



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 3th December 2021
Issue: Autumn 2 : 5

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

Friday 3.12.21 Christmas Pantomime in school—The Snow Queen £3.50 contribution (see below)
Thursday 9.12.21 10AM, CHRISTMAS PLAY IN CHURCH FOR REC/Y1/Y2
Friday 10.12.21 2PM, CHRISTMAS PLAY IN CHURCH FOR Y3/4
—ALL TO BE CONFIRMED DEPENDING ON C19 SITUATION —SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS
Tuesday 14.12.21 CHRISTMAS DINNER IN SCHOOL
Wednesday 15.12.21 Billy from Burton Albion to visit YR/1 for Christmas story (no charge)
Wednesday 15.12.21 CHRISTMAS OUTDOOR MARKET —to be confirmed see below
Thursday 16.12.21 Christmas parties in school—no uniform day (no charge)
Friday 17.12.21 BREAK UP—Christmas jumper day (no charge)
Tuesday 4.1.21 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS INSET DAY
Wednesday 5.1.21 School reopens for pupils for the Spring term

THE SNOW QUEEN CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Thank you to the PTFA who organised a Christmas treat for the children today. We enjoyed Quantum travelling theatre's presentation of The Snow Queen. Thank you to all for your kind, voluntary donations of £3.50 to support this event and the PTFA will fund the shortfall.

If you haven't yet donated then please send in the £3.50 in an envelope to school or pay via PayPal (friends and family option please otherwise we lose money to PayPal!!) to RCFS.ws15.ptfa@gmail.com. Please make sure you put in the notes section your child's name and class so we can tick them off as paid. Many thanks for your support.

Wednesday 15th December Christmas Outdoor market

We are asking for kind donations of bottles, raffle prizes, cakes etc. Please send your offerings to the school by Monday 13th December, fresh goods on the day. Many thanks for your support. Looking forward to feeling Christmassy!!!
We could still do with some volunteers to help, thank you.

Weather permitting we intend for our Christmas fair to be a mixture of outdoor stalls and some indoor ones to enable us to spread out more. So please come wrapped up warm and help us have fun and raise funds. (If weather is inclement we will scale back number of stalls and ask parents to spread out around classes with maximums for each space—thank you!)

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CHRISTMAS WITH THE ALIENS

We are planning to go ahead with our two performances of our Christmas nativity play, 'Christmas with the Aliens', in St. Nicholas Church. We normally only do one, but we are going to do two so we can limit the numbers of parents in church and aid social distancing. It may not create the same atmosphere, but will, fingers crossed, be better than no play at all!

We are asking for a limit of 2 adults per family, and only attend one performance. To help with an even split can we ask parents/carers of children in **Reception class, Y1 and Y2 attend the Thursday 9th December, 10am performance**, and parents/carers of children in **Y3 and Y4 attend the Friday 10th December, 2pm** performance. Parents with children in more than one year group please choose which one you attend. Younger siblings can come if no alternative. Rev Davis is happy with 120 capacity in church as a safe limit, which is why we are limiting to two adults per family.

(NOTE BOTH PLAYS ARE THE SAME AND INVOLVE ALL THE CHILDREN SO YOU ONLY NEED TO ATTEND ONCE)

We would ask parents/carers to consider their own safety precautions: please take a lateral flow test in the morning, only attend if that is clear and you are not experiencing any symptoms. We would ask that you wear a face covering to move around the church, but would like you take it off for the performance, so your smiling faces will encourage the children. This will, of course be optional. We will provide sanitizer and spare masks. If you have your own vulnerabilities, eg you are not double jabbed, then please consider the risks.

Please bring in your costumes on Monday 6th December so we can sort ready for our dress rehearsal on Wednesday 8th (any issues with costumes let class teachers know as we have some spares in school).

There is no charge for this event, although there will be collection plates for donations to share with St. Nicholas Church to help with their running costs.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COLLECTION OF CHILDREN: On Thursday 9th we will bring the children back to school and you can collect them at normal home time. On Friday 10th, KS2 parents can collect their children in the church. If Reception and KS1 parents would kindly wait, socially distanced outside the church and we will bring each class in turn to the main door and see the children to you from there at 3.10pm. We ask for your patience as we need to ensure we see each child safely to you. Mrs Kennedy will be in school if you need to return to collect anything.

