



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter  
Friday 18th December 2020  
Issue: Autumn 2 : 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.

- 14.12.20 Theatre company in school (£3 contribution)
- 17.12.20 Class Christmas Parties in their bubbles (£1 contribution)
- 18.12.20 BREAK UP—NO uniform day (no charge)
- 4.1.21 SCHOOL CLOSED—STAFF INSET DAY
- TUESDAY 5.1.21 School open for all pupils

**We made it! This is our last newsletter of the year**

We would like to wish everyone within our school community a very safe, restful and happy Christmas and a hopefully, healthy and happier New Year.

Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts, for your continued support. Despite the challenges and small set backs, this has been a very positive half term. The children have had fun and they've all made super progress. I know I've said it before but it's the kindness and the strength of the teamwork that has got us through and we will emerge stronger from this experience.

We very much look forward to working with you again in January for the new Spring term.

So stay safe... relax, enjoy and be merry!! (please fit in some reading and maths so we don't lose the progress made, no excuses you all know what you're doing now with homelearning!!!!!!)  
Love and best wishes, Mrs Hanson



**Lunches update**

Next week's menu

- Tuesday: Cheese & tomato pizza/vegetarian wrap
- Wednesday: Roast gammon/Roast Quorn, roast potatoes & gravy
- Thursday: Pasta Bolognese/Quorn hot dogs & potato wedges
- Friday: Fish fingers/Quorn nuggets & chips

**Attendance**

98.6%  
(excluding those  
in isolation)

**On line Safety**

We are all spending more time online this year as the internet has become a significant way to socialise with friends and family.

Are you aware of how to keep your child safe online? We are sharing resources to help—see attached flyer.

## **Covid update NEW IMPORANT PLEASE READ**

Please see below for details of what to do if your child tests positive for Covid 19 during the Christmas holidays and how we will respond.

### Covid 19 update for the Christmas holidays.

If any member of your household is displaying any of the 3 main Covid 19 symptoms you must all self-isolate and await the test results.

Your child must only get a Covid19 test if they have any of the 3 main symptoms.

We will run our 'track and trace' system up to and including December 24<sup>th</sup>.

If your child **develops symptoms on or up to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, you must inform us **as soon as** you have test results so that we can contact pupils your child had close contact with and advise them that they must self-isolate.

We will access the email [headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) up to and including December 24<sup>th</sup>.

If your child **develops symptoms from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December onwards**, you must inform us as soon as you have the test results, but we will not need to contact any pupils as close contacts to advise them of the need to self-isolate.

When contacting the email address, please provide the information below to enable us to take the appropriate action.

Date symptoms started:

Date last in school:

Date of test:

We will contact you as soon as possible, but please be advised that we do not run a 24-hour service. We ask that you do not share details of the results on social media and await contact from the school.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Next term, we intend to keep all of our coronavirus risk assessment in place and continue to operate in the way we have been this term. We desperately hope that the national picture will improve as the vaccination programme gets underway and will continue to review our plans. As soon as it is safe to change our plans we will do so.

In January we will continue with the same staggered timings, one-way system, separate class bubbles, limited visitors in school, social distancing and hand washing, staggered breaks and staggered lunchtimes. If you would like to revisit the detail of our risk assessment then please see the school website.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RCFS-reopening-RA-v8.pdf>

When we return to school for the Spring term, 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.

You may be aware of the DfE announcement yesterday regarding a staggered start to the spring term for selected year groups and an initiative to support testing of staff and pupils for COVID-19. First Schools are unaffected and pupils will attend the first week of term from Tuesday 5 January and secondary school will be first in line for the testing.

## PTFA Events

**PTFA Christmas Raffle was drawn on Thursday and the winners given their prizes. Thanks to all for your support with this event. The raffle raised £365.50, so thank you to all who bought tickets and all who donated the prizes.**

**Christmas films now on website: <https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/category/events/> (no charge)**

Thank you to the PTFA for organising the other events that have been enjoyed by the children: Zoom call from Santa, the travelling theatre, the visiting reindeers bringing the gifts, the Christmas craft activity and the drinks and biscuits at the party. Hopefully these have all made Christmas as special as we could under the restrictions. Thank you to all those who have paid their £5 total donations that so far total £393.40.

If you have forgotten to contribute to these events then you still can. The PTFA now have a PayPal account should you wish to use this as a payment option or send cash in January, thank you.

[RCFS.ws15.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:RCFS.ws15.ptfa@gmail.com) is our PTFA PayPal address you need to use.

**IMPORTANT: Please can we ask that you choose the "friends and family" option so that we don't get charged fees by PayPal as we are a charity.**

**Please also state in the "add a note" section that your payment is for "Raffle" and include your child's name and class too, otherwise we are unable to log your payment against a ticket number.**

*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.*

We will update you on the things we spend the money on in the new year.

Many, many thanks for your support and merry Christmas from RCFS PTFA.



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



Staffordshire  
County Council

## **FREE Virtual courses delivered by Families First**

### **Open to all families living in Staffordshire January to April 2021.**

We are offering a limited number of FREE Community Learning Service funded courses delivered virtually to families across Staffordshire (not Stoke) in the Spring term. Programmes will be run by highly experienced tutors who all have many years of experience in supporting families, and helping adults and children to learn together.

Virtual courses consist of different themed sessions each week, with tutor feedback provided to ensure that family's needs are met. Delivered on a 1-1/ small group basis using WhatsApp, phone calls and email with video demonstrations, access to online materials and a weekly activity to complete at home. Start dates available in January. **Virtual courses are open to any adult age 19yrs+**

### **'From Pram to Primary School'**

**10 weekly sessions**

A virtual course to help you support your  
**children's behaviour by Family Caring Trust.**  
**Struggling with your child's behaviour; mealtimes and  
bedtimes becoming a challenge?**

If your child is aged between 0-11 years, then this programme  
could be for you.



*See attached flyer for details of how to apply for a place.*

### **Parking**

I have had another upset parent regarding the parking difficulties raise their frustrations with me. I am aware that the congestion on the Crown car park/Schoolhouse Lane is not solely the fault of RCFS parents. The car park is used by staff and parents of Tom Thumb nursery, it is also used by the Doctors surgery staff and patients and members of the general public, nonetheless it seems to only be me who receives the wrath of peoples upset. I therefore plead again with you, to not use the car park at all. Please consider ways you can either walk or park and stride to help with this on going issue. Please consider the safety of all, respect to each other and the health of all and the environment when planning your journeys. You as a community have the power to solve this problem, I don't have.

Mrs Hanson

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE