



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter  
Friday 2nd October 2020  
Issue: Autumn 1: 5

**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)**

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

**Healthy Eating Week**

Next week (5th-9th October) is Healthy Eating Week at the Richard Clarke First School. We have taken our inspiration from the British Nutrition Foundation and have arranged for some exciting challenges in school as well as some challenges for you at home. Your child will be bringing home their challenge sheets this weekend. Challenge 1 is to 'eat a rainbow' by eating a selection of fruits and vegetables in the different colours of the rainbow. The second challenge at home is to do something active as a family. Both challenges need to be completed by Wednesday 14th October. One of the challenges in school is to drink lots of water. Please can you try to ensure that your children have water in their bottles rather than juice or squash. We will also be focusing on keeping active, being 'mind kind' and eating together.

For more information, take a look at

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/healthyliving/hew/bnfhew20.html>

**Corona virus update**

Schools in surrounding areas (Burton/Derby) have had cases, so it seems to be getting nearer, so stay alert, and keep to the operational plan, let's not get complacent.

We still have an issue with people arriving early and queuing on the ramp/steps, blocking the gate and path for parents going to Tom Thumb. We have observed this and had complaints. Can we ask for your kind cooperation. If you travel by car, wait in your car (not with the engine running) until 8.58/9.13, if you walk then you should be able to time your walk to arrive by 8.58/9.13. We will not be allowing queuing from now on and you will be turned away if you arrive too early, thank you. I'm sorry to have to enforce these rules, but it is to try to keep our systems working so that we can stay safe and stay open.

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.

## **THANK YOU TO THE 55 FAMILIES WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR SURVEY**

Thank you for your honest feedback, this is really useful to us and will be discussed with Governors and inform our planning. We also appreciate the supportive nature of your feedback, thank you for being so understanding as we were faced with this challenge that we weren't prepared for.

### **If you missed it:**

#### **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 if you missed the deadline as we will leave the survey open for another week:

<https://forms.gle/ZvkcJ96XmKWFRTpdA>

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

### **Lunches update**

#### **Next week's menu**

Monday: Cheese and tomato pizza  
Tuesday: Sausage and mash with gravy  
Wednesday: Roast turkey with roast potatoes and gravy  
Thursday: Pasta bolognese  
Friday: Fish fingers and chips

**If your child has a packed lunch from home, please see attached letter on healthy lunch boxes and important safety information, thanks.**

## **Can you make a difference to your community?**

Abbots Bromley CFRs are a local team of dedicated community first responders.

Recently, our team and the amazing local community fundraised to replace our unreliable, old response car as well as for other life saving equipment. This has enabled us to be ready, available and there to assist in saving the lives of local residents.

We are now looking to expand our team which will enable Abbot Bromley Community First Responders to be out and about responding more often.

No experience is required for this job and it is a voluntary position. All training will be provided by West Midlands Ambulance Service and the dates for this will be confirmed in the new year.

You can apply via the NHS jobs website and type in West Midlands Ambulance Service or follow this link <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916203896>

## PTFA NEWS!

The PTFA exists to support the school by organising events and fundraising to enhance the opportunities given to all the children during their time at the school. As parents of children at the school you are all members of the PTFA. This is a way for you to be involved in enriching your children's experiences at school and helping find new ways of raising the money needed to do so.

The PTFA is run by a committee who meet regularly to plan, organise and run a variety of events. The committee has been re-elected for the academic year. We thought we would let you know who we are as we are currently restricted with meetings to involve more people face to face. This year we are really happy that the committee has representation in every year group. What this means for you is that you have a point of contact through your child's class. So feel free to chat to us at drop off and pick up times with your ideas. We are looking at ways in which we can continue to fundraise with the given restrictions, as many of our usual events are now on the "no list". We still want our children to experience great things and make amazing memories. Any and every contribution means so much to the school so please get involved. We have a fabulous team of additional parent volunteers and always looking for more. We look forward to seeing you, from a distance of course!!

Our Committee are:

Chair: Georgie Hine, Parent of child in Year 3.

Vice Chair: Susie Gray, Parent of child in Year 4.

Joint Treasurer: Sarah Jassal, Parent of child in Year 4 & of children in Year 2.

Joint Treasurer: Rachael Gavin, Parent of child in Year 4 & child in Reception.

