



The Richard Clarke First School Newsletter
Friday 9th September 2022
Issue: Autumn 1:1

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Welcome!

Welcome back everyone. We hope you've all had a happy and healthy summer holiday. We would also like to welcome all the new children and families that are starting in Reception class and throughout the school. We hope you will all have an enjoyable and valuable learning experience here at Richard Clarke. Here's to another very exciting learning journey ahead of us all!

Communications

As mentioned before we broke up, following extensive consultation and feedback, we are making some changes to the way that school communicates with you and your children to try and streamline messages and home learning channels.

This academic year, we will be using Class Dojo for communication in all year groups – including Year 3 and Year 4. All class teachers, the school office and Mrs. Hanson will be able to send out class and school notices via this platform and we will be making more use of the upcoming events feature and calendar on Class Dojo whole school area. We will also be putting the newsletter items onto Class Dojo and eventually moving away from the weekly parent mail newsletter if this works.

We are having the inevitable technology issues with setting this all up, so please bear with us whilst we make the transition. The parent mail newsletter will continue on Fridays until the whole school Dojo function is up and running for all so apologies for sending the information twice. Parent mail will cease once we are confident all parents are able to access DoJo.

We will be using Google Classroom for all home learning, work/event shares and parent curriculum briefings/workshops/tutorials in all year groups. Again, it may take a couple of weeks to get everyone with new passwords and log ins, so bear with us.

We hope our new system will improve communication, as we were aware not all parents were managing to read our weekly newsletters. We do however urge you to read the information we send to you, so that you are fully informed about what's happening in school. Good communication helps us form a strong relationship and work positively together and whilst we know you (and us) are busy people and we all need to work together. Strong teamwork will help us all be more time efficient and fully informed.

Many thanks, *Mrs Hanson*

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

Wb 12.9.22 clubs begin (see below)

Monday 12.9.22 Horn dance day (see page 4 for details)

Wednesday 14.9.22 Open classroom

Thursday 22.9.22 Swimming starts for KS2—see separate letter

Monday 26.9.22 Reception Class - Parent Induction Meeting, 6pm

Thursday 20.10.22 Harvest Festival, 2pm

Break up 20.10.22

Friday 21.10.22 Staff Training Day, school closed to children.

Children return to school on Monday 31st October

Week beginning 14.11.22 Parent/Teacher Meetings (save the date - details to follow)

Open classrooms! Wednesday 14th September, 3.30-4pm

Are you super keen to have a nosy in your child's new classroom and say hello to the teacher?? Then please do, drop in on Wednesday after school and have a look around, see where they're sitting and say hello to the teacher etc. You may have some questions you want to ask?

Don't worry if you can't make it, just message your child's class teacher they will be able happy to arrange another time convenient to you.

School Dinners price increase

We have been informed by our catering providers that due to the rising costs, the price of our school dinners is increasing to £2.57 per meal. This increase will be from Monday 19th September and so you will see the change in parent pay from this date. See next weeks menu below:

Monday Veggie burrito/Macaroni cheese

Tuesday BBQ chicken burger & potato wedges/Broccoli, cauliflower, cheese pie & mash

Wednesday Roast chicken/Sweet potato & chickpea roast

Thursday Beef Bolognese/Butternut squash & tomato bake

Friday Fish fingers/Quorn nuggets

From next week menus will be posted on class DoJo only.

Polite Request

Please make sure your children's new uniform and PE kits are clearly labelled with their name. You would be horrified at the amount of lost property we have, that we cannot return to children as it is unnamed.

Also, please choose practical water bottles, eg: not too big as they don't fit under the water coolers, not easily spilled/secure lids, named, etc. This is very helpful to us in school. Thank you.

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End of the day procedures - reminder:

Please can we remind you of our end of day procedures for collecting your children at 3.30pm.

Reception class - your child will be passed to you by a member of staff from the Reception door, moving to the courtyard door later in the year.

Y1/2 - your child will be passed to you by a member of staff from their class door in the courtyard.

