



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter  
Friday 14th February 2020  
Issue: Spring 1: 6

**Contact us:** Phone: 01283 840206

Email:

Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Lowther: [office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk)

Mrs Hanson: [headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk)

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

Friday 14th February BREAK UP HALF TERM

Monday 24th February BACK TO SCHOOL

Friday 28th February - Year 2 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

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

**NEW Friday 6th March - World Book day**

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

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March Parent Consultation meetings

Friday 27th March - Year 4 Parent Assembly 2.45pm

**MID YEAR REPORTS**

Please find your child's mid year report with them today. This report is designed to be a brief snapshot to let you know how the children are progressing at this mid point. You will have the opportunity to discuss things further at the upcoming parent meetings next half term. It is not intended to be the detailed annual school report you will receive at the end of the year and is an added extra, that we have decided to provide, to ensure you feel fully informed regarding your child's attitude and progress in school.

**\*\*\*Please sign up for whole course and note the start times\*\*\***

**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](mailto:office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) and pay for the course on parent pay. Late joiners may be required to pay for full course as changing price for a variety of late starters is causing admin issues. We would appreciate your prompt responses.

Thank you.

### **Thank you to everyone who donated and bought cakes last Friday**

We raised £283.80 for Muscular dystrophy and £102.34 for the Koala bears. This is a fantastic effort and we are very grateful to all who helped and contributed.

### **GANAS—thank you to everyone who has brought their projects in**

Thank you for all the wonderful and creative projects that have come into school this week. We hope you enjoyed all the collaborative learning that has taken place around your projects. We certainly feel the children get a lot out of this style of learning. I would appreciate some feedback so please email me your thoughts:

Mrs Hanson: [headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk)

We shall endeavour to put a selection of photos on our website.

### **WORK OVER THE HALF TERM**

I am excited to let you know about some work we are having done over the half term break. I have secured funding from the local authority to do two projects. One is to replace the ramp/steps to the Y3 and 4 mobile classrooms and the other is to makeover our Brain box room, so that it is a better environment for the children to work in as a break out space.

Weather permitting, the work is due to be finished by the time we return. But as with anything, there is a possibility the work may not be fully completed by the time we come back. I will of course let the children know, as soon as we return, if we have to make any temporary arrangements, for example if we have to use the fire exits for a couple of days. Rest assured, safety will be our priority and we make the necessary contingency plan if needed. Please bear with us if this happens.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

### **World Book day Friday 6th March**

World Book Week is fast approaching and the teachers have put the wheels in motion and planned an exciting week of learning to celebrate stories, imagination and creativity. We are going to explore poems and how they can stretch our minds in a fun and imaginative way. We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6th March and are asking the children to dress up as any of their favourite characters. This could be ANY character your child wants to celebrate from ANY story. We hope that World Book Day excites everyone and above of all, we want to enrich your child's reading experience. The children will also receive a voucher to put towards a new book given to us by the World Book day organisers.

### **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

## **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!**

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mr S. Welsh**

Tuesday 25th February

## **PANCAKE DAY**

### **CHARTWELL'S SPECIAL DINNER MENU**

Choose a main meal....

Local Sausages, creamy mash & gravy

Or

Staffordshire Oatcakes with cheese (V)

On the side....

Fresh carrots

Sweetcorn

Dessert

Lemon Pancakes

Or

Cooks Homemade Traybake