Joint Secretary: Michelle Cashmore, Parent of children in Year 3.

Joint Secretary: Liz Dear, Parent of child in Year 1.

### 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:

97.9% YTD

Your diligence is keeping us safe.

### Photographs update

We still have a few photographs outstanding that could not be taken due to absence and inclement weather. We will let you know when they are ready to be viewed and ordered.

### PE Kits

Please can we remind you that children are requested to come in their **school** PE kit on PE days. As the children are in their kit all day, and it's getting colder, they can wear leggings/track suit bottoms to keep warm.

We have noticed an increasing number of children are wearing non school uniform PE kits like football kits and non school colour hoodies/sparkly jumpers etc. PE kits should be black/grey/navy bottoms and red T-shirt and red/black sweatshirt or hoodie. Their school sweatshirt is acceptable. Children hate injustice if they perceive they are following this expectation and their friends aren't this can cause issues. Whilst we appreciate there has to be some flexibility if you are short on kit, but this should be the exception, rather than the rule. Please still bring a coat on these days for break times. Many thanks.

## **WANTED LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR—we need your help again!**

We find ourselves still short staffed at lunchtimes. The role of the lunchtime supervisor is a key part of our successful school. A good lunchtime supervisor is vital to the successful running of lunchtimes whilst teaching staff have a break to eat and prepare lessons for the afternoon. The best lunchtime supervisors care for the children, listen to them, play with them, manage their behaviour kindly and help those with social difficulties. Finding (and keeping) good lunchtime supervisors has proved a real challenge. With this in mind, I urge the whole community to help me once again to find and recruit the right person for this vital role. Can you offer some help? Do you know anyone who could be interested? Please help spread the word to the community. We have a new post available and we are also happy to be flexible and have more than one person make up one role. We are also happy to accept someone on a temporary basis to help us out in the interim until we find a more permanent solution if that is something you would consider.

With all this in mind, if you can help, if you know someone who can help, then please see or send them the below advert or encourage them to contact school for a chat.

Many, many thanks.

## **LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR - Permanent Post**

5.00 hrs per week 12.00-1.00pm - Term time only

(Hours could be increased slightly as our operational plans are reviewed due to the covid-19 situation)

Salary - £17,711 pro rata, term time only

### **Required for October 2020 for The Richard Clarke First School**

We are a small, happy, friendly rural community school in the village of Abbots Bromley, near Rugeley and Uttoxeter. Our staff are caring, experienced and committed to meeting the individual needs of every child, and to creating a happy and secure environment. Our children are polite, confident and they enjoy learning, they work collaboratively and their behaviour is outstanding.

The successful applicant will be required to help in the dining room over the lunchtime period, playground duties and returning pupils to class as well as other duties deemed necessary.

Applicants will uphold and work to the whole school behaviour policy and ensure the safety of all pupils at lunchtimes.

Applicants must be able to relate well to children and be sympathetic to their needs.

### **The successful applicant must:**

- Preferably have experience of working in a school environment or with children
- Be flexible and creative and have the commitment to provide first class childcare
- Have good organisational skills
- Be able to work under own initiative
- Work as part of a team
- Have the ability to promote good practice in a professional manner
- Awareness of strict hygiene procedures

Richard Clarke is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children, young people, staff and volunteers and we all share this commitment.

All successful candidates will be subject to relevant employment checks including an Enhanced DBS check and two references.

Enquiries/Forms: Please contact the school office Tel: 01283 840206, Email: [headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) or visit school website: [www.richardclarke.co.uk](http://www.richardclarke.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/news-events/job-vacancies/>

## Support a great cause today - Nemaline Myopathy

Barton resident, Lydia Rose, is running the virtual London marathon on Sunday, raising money to fund vital research into Nemaline Myopathy, a rare condition that her nephew suffers from. She is setting off from The Middle Bell at 10am and will complete 9 laps of her planned route around the village and will have friends and family joining her on some of those laps. Please encourage her on Sunday if you see her. The final lap will finish at The Royal Oak.

They would really appreciate your support. If you would like to make a donation via their JustGiving page click here : [https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lydia-Rose4?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=Lydia-Rose4&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=b36143ce407b4afda0a1da69530fea82](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lydia-Rose4?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Lydia-Rose4&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=b36143ce407b4afda0a1da69530fea82).

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Muscular Dystrophy UK, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.