

The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 5th March 2021
Issue: Spring 2 : 2

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

Monday 8th March—school reopens to ALL pupils

Friday 19th March—Red Nose Day (details to follow)

Monday 29th March—Sponsored Spell event

Thursday 1st April BREAK UP FOR EASTER

Monday 19th April SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

Tuesday 20th April school open for pupils

Reopening Monday 8th March to all pupils

We are delighted to welcome you all back to school on Monday. Congratulations again for all your successes and efforts and basic survival of this lockdown period. We will all never fully understand each other's pressures and struggles throughout this time and so many of you will have been juggling so many balls, just getting through is a real achievement for most so all other successes on top are a bonus. Our priorities next week are to settle everyone back in, re-establish relationships, have some fun and then we can focus on learning and go from there.

Please let us know if you or your children have any particular worries or issues and we will do our utmost to help in any way we can.

Please send in all your lockdown work for us to have a good look at to see what has been covered and to use this to help us move forward.

You should have received the full reopening letter on Wednesday this week. Please ensure you have read and digested this information so that we can all fully work together on the plan to help keep us all safe. A copy is on the website if you didn't receive the letter. Our full risk assessment and opening plan are also on the website if you would like to read that alongside the reopening letter. Please also see reminder for drop off/pick up on page 2.

Moving forward, please all have a think about all the positive things that we've learned from this experience. We will call them our covid-keepers. For example you may never have been more involved in your child's topics and learning. Hopefully you will keep this increased involvement and increased knowledge of how we do things to continue to help with homelearning tasks. Working in partnership is so powerful. We will continue to use the google classroom facility to support homelearning and other events such as the GANAS share. Let us know the things you think have worked well for us to keep moving forward.

I will see you all on Monday, sadly you won't see my beaming smile and my tears of joy as I will have my mask on!! Have a great weekend, love and best wishes, Mrs Hanson

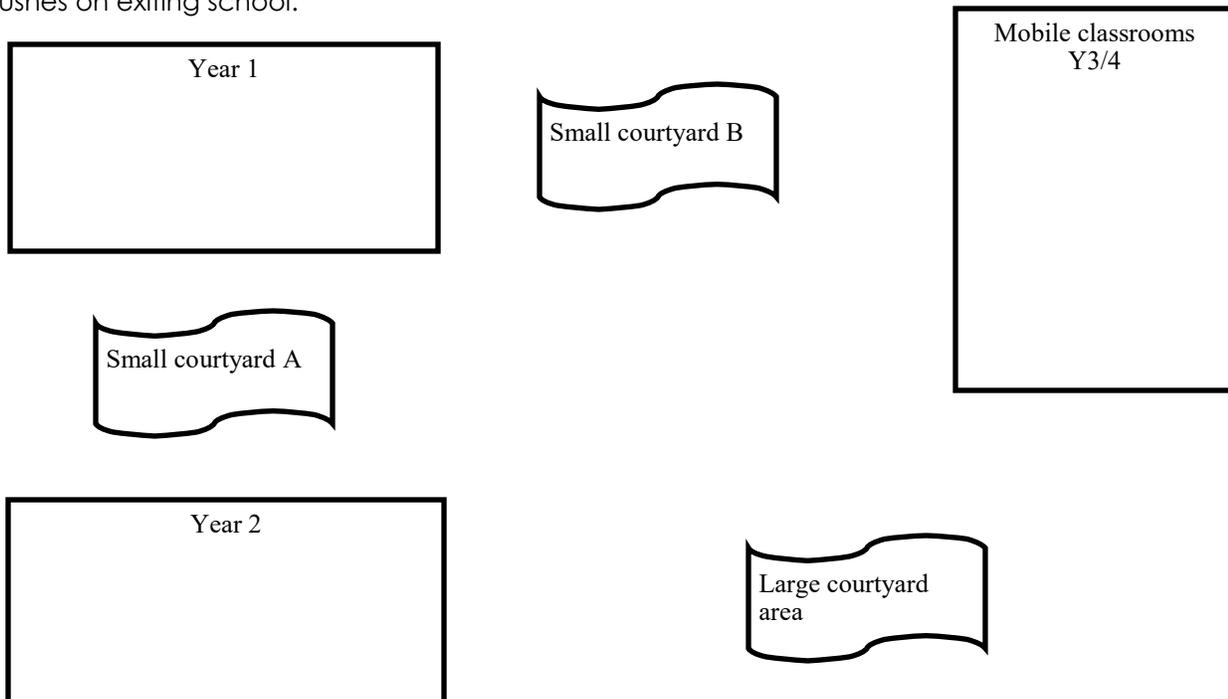
Kitchen open as normal so lunch menu for next week:

