



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 4th September 2020
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! It is so wonderful to have everyone back in school. Can I thank all parents and carers for how well you prepared your children to return. All of the children came in so sensibly and calmly and they have looked very happy to be back with their friends and teachers learning and playing again. Thank you for adhering to all of our social distancing, staggered timings, exits/entrances, etc etc as outlined in the reopening letter. It was a lot to take on board so thank you for all your support with all the measures designed to keep us all safe and minimise the risk as much as we possibly can.

Here are just a few reminders:

- One parent for drop off and pick up
- Parents please don't enter the classroom/cloakroom unless you have been invited to by the class teacher (I'm really sorry about this as it's not how we would like it!)
- Please do not send your children to school if they are unwell or have any COVID symptoms
- Children to come into school in their PE kits on their two PE days
- Reception Tues/Wed - Years 1/2 Mon/Wed - Years 3/4 Tues/Thurs
- Adults remember to socially distance from each other at drop off/pick up times
- Please do not car share and walk where possible, park and stride where possible
- The gates will be lock very soon after 9.15am. If you are late you will need to bring your child/ children to the front door and buzz them in

Again, thank you so much for all your support in these ongoing challenging times. I feel so positive about how the children have been this week and I am very proud of everyone. We must not get complacent so we can stay open, thank you.

Mrs Hanson

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

Obviously lots of the normal dates for the diary are not going to be allowed under the current restrictions but we are working hard on what we can do, and possible alternatives for things, so watch this space.

17.9.20 Reception class new parent induction evening (see page 2 for details)

22.10.20 Break up for half term

23.10.20 School closed for staff INSET day

IMPORTANT REMINDER - 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.

New Class Information

In normal times your child's new class teacher would hold an 'informal' meet the teacher session outlining classroom routines and give you information about the curriculum. As an alternative teachers will be putting this information on the website 'Learning Zones' and/or class dojo.

I am really sorry we cannot invite you in as this goes against everything I want to do to help you gain trust in what we are doing in school and help reassure you that your children are in safe hands, however we have no choice at the moment.

Please take time to look at the valuable information about school learning and home-learning (homework) routines and expectations.

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

Reception Class - Second Induction Evening

Thursday 17th September 6pm

Under the guidelines we intend to run our second induction evening in the school hall. We ask that only **1 parent** attend to enable us to keep the number of adults under the recommended 30 in this space, socially distanced. If you have been before and prefer not to come under the current situation, then we will understand and will send out the information for you to read instead.

Parental involvement in children's learning has a significant impact and it is important that we work closely with you and we value that enormously. Under the current situation this is going to prove more challenging as we won't be able to invite you into school as much as we would like to.

Clubs

We have decided to not run any afterschool clubs for the first half term whilst we settle ourselves into the 'new normal'. It is our intention to start clubs after the half term in some capacity. We are taking our time to consider all the guidelines to ensure that clubs are safe and within the guidance.

Again, we apologise for this, normally we have a full extra curricular programme.

We believe in providing a full experience for the children and we will do everything we can to get clubs going asap.

Lunches update

Once again thank you for bearing with us and this spell of packed lunches whilst we eat in the classrooms and not the dining hall. We are working towards reintroducing hot meals as soon as possible.

Next week there will be the option of 'Burger in a bun' on Wednesday, and 'Meatball Sub' on Friday, to compliment the normal sandwich selection.

Many thanks.



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

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 post lock down 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

Homelearning will be a mixture of reading, reading activities, phonics/spelling activities, maths activities including Numbots and Times Table Rock stars, some writing and topic related tasks. Twice a year we will have our GANAS project homelearning. Your child's class teacher will communicate the homelearning with the children and yourselves via either the school website learning zones or class dojo.

Autumn term, Spring 2 and Summer 2: Traditional style weekly homelearning tasks
Spring 1 and Summer 1: GANAS project homelearning

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.

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.