Please log in to the Google classroom 'whole school assembly' area to view the programme for this event, we will not be printing it this year. Afterwards, we will endeavour to share some images on the Google classroom for anyone who is unable to attend.

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Christmas Countdown

From now - There will be a Christmas Post Box for children to post their Christmas cards into located by the front door. They will be delivered by Year 4 children. Please ensure full names and year group are on the envelope to help with distribution.

Monday 6th - Christmas play rehearsal. Please could **all costumes** be brought into school on Monday. It goes without saying that we do not expect parents to buy costumes, homemade creations are wonderful. If anyone needs help with a costume for their child then please see a member of staff.

Wednesday 8th December - Christmas Play dress rehearsal (am).

Thursday 9th December 10am (Rec/Y1/2 parents) Friday 10th December 2pm (Y3/4 parents) - Christmas Play. Performance at St Nicholas Church. (see page 3 for details)

Tuesday 14th December - Christmas Dinner.

Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Market 3-4.30pm

Thursday 16th December - Class Christmas Parties in the afternoon. No uniform day

Friday 17th December Break up - **no uniform/Christmas jumper day**

Children back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022 (STAFF INSET 4.1.22-closed to pupils)

December on line safety newsletter

Please see the December edition of the online safety newsletter for parents. With Christmas just around the corner, it includes a reminder about setting up appropriate parental controls for any new phones, consoles or games your child may receive as presents.

We hope you find this information useful and would welcome your feedback.



MENU W/C 6th DECEMBER

Monday	Cheese & tomato pizza/Burrito soft wrap filled with lightly spiced veggies & rice
Tuesday	Sausage & mash with gravy/Macaroni cheese
Wednesday	Roast chicken/Roast Quorn, fluffy roasties & gravy
Thursday	Beef lasagne with garlic bread/Veggie balls in tomato sauce with pasta
Friday	Fish fingers/Quorn dippers & chips

CHRISTMAS DINNER TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Mrs Aston is happy to be able to offer a Christmas dinner for the whole school, however this means that other hot meal choices will not be available on that day. If you would NOT like your child to be included in the numbers, do please let the School Office know. Thank you

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We remind you all to continue to be vigilant in our effort to stem the transmission of the virus as we still seem to be experiencing a steady trickle of positive cases, particularly in wider families and staff. Keep up the regular lateral flow testing and watch closely for symptoms.

With the rise of concern over the new variant the **local authority** have issued new advice:

Household contacts

- Where pupils have a sibling/parent/guardian/other member in their household who is a confirmed case there is a high risk of infection.
- PCR testing strongly advised for all household contacts.
- Pupils household contacts advised to stay at home pending PCR test results – will normally take 48-72 hours – and we may need to arrange education at home.
- Schools cannot legally require isolation - although we encourage families to support settings to prevent wider transmission.

Inclement Weather

The forecast is pointing to cold weather so please ensure that your child is suitably equipped with a warm coat, plus hat and gloves if necessary. Staff will always try to take the children outside for fresh air regardless of the weather, so warmer clothing is a must. If children need to wear boots to walk to school please bring their school shoes to change into. Boots are not school uniform.

If snow does arrive, as it did unexpectedly this week, and a decision to close the school is made, then we will parentmail out to Priority 1 contacts in the usual way. Please can you make sure that all contact information is up to date. We will post up to date information on the school website and the SCC website. Closed signs will also be put on the school gates so please check before dropping children off.

IN ADDITION, YOU CAN LOG ON TO [School Closure List - Staffordshire County Council](#) TO CHECK ALL SCHOOL CLOSURES. THIS IS UPDATED FROM EARLY MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL OPENING TIMES AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

Please note a decision to close the school is never made lightly and is always a very difficult one. The safety of the children and community travelling to school is very important. Consideration must also be made to the safety of staff who travel into school from as far away as Ashbourne and Burntwood and the suitability of roads can vary from area to area. We need to ensure enough staff can make it in safely to manage staff to pupil ratios. We will make every effort to open where possible.

Staff will endeavour to put learning online if we do have to close, but we do of course, encourage safe playing in the snow as a worthwhile activity!!!

Thank you for your support and consideration in this regard.

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