



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
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(Hopefully!) HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

We are so sorry the new term hasn't started as we hoped. Thank you to all for your support and kindness over another challenging week for all. I hope you and your families had a reasonable Christmas break and that you are all well. To anyone who has been or is unwell in our community we wish you speedy recoveries. I would also like to shout out to all the NHS workers in our community. Our heartfelt love and support goes out to you all through this second wave, thank you for everything you are doing.

I can only suggest you all take things a day at a time, be kind to yourselves and each other, and we will get through this together. I am remaining positive and feel everything we learned from last lockdown, has helped us be better prepared for this one. Let's hope it doesn't last as long. I urge you all to follow the guidance and stay safe so we can fully open school as soon as possible. If I don't have a whole school sing or disco or dance club soon I'm going to go bonkers!

Much love to all, stay strong, Mrs Hanson

Dates for the diary: (could be subject to change. Always check newsletters & website)

Friday 12th February BREAK UP HALF TERM

Monday 22nd February BACK TO SCHOOL (Hopefully, everything crossed!!!)

Thursday 1st April BREAK UP FOR EASTER

Monday 19th April SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

Tuesday 20th April school open for pupils

Deadline for new starters - spread the word.

As many are aware, applications for children to start school in September are done on-line through Staffordshire County Council. The deadline for applications is **15th January**. We have been informed limited places left, so if you know anyone who may still be unsure as to where the best start for their child's education should be, then suggest they apply to The Richard Clarke First School. We do take many families from out of catchment too when there is space. Please ask them to contact the school office if they have any questions.

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GANAS PROJECT HALF TERM

Ganas means:

Desire, urge; from the Spanish verb ganar, to win or gain. The term was popularized among English speakers by the LA mathematics teacher Jaime Escalante as played by Edward James Olmos in the movie Stand and Deliver.

"You're going to work harder here than you've ever worked anywhere else. And the only thing I ask from you is ganas. Desire... If you don't have the ganas, I will give it to you, because I'm an expert." (from Stand and Deliver)

The GANAS projects should be more child led. The teacher will provide a list of suggestions for lines of enquiry and suggested activities (on learning zone, class Dojo or Google classroom). But the project should be the child's choice and anything goes. The focus of learning may be science, geography or history but the medium for presenting learning may be technology, English, art or design & technology. The project can then be shared with other children and parents on our 'Ganas' days to celebrate our achievements and teachers and children can give feedback on the success of the projects.

Advantages of this type of homelearning:

- Children will develop a whole range of essential life skills such as time management, organisational skills, independence, exploring different ways of presenting learning, researching and finding things out, creativity
- Children will be able to choose their project and will therefore hopefully develop a curious mind and a life long love of learning
- We hope children will be passionate about the project and get a lot of self satisfaction and pride in their outcome
- Families can work together and learn things from each other
- Children can then develop their communication skills when they present their projects to the rest of the school on sharing day
- Children can be inspired by each other's passion and successes

Save the date - GANAS homelearning project share - FRIDAY 26TH FEBRAURY

We would normally invite parents, carers and friends to come into classrooms to admire our homelearning Ganas projects. We will find another way of doing this, maybe through online slide show or through our google meet. More details to follow once we've sorted how to share our projects in Covid safe ways. It's great to share our passion for learning! Learning is infectious!

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE

As we have entered another national lock down we are all aware of the worsening situation. We ask all of our families, those attending school and those working from home to adhere to all the guidance to help stay safe and protect the NHS. We are seeking clarification from the DEF to help us plan for eventual reopening, eg; when, how, lateral flow testing etc and will keep you updated when we know.

For now remember:

- Strictly adhere to our operational plan and risk assessment
- Do not send your children to school if they have symptoms or they are unwell
- Please dress your children appropriately for the cold weather, they will be playing outside, and it is cooler in doors

If any children or families, that are not in school, test positive for C-19, can we request you inform school just for our monitoring purposes, we will not now be required to report this for track and trace.

Stay safe!

Class Dojo update

Just to inform you class dojo data is stored in the US following Brexit. They will be adding clauses to their contracts to ensure that appropriate security is applied to data being transferred or stored outside of the EEA, in compliance with European Commission and European Data Protection Board guidance. We can therefore still use this useful tool with confidence.

Remote learning

Well done teachers, children and parents for all your efforts with remote learning so far, we are all learning together!

Obviously remote learning is heavily reliant on having the appropriate technology. If you are struggling with this here are suggestions for help:

- Schools can request free mobile data increases for families who don't have broadband at home & can't afford extra data. Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile & Sky Mobile are all taking part in the scheme. Email the school office if this is something you need.
- Do you know that the children can get on Teams to do remote learning via their x box one or PS4? [How to get Zoom and Office on your Xbox One or PS4 | The Northern Echo](#)
- We have some Vodaphone 3 in 1 SIMs that fit all types of Tablets, Dongles and Wi-Fi devices with 30GB data for 90 days to give out. Please email the office if you would like one.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not expect the children to be online all day long so sharing devices should hopefully be possible for most.

Also if you need things printing or you need more physical resources please contact your child's class teacher and we will help where possible.

Getting remote learning right and to suit all children, families and situations is an almost impossible challenge. Nonetheless, we are trying and working really hard to provide a flexible approach so that there is something that will be useful to you. We welcome all feedback and we are thrilled with some of the positive comments already received. We are aware in the media that some school's provision is being criticised. As a parent, if you are happy with what we are providing for remote learning, you could always let Ofsted know: Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk Equally if you are struggling, please talk to us, we want to help. Particularly as the week's go on, it may get more tricky to stay motivated, so talk to us.

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Joining the Uttoxeter Learning Trust

Just to inform you that the Richard Clarke First School has been approved to become an Academy and join The Uttoxeter Learning Trust. They are aiming for a 01/04/21 conversion. Work will be starting to make the conversion and we will keep you informed as we progress.

Parental Consultation Meetings

I had hoped things would have improved by now and we would be able to invite you into school for face to face meetings, alas that has proved not to be the case.

We are very aware we are coming up to half way through this academic year and we haven't been able to meet yet. Now that we have our Google meet facilities up and running we are hopeful we will be able to have on-line, face to face meetings later this half term. We will let you know once we have worked out the logistics of this task.

Thank you for your patience with this.

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HOW TO ACCESS GOGGLE CLASSROOM FROM AN XBOX AND PS4

PS4

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:

Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>

8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.

XBOX

1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.



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