



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 20th November 2020
Issue: Autumn 2 : 3

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

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.

2.12.20 Christmas Dinner for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

4.12.20 Christmas Jumper Day plus special guests and activities

9.12.20 Christmas Dinner for Year 3 and Year 4

14.12.20 Theatre company in school

17.12.20 Class Christmas Parties in their bubbles

18.12.20 BREAK UP—NO uniform day

Corona virus update IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

As you know we sadly had one of our school community test positive for Covid-19 and they have our best wishes for a speedy recovery. This resulted in 40 children and 5 members of staff having to isolate and our remote learning plan springing into action.

To those at home, thank you for your patience and understanding and we hope you found the home learning useful. Please let us know how you are getting on and ring or email if you need anything!!

To those back in school, well done for soldiering on, especially siblings whose brother or sister is at home, we understand this is difficult. Everyone is being so brave.

I would like to commend and thank my wonderful team here at school. They are all working their socks off and are all stepping up to this incredible challenge. I have often said a crisis can either bring out the best or the worst in people and really show their true colours. My teams colours are bright, positive and caring and I couldn't be more proud of everyone. My thanks extend to all the children for being brilliant and to all parents for their continued support, kindness and understanding, without which we would probably not survive this, so thank you.

We are aware this second wave is putting incredible pressure on all of you, as it is on us, so I will say it again, we are stronger together, and it is our teamwork, our kindness to each other and the strength of our relationships that will get us through this. Hang in there everyone, focus on the positives, we can do this and things will be great again the other side, and hopefully we will all be stronger, wiser and more appreciative of the important things. So for now, everyone do your bit and stick to the plan! *Thanks, Mrs Hanson*

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.

See latest update from local authority sent out earlier this week:

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Update-from-LA-18.11.20.pdf>

Christmas news

Obviously our normal Christmas events cannot take place due to the current restrictions. However do not fear, Christmas is **not** cancelled... we are going to try to do some lovely alternatives:

We feel it safest to not permit the usual delivery of Christmas cards in school. As an alternative the classes will make (in school) Christmas greeting posters to put up in windows and around school instead. You may want to donate the money saved on cards to your favourite charities.

Christmas Dinner

2nd December Rec, Year 1 and Year 2

9th December Year 3 and 4

Christmas Play

The most upsetting thing is we won't be able to do our Nativity Play in church.

As an alternative each class is going to try to do a short film clip that will be uploaded onto the website instead. Those children that don't have permission to be on the website will be included in a supportive or just vocal role. We were hopeful of being more ambitious and doing a complete nativity film, however, with already one bubble out of school and possible others to come and generally running short of time, we have scaled back our plan and will do something for you as best we can. Ignore previous communication.

PTFA Events

As we are struggling to run our normal fundraising events we are asking for your support with the following. We intend to have a PTFA raffle, instead of the whole Christmas fair so would be grateful if any parents have any raffle prizes they would like to donate, please hand to class teachers by 27th November.

From 4th December raffle tickets on sale (details to come)

4th December - £1 donation Christmas Jumper Day plus special guests and activities

14th December - Theatre company in school delivering covid safe mini Christmas plays for the children (£3 contribution required)

17th December - £1 donation for craft activity and Class Christmas Parties in bubbles

Reminder: Body Shop grids deadline for return is TODAY Friday 20th November.

Shop AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1111098-0>, and Amazon donates to The Richard Clarke First School PTFA, at no cost to you.

Black Friday Week: 20th-30th Nov

More than discovering great deals. Shop at

smile.amazon.co.uk or with AmazonSmile

ON in the app and Amazon donates to us

amazonsmile



School has come under increased financial pressure since lock down due to increased costs such as staffing, IT equipment, cleaning, hand sanitizer dispensers, extra bins, paper towels, disinfectant, etc etc. plus loss of income from clubs and lettings and PTFA events. Hence any support you can give us will be much appreciated. We are also mindful that many of you have also experienced your own financial pressures due to the pandemic so we equally understand if you can't help at this time. Many thanks.

Lunches update

Next week's menu

Monday: Cheese & tomato pizza/Chinese veggie noodles
Tuesday: Sausage & mash with gravy/Quorn bolognese
Wednesday: Roast chicken/Roast Quorn, roast potatoes & gravy
Thursday: Beef lasagne/Mild bean chilli with rice
Friday: Fish fingers/Vegetable burger with chips

Attendance

95.6%

Parent Consultations

Thank you for all the feedback from our 'virtual' parent consultation alternative. We really appreciate the positive and supportive feedback and we're glad you are as pleased with the progress as we are. Thank you to all for returning the children's work in 'pristine' condition! We hope to have proper face to face meetings as soon as possible. In the meantime we are working on 'Google Classroom' that will enable us to have 'Google Meets' as an alternative. This will hopefully be launched soon.

One of our favourite feedback comments:

Thank you for all the support you as a school have provided through 2020. I'm sure that it hasn't been easy but since starting back in September I think you've all done an amazing job at providing such a safe and consistent environment that my children are thriving in, especially when there is so much uncertainty. Thank you

Remote Learning Reminder

Sadly we had to put our remote learning plan into action sooner than we'd hoped! If you didn't see this in last week's newsletter please have a look so you can prepare if your child has to isolate.

Again, please remember it is a guide, to be used flexibly and it will adapt and change as we all learn more.

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

Many thanks for your ongoing support with keeping your children's education going in these challenging times.

Click this link for the Government's updated guidance for parents 5.11.20:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19