



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 9th October 2020
Issue: Autumn 1: 6

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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.

19.10.20 Florence Nightingale visit to Y2

22.10.20 Break up for half term NON UNIFORM DAY AND PTFA EVENT (SEE PAGE 3)

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

Corona virus update

Schools in surrounding areas including Uttoxeter have had confirmed cases, so again extra care, and sticking to the plan is even more vital than ever.

Thank you for timing your journeys well this week. We have managed to eliminate the queuing that was causing congestion on the ramp/path/gateway. I appreciate this is not easy, especially if you're like me, and hate being late for anything, trying to accurately time not being early and not being late is tricky. Thank you for all your efforts in these difficult times.

The day itself in school is running smoothly and we have settled into routines. We have finally managed to source new hand sanitizer dispensers and Mr Gray has kindly put these up around school making things a little easier. Your children continue to be fantastic and we are so proud of them all.

We can get through this together! Stay strong everyone!

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.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

THANK YOU TO THE OVER 60 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.

We will of course let you know the outcomes of the survey and communicate our plan, once formed.

We are waiting for training in an investment in Google Classroom to better support remote learning. This will hopefully provide us with a safe platform for more interaction with pupils, should we need it. I would ask for your patience and understanding as we need time to train and develop this programme, on top of the day job that we are already stretched with. Also, in order to manage your expectations, teacher unions are clear there is nothing in the Government's requirements, or in the associated guidance that requires schools to do live lesson streaming. While it talks about the use of videos, these are not required to be live and schools may choose to make use of existing available resources. Including non-online materials, where appropriate. I'm sure you can empathise with a situation where if we invited all parents in to watch your children's lessons, this would put a lot of pressure on staff and children, and would not be conducive to staff and pupil well being. Even to adjust to filming yourself is a tall challenge. If you could imagine being asked to be filmed doing your job and then putting it live for someone to watch and critique, not easy, so we would ask for your support whilst we do our best with this challenge.

Lunches update

Next week's menu

Monday: Cheese and tomato pizza
Tuesday: Beef burger with potato wedges
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.

On line safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

We urge you to look at the above website to help you be aware of on line dangers for children. Predators are using seemingly innocent platforms such as tiktok to post very inappropriate material and make contact with children as young as 7. The NSPCC website has useful information on setting up parental controls and how to talk to your children about these dangers.

We do have regular lessons in school on online safety and these skills progress throughout the year groups. It is equally important that you also educate yourself to help keep your children safe at home whilst they are online.

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:

98% YTD

Your diligence is keeping us safe.

PTFA NEWS!

There's something strange,
In The Richard Clarke First School neighbourhood,
Who are we going to call?
Ghostbusters!!



During the school day on Thursday 22nd October there will be some spooky things going on. Dress up in your Halloween costumes (or non uniform if you prefer) and dare to take part in our ghost trail. Will you find them all hidden around school?

There may be some tricks and likely some treats too for those whose counting skills are mystifyingly marvellous.

Keep your eyeballs peeled for our pumpkin decorating colouring competition coming soon too with prizes to be won.

This is a PTFA fundraising event. We are asking for a contribution of £2.50 per child including non uniform day, ghost trail and pumpkin decorating colouring competition. Please bring the cash in a named envelope and hand to class teacher. Thank you