Monday:	Cheese & tomato pizza/vegetarian wrap
Tuesday:	Chicken burger & wedges/macaroni cheese
Wednesday:	Roast turkey/roast Quorn, roast potatoes & gravy
Thursday:	Pasta Bolognese/veggie hotdog & potato wedges
Friday:	Fish fingers/Quorn nuggets & chips

Beginning and end of day arrangements—please read

The beginning and end of the day is our hardest bit to manage so we need your support, patience and cooperation please. With increased numbers of children and parents coming back to school we would ask you kindly to support the plan to help reduce possible transmission and/or further bubble closures. Please can we ask that at home time Y2 parents wait on the large courtyard area and Y1 wait on the smaller courtyard area A or B to avoid congestion around the classroom doors. Teachers will not release the children until they can see you so please just wait for the children to come to you. Also please be patient on exiting the school and maintain the 2 metre distance to avoid a pinch point through the red doors.

When Years 3/4 come, if Y3 parents could wait on the larger courtyard area and Y4 on the small courtyard area B, and as above file out maintaining social distancing and avoiding conversations/ crushes on exiting school.



Please remember one parent, wear a face covering and please time your arrival so that we don't queue on the ramp or steps. At the beginning of the day wait in cars or down the road if too early. At the end of the day please wait socially distanced and keep younger siblings with you and not allow them to run around.

Whilst travelling to school the guidance states if you live a short distance from your school, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble.

The beginning and end of the day are definitely our hardest bit to manage so we really need your cooperation. Fantastic TEAMWORK is again what we need.

WHOLE SCHOOL WELL BEING CHALLENGE!

Challenge on! Have you remembered to send in your kilometres????
Last chance to send in totals, results next week. How far did we go?

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

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. We will not give test kits to parents, carers or household members. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

For Children Wellbeing Session Monday 1st March

Thank you to Mrs Rushton for leading these lovely sessions and thank you to the children for your great contributions.

Key messages:

- Talk about how you are feeling
- Try to 'flip it!' - turn negatives into positives
- Make a happy box to help cheer yourself up
- Sleep, exercise, music, connecting with family/friends and fresh air/nature all help us feel better

If you or your child are struggling with wellbeing then please reach out to us so we can support you or sign post you to support. Email or phone your child's class teacher or the office or Mrs Hanson.

World Book Day

Thank you to all who dressed up on World Book day, you all looked fab. It was great to really think about our favourite characters and why we like them. We will give out the vouchers on Monday and we hope you enjoy spending your voucher on your new book, here is the link to see the books available: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

We hope you enjoyed our 'no device' day with lots of reading and other book/character related activities. Remember the importance of reading, if you do nothing else, make time to read with and to your child, it really is the key to their future success!

GANAS PROJECTS

Congratulations again on the wonderful GANAS projects. If you haven't already make sure you have a look at everyone's work, it'll blow you away. Such a great variety.

You will find the photos on Google Classroom and in the "Whole School Assembly" class. You will need to log-in using your child's Google account to access this. The slideshows are not visible to the general public but links to the them are also on the website for you to see. We hope you enjoy looking at them!

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/category/events/>

SPONSORED SPELL FUNDRAISING EVENT

On Monday we will be launching in school our sponsored spell fundraising event and you will receive a letter explaining how to take part and a sponsor form and the children will choose their target number of spellings for the challenge.



After a difficult year of school partial closures, remote learning and lack of opportunities to fund raise in our normal ways we have decided to hold this sponsored spelling/phonics event. This will help us have a whole school focus on spelling and phonics to help fill gaps and raise standards as well as raise some money to spend on resources in school. Win, win!

We will invite you to sponsor your child to learn their spellings by offering an amount per spelling learned or by an amount for taking part. The spellings the children are given will be appropriate to the age and ability of the children, and the amount of spellings to learn will be personal choice.

The sponsored spell will take place on 29th March 2021. We would ask the children to learn their spellings and collect their sponsors between now and then. Spelling scores and forms will be returned after the event for money to be collected and returned to school by Friday 23rd April. We are happy with cash or payment to PTFA by pay pal.