



Autumn 1 Newsletter 2020

EFA (Emotional First Aid)

As part of our Pastoral Care at Richard De Clare we offer Emotional First Aid (EFA). This is an intervention led by specifically trained staff to provide initial support to children experiencing emotional distress. This enables us to offer one to one focused support for children that need the time to process their anxieties.

At times, children can feel anxious or distressed for several reasons, it can be anything from friendship issues to bereavement which leaves the child feeling vulnerable and in need of someone to talk to.

Our role is to help the child find new strategies that will enable them to appropriately develop their emotional expression and give them the necessary confidence to cope and understand what they are experiencing.

If you feel this would be beneficial to your child's well-being please contact the school office and a member of our Pastoral Team will speak to you.



COVID-19 Symptoms

If you or your child have one or more of the following symptoms, please stay at home and arrange for a COVID-19 test as soon as possible:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Secondary School Admissions

You can now apply online for your child's Year 7 secondary school place. Applications must be made by the national closing date of 31 October 2020. Start your application today – www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

It is vitally important to apply for a secondary school place before the deadline, your child may not receive a place at your preferred school, if you apply late.



All children in EYFS and KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to free school meals. They run on a 3 week rota. Wednesday is always roast dinner, and Friday is always fish and chips. Please encourage your children to try school meals.

Our kitchen prides itself on their homemade and nutritionally balanced meals. Our fresh meat is sourced from a local butcher, which is delivered on a regular basis. Our fruit and vegetables are also provided by a local greengrocer. Our children are offered healthy alternatives such as wholegrain rice and pasta.

The midday assistants give out clean plate award stickers for children who have finished all their dinner.

The kitchen regularly holds themed dinners which the children love. In the past we have had a Bonfire Night, multicultural day and an American diner themed meal.

The kitchen also holds a 5 star hygiene rating, which they have upheld for the last 6 years.

If your child has any allergies and you have any queries about school meals, please contact the office.

Drop Off and Pick Up

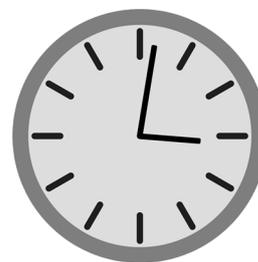
Thank you for your continued support for all of the changes that we have made in school this term.

Thank you also for continuing to try to remain at a 2 metre distance from other adults whilst on or around the school premises.

We are continuing with the staggered start and end times. Please do not arrive earlier than you need to. In the morning there is a five minute time slot in which to arrive and you do not need to arrive earlier than this. The staggered start and end times are important for us as we are trying to separate the Year bubbles inside the school building.

A reminder that you can use the basketball court to wait in if you are waiting for the junior building.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Arrival at gate</u>	<u>Home time</u>
Nursery a.m. session	8.55 - 9	12
Nursery p.m. session	11.55-12	3
Year R	8.45- 8.50	3.15
Year 1	8.40 - 8.45	3.10
Year 2	8.45 - 8.50	3.15
Year 3	8.40 - 8.45	3.15
Year 4	8.45 - 8.50	3.20
Year 5	8.45 -8.50	3.20
Year 6	8.35 - 8.40	3.20



Parent Information

- **Flu immunisations have been booked for Monday 9th November.** Electronic consent forms will be sent home in the coming weeks.
- Please can all children bring a water bottle into school with water in it. We currently are not using the water fountains, so it is important that children have water to drink in school. Children should not be bringing any other drinks for the classroom.
- Please can all children have a waterproof coat with a hood in school. We are going outside as much as possible and children will need to have a coat as the weather gets colder.
- Due to the current situation we are not sharing sweets in school. I know this is disappointing for children but please can I ask you to not send sweets in to share with the class on your child's Birthday.
- Please ensure your child brings their PE kit into school.
- Please ensure you pack your child a healthy lunch.

Year 6 Hoodies 19-20

As our Year 6 left school in Summer they all received a leavers hoodie and we would like thank Mrs Cox for all her help in organising this. We hope that the children have all settled in well to their chosen secondary schools.

Year 2 Phonics Screening Check

Children who are currently in Year 2 missed the national Phonics Screening Check that they would ordinarily have completed in the Summer Term of Year 1, as all national testing was cancelled. Children in Year 2 will therefore sit their Phonics Screening Check in late November instead. Class teachers are working hard in class to prepare the children for this.



Archie Project

Last year 4DE supported the Archie Project and thoroughly enjoyed working in partnership with Colne View Care Home in Halstead last year as part of the Dementia Friendly scheme named the "Archie Project". The children embraced the opportunity and shared good rapport with the residents from Colne View. Once a month, the children would walk to the care home and share their time with residents participating in the Archie Project.

