extra items that children can purchase at the disco (e.g. glo sticks-20p, sweets -20p, extra crisps-20p). We will be asking for helpers to sign up nearer the time.

Save the date..... Friday 27th March....Chocolate Bingo.....details to come!