Y3/4 - your child will be dismissed by a member of staff to go and meet you at your agreed place. Children are instructed that if you are not at the agreed meeting place they are to come straight back to class or go to the school office (see letter)

Please wait in the same zones as last year so teachers can easily spot you. If you have more than one child, collect the youngest first and we will hold onto the older one/ones until we see you.

All parents must let school know who is picking their child up regularly and all parents must let school know if there is a change to the normal routine. Other parents must not offer to or just take children for friends unless we have been informed by the child's parents that this is their wish. We know this is well intentioned helpfulness but unfortunately it goes against our safeguarding guidelines.

Please also remind your children that if ever they are not sure who is picking them up, then please stay with a member of school staff until we can sort it out. We will be reminding the children in school also. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all children safe. It is as always, our main concern and priority.

Reception Class - Induction Evening

Monday 26th September 6pm

All new Reception parents are invited to come and learn more about your child's class, their curriculum and how you can support their learning at home. School staff will be there to talk to you about different areas of learning. We look forward to seeing you all. ***We really hope you can come as it is important as parental involvement in children's learning has a significant impact and hopefully you will pick up lots of tips on how you can help your children with their learning at home. However, we understand if you this is not a convenient time for you. Speak to us if you have any problems making this date or other concerns and we will share the information in an alternative way.***

ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE

Monday 12th September - All day

The Crown Car Park will be in use so drivers must make alternative provision when dropping off/picking up from school.

School will be open as usual from 8.45am - 3.30pm. We are aware of possible difficulties getting to school on time. If you live outside the village and cannot avoid driving your children to school then we understand your children may need to be dropped off late and picked up early/late. We would urge this only in exceptional circumstances and not just generally as it is very difficult for teachers to lead the lessons purposefully with only half a class. Please don't panic if you are late dropping off on this occasion, we will not record the late and we will always keep children safe with us if you arrive late at the end of the day.

The main road through Abbots Bromley may be closed at points to allow for the dance. Notices will be put up. You may need to park on the outskirts of the village and walk in, please allow extra time. Please discuss with us if you have any problems.

New reading books, library books and homelearning

It is important for teachers to take the time to assess children so they know what skills have been retained over the summer break and make sure children have appropriately pitched reading books and homelearning. It is also important that teachers take the time to settle children in and establish good routines. We therefore ask for your patience whilst this is being done and understand that you will get reading books and homelearning in due course. We will be looking to use our online platform (Google Classroom) to support homelearning.

Meanwhile encourage your children to read home books, practise existing skills and research into new topics. Also please read to your children as often as you can, it is so important!!!
Thank you. Mrs Hanson

Homelearning routine

Autumn term, Spring 2 and Summer term: Traditional style weekly homelearning tasks and some mini projects.

Spring 1: GANAS project homelearning (more info to follow) NB This has reduced to one per year due to feedback taken on board on the annual parent questionnaire.

Reading, spelling, mental maths activities will be ongoing throughout the year.

Clubs for this half term - Autumn 1 2022

I hope you will agree here at the RCFS we provide a fantastic range of afterschool clubs for all age groups. The first half term back club will be as follows:

Payment for clubs is via Parent Pay

RCFS clubs £3.50 per club, external providers may vary

Starting next week 12th September, 3.30-4.30pm

Monday: Wildcats Girls Football Y1-4 (Cancelled due to low numbers)

Tuesday: Invasion Games with Mr Crooks Y1-4

Gardening Club with Mrs Farrington Y1-4

Wednesday: Dance Club with Mrs Hanson Y2-4

Thursday: Boys Football with Mr Hindhaugh Y2-4

Please email or speak to the school office if you would like to take part in any of the clubs and you will then receive confirmation message/details and the item will be added to your parent pay account. Please note: If you sign up for a club and then your child pulls out/misses sessions, a refund may not be possible if we have had to pay up front for an external provider for the course. Please note that we have reduced the cost of after school clubs by 50p per session to support families in these difficult times.

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