



NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of everyone here at Richard Wakefield C.E. Primary, can I wish you Happy New Year to you all! Welcome back to 2021 and a new decade. We hope that everyone had the best, possible break in the circumstances. Sadly the situation regarding the pandemic has in no way improved and we find ourselves once again in partial closure. We would like to extend a huge thank you for your support and understanding in the national situation that we currently find ourselves in. The sudden change to remote learning has not been ideal for anyone both in school and at home but is necessary in the current national situation. Please read below to ensure that the sacrifices being made by everyone currently work and ensure that we can return to some form of normality as soon as we can

Please use our newsletters and the website to keep up to date with everything that is going on in school and to do with school. Contact us if there are any issues that arise.

CRITICAL WORKERS, KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Please read: -

Throughout this pandemic our school has continued to remain open to support the children of those Critical and Key workers who are at the frontline of this crisis and also to support our most vulnerable children.

Since the initial lockdown many more critical and key worker roles have been kept in place and as such current requests for key worker places in school have more than quadrupled from March and April last year. We are now struggling meet the requests that we have had for places, whilst maintaining an enhanced, socially distanced environment for the children in school as required to minimise any transmission in school. It is likely that we will have to have waiting lists now for some year groups.

It is important to remember also that our staff are not only managing these groups but also managing the remote learning for all those in school. Please only request places when you are at work, if you are at home please keep your child at home to access remote learning.

We have to keep in mind that this is a more virulent strain of Covid. The whole point of this new lockdown period is to minimise the likelihood of transmission for the children, school staff and yourselves. If the numbers of children in school are continually higher, the greater the risk of this happening and bubbles closing.

We are here to help and support those who need us. The threat of Covid is now greater than ever - help us to keep our families safe.

REMOTE LEARNING

Thank you for all of your efforts with remote learning so far, it is far from ideal but is the only option at this moment in time. We recommend trying to establish a routine and organising your day around what works best for you as a household. Your child does not need to work until 3pm every day if they have already completed their tasks. We will be organising Zoom sessions next week to allow children face to face contact with their class, we found these sessions were well received when a few of our bubbles were shut down. Attendance is not compulsory but we would love to see you to keep in touch.

We are here to help in any way we can. If you have any questions please get in contact by:

- Contacting the homesupport email address (we can respond much quicker on this address than the office email that receives all of the school correspondence). We can send these messages directly to the classteachers.
homesupport.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com
- If you are still struggling then ring us, if we cannot help straight away we will ring you back.

Remote learning is challenging, please seek help through the necessary channels. Please note that the PTA Facebook page is NOT managed by the school but by our PTA volunteers; they are not able to assist with remote learning, it is a page ran by parents to support our community.

NEW PARENTS SEPTEMBER 2021

We are still unable to offer visits to our school for prospective Reception parents. However, if anyone has any questions please ring or email the school office and someone will reply to you as soon as they can.

We have released an information presentation and a video tour of our Early Years area on our school website:

[Starting School at Richard Wakefield](#)

Please register your interest via the office email to receive notifications of any updates for our prospective parents.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested. The deadline for applications is getting closer. Thank you

Useful information:

How can I apply for a Reception place?

The quickest and easiest way is to apply online. Applications opened on 1st November 2020 and the closing date is 15th January 2021.

If you are unable to apply online, a paper form is now available and please contact the school office who will be happy to send a copy to you.

Note: you must make an application by 15th January 2021. There is no automatic entry into Reception.

Further information is available on the Staffordshire County Council admissions website at

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary>

END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENTS

The decision has been made to cancel these for this year which has implications for all our year groups who would have undertaken them.

Whilst the final details are yet to be issued it is clear that for our Year 6 children there will not be a week of SATs tests in May. Normally around now the Y6 staff would have organised a parents meeting to explain the arrangements and also set up a booster club to support pupils in preparing for these.

These assessments have always provided a key milestone for our children as they prepare for the next stage of their education. What isn't going to change is the fact that the children will move to a secondary school setting in September 2021. As a school we will continue to prepare them in the best way we can both academically and socially to ensure that they have to best platform possible to make this transition. This year the circumstances around school opening will dictate what we can do but be assured the staff will continue to have high expectations of this group of children in the coming months.

