

UPDATE 7.5.20



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thought for the day 'Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.'

Week 7 nearly completed! Another week nearer to getting back to normal.

We have again had loads of really positive feedback from so many families about the homelearning. We are so proud of everyone pulling together to get through this crisis. I am in communication with many Headteachers, and they are certainly not all blessed with such amazing support from their communities as we are. I'm very proud of my team, they are working so hard and we are learning and adapting as best we can with the resources we have. Again let us know if you are having any issues and we will do our best to assist. As I've said before, our school motto TEAM, has never been more important. Working together to find solutions is so important, none of us were ready for the challenges we are facing. Well done one and all, keep up your fantastic efforts, I promise you there is light at the end of the tunnel.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/learning-zone/>

A number of parents have enquired about the possibility of teachers live streaming lessons on platforms such as zoom or Teams. Whilst we love the idea of being able to interact with the children unfortunately much of the guidance we had had is that this is not safe.

Teams is safer than zoom as a secure platform and high schools are having tutor sessions on Teams. But the advice on zoom is it is not a secure platform and unions are against live streaming lessons for primary age children because of safeguarding and privacy reasons. I'm sure you can imagine if all the children and the rest of the household are well behaved and considerate it would be fine, but some children and households might not adhere to the rules which could open up to risk. The current advice is there is no expectation for teachers to be doing live streaming for primary age. I know some are experimenting with this and advice may change if this goes on much longer but the policy and guidelines need to be in place first to ensure it's safe for pupils and staff.

We have updated some key policies already to reflect the current situation and they are on our website. I'm sure policy will continue to evolve as things develop.

We appreciate this is a difficult time for all and if you need support with your health and wellbeing we are trying to put links to the support that is available on our website, I hope some of this is useful to you.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/parents/support-for-families/>

We are waiting, as I'm sure you are, for the Government announcement on Sunday. As soon as we have clear guidance about reopening, and what it will look like, we will communicate with you. We are busy trying to make plans for a number of possible scenarios, but ultimately we are waiting for clear guidance from the government.

We hope you enjoy your VE day commemorations tomorrow.

Have a lovely, safe weekend.

We miss you all so much and hope to see you soon.

Kay Hanson, Headteacher