



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 25th September 2020
Issue: Autumn 1: 4

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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.

22.10.20 Break up for half term

23.10.20 School closed for staff INSET day

2.11.20 Back to school

11.11.20 Influenza team in to carry out immunisation programme

Parent consultations

Unfortunately due to us having to limit the number of visitors in school we will be unable to carry out our normal Autumn term 'settling in' parent consultation meetings, which usually take place face-to-face. We understand this is far from ideal, as we really value working closely together, recognising the importance of good home-school communication and collaboration.

As an alternative, class teachers will be emailing you with a brief settling-in summary for your child. You will then be asked to email any further questions/issues should you wish and teachers will respond accordingly. In situations where there are issues that may need following up on, you will be able to arrange a telephone consultation.

We do hope that we will be able to meet in the Spring term for a face to face meeting, all being well. In the meantime please continue to communicate with us via class dojo, email and brief chats at pick up/drop off outside.

We appreciate your patience with the on-going situation but please rest assured, this is not how we like to do things here at the Richard Clarke First School. If it of deep regret that we can't invite you into school at present and I promise we will make up for it when we can. I'm sure you'll agree, it is the sensible and safest way forward to ensure priority one; staying well and staying open.
Kay Hanson, (#headteacherfedupwithcoronavirusspoilinghowweliketodothings!)

Lunches update

Lunches continue to go well so we will carry on as last week. That is offering a hot meal to all children. It will mean them collecting their meal from the kitchen and taking it back to the classroom. Reminder that for KS2 meals cost £2.34 and payment is via parent pay.

Next week's menu

Monday: Cheese and tomato pizza

Tuesday: Chicken tikka masala with rice

Wednesday: Roast pork with roast potatoes and gravy

Thursday: Macaroni cheese

Friday: Fish fingers and chips

Corona virus update

As the national picture worsens, it is more imperative than ever that we adhere to our operational plan and procedures.

POLITE REMINDERS

- Remember to socially distance - this is really important, use all the yard, don't worry teachers will find you before they release the children
- We have noticed we keep children in separate bubbles all day and then they start mixing as soon as they leave school, please try to keep up the social distancing as much as possible
- Please **don't arrive early**, this will avoid queuing and waiting (whilst normally we approve of good punctuality, we are understanding in these challenging times if timing arrival is tricky)
- Please **socially distance** whilst waiting and keep your children/toddlers close to you
- Please avoid waiting on the ramp, but if you do please stop your children climbing/leaning etc over the walls, we don't want an accident!
- Remind each other of the hygiene routines; washing hands, catch it, bin it, kill it!

See our website for up to date information and links:

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/news-events/corona-virus-covid-19-information-page/>

Remember:

If your child has a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back, a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal, you **MUST NOT** send them to school and **MUST** follow the guidance.

The influenza team will be in school on 11th November to carry out their winter flu immunisation programme. Details to follow.

TEAMWORK! Let's pull together on this to keep our school safe and open. Stay patient, stay kind and help support each other through this on going test of all our resilience.

IMPORTANT—ACTION REQUIRED

Contingency planning in the event of a future lockdown

We obviously hope that we don't have to close school again and we are doing everything we can to avoid this situation through our Covid-19 risk assessment and operational plan. The reality is though, should we get a positive case in school, PHE may advise us to close either specific classes, key stages or the whole school. Equally, if there was to be a local or national lockdown, we may be forced to close again. We therefore believe that it is common sense for us, as a school, to make preparations to resume our remote learning programme should this happen.

To help us with this planning, we would be grateful if **ALL** parents could complete this survey as honestly as possible. Your answers will be analysed to help us refine our remote learning programme to help as much as we can should we be forced down this path.

Click on the link below and submit your responses by Friday 2nd October.

<https://forms.gle/ZvkcJ96XmKWFRtpdA>

Thank you in advance and, for the best outcomes, please remember we need ALL parents to respond.

HARVEST

Sadly we will not be able to do our normal harvest celebration and invite everyone into school.

However we still think it is important as part of our harvest tradition, that we continue to make a collection of food to donate to the Rugeley food bank to support local children and families in need. Now, it is probably more important than ever, with everything that is happening nationally.

Donations of foodstuffs would be greatly appreciated. If you feel that you would like to contribute, then please deliver your donation to your child's class teacher in the last week of this half term and we will arrange for them to be collected by the food bank.

Please use the list on the right as a guide. We have also been advised that packets of chocolate biscuits are nice as treats for children.



Milk (UHT or powdered)
Sugar (500g)
Fruit juice (carton)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Sponge pudding (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereals
Rice pudding (tinned)
Tea bags/instant coffee
Instant mash potato
Rice/pasta
Tinned meat/fish
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Jam
Biscuits or snack bar

START COLLECTING BUT DO NOT BRING IN GOODS UNTIL MONDAY 19-21ST OCTOBER. WE CAN THEN QUARANTINE THEM BEFORE COLLECTION BY THE FOOD BANK ON FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER.

Thank you very much.

Attendance

We are very aware school attendance (pupils and staff) will suffer due to everyone's need to be cautious, however, so far so good everyone:

97.7% YTD

Your diligence is keeping us safe.

Photographs

Due to the cold weather on Friday we have postponed the class photos until Monday and Tuesday next week. Family and sibling photos were done.

Please ensure your children have jumpers and coats in school every day.

Thank you