From then on, the children welcomed the opportunity and shared their life stories with some of the residents. The children were asking the residents about their life in the past; have they got any children? Grandchildren? Did they get married? What did they do for a job? What was your favourite subject at school? etc. The children were amazed at how much they found out and, in some cases, the similarities between the residents' lives and their own.

As well as the care home visits, some of the children in 4DE were fortunate to take Archie the Scarecrow home and spend time with him over the weekend/school holidays. 4DE have created a folder with their memories inside using photographs. The children loved sharing what they got up to with Archie on a Friday afternoon and the excitement of who was taking him home next!

Unfortunately, we are unsure if we are able to continue with the Archie Project this academic year due to circumstances out of our control. However, we have loved taking part in the Dementia Friendly scheme and would love to take this opportunity to say thank you to Kim Richardson for organising our trips to the care home; to Linda for organising the activities; and last but not least, to all the lovely residents at Colne View Care home for sharing their stories with us.



Sir Linkalot

We enjoyed trialling the Sir Linkalot app in classes earlier in the year, and have since purchased a subscription for the whole school to use.

Sir Linkalot is a fun way to learn different spellings! Children can work their way through the different levels to improve their spelling of high frequency words. Each word has a short video to help make the word's spelling more memorable. This might be through visualising a picture linked to the word, finding other words hiding in that word, or making other memorable links. An example is the word 'special' – the CIA have got special agents! Some words have an extra 'Susie story' video where Countdown's Susie Dent explains the origin of the word.

Along with the videos, each word list has different games to help children apply their new spellings. These include quizzes and crosswords. See if you can beat your high score for each quiz!

The word bundles cover different types of spellings children will come across and may find tricky – from non-phonetic words to homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled different e.g. 'their' and 'there'), as well as different spelling patterns.

Children really enjoyed using Sir Linkalot in school and it helped them remember the different spellings. We hope you can enjoy it at home as well!

To access Sir Linkalot, either download the app, or if using a computer or laptop type app.sirlinkalot.org into the browser.

Please can you email the school if your child does not have log in details.

Class Dojos

We have introduced Class Dojo throughout the school. The children are loving this positive reward system.

We have managed to link with 177 parents, which is fantastic. This means that these parents can now see when their children receive rewards through notifications to their phones or iPad.

The next stage of Dojo is coming soon! Teachers will soon be able to post on their 'class stories' giving you further information about what is happening in your child's class.

We hope that you are finding Dojo easy to use. If not please contact the office who will pass your information to Mrs Shelter who will endeavour to sort any issues.



Maths App

At Richard de Clare we have introduced two online learning programmes for your children to continue to practise at home. We're using this super online resource to support our children's maths education in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2. The creators of Times Tables Rock Stars have produced a platform for boosting addition and subtraction skills, called NumBots.

NumBots is an online game and playing little and often will significantly improve your child's recall and understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts. These are critical foundations in maths so we are excited by the impact NumBots will have. The children have brought home a username label in their reading record. They might need some help navigating to the website (<https://play.numbots.com>) and entering the details but once they're in, they just need some quiet space to get on with the games for 5 minutes. In order to get the best out of NumBots, children should regularly play for short bursts so we would ask you to give them 5 minutes each day.

Game Types

1. Story Mode – the emphasis is on learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction so it features more diagrams, shapes and question styles.

2. Challenge Mode – the emphasis is more on speed of recall of key facts, like number bonds to 10, doubling small numbers or adding and taking away in your head.

Rock Stars

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice.

We are really excited to introduce Times Table Rock Stars to our pupils as it provides a really fun way to learn a key skill. Rock Stars considers many areas to help children engage and progress with their times table skills and knowledge.

Maths teachers recognise how fundamental quick times table recall is for leading to success in maths lessons; yet it's not always easy finding engaging ways to do daily practice.

TT Rock Stars is lightning fast. Once pupils are logged in, they can begin a game in one click. The maximum time for one game is 3 minutes which encourages children to engage in short-burst but regular practice which is the most effective method for learning numerous facts.

Flower Festival

Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to hold the flower festival this year. Instead, our year 6 children have made flower cards for the residents of Colne View Care Home. These will be sent off shortly.



NFOS Support

NFOS (Notley Family of Schools) are offering some parent and child sessions to discuss and practise strategies to manage worry and anxiety.

Contact Jacky Wragg or Kerry Williams to arrange a convenient time to talk – **parents can call direct**

Jacky Wragg jackywragg@gmail.com

Kerry Williams 07850770913



Sports at Richard de Clare

Throughout the year the children will look at different topics which cover specific areas of the national curriculum. Below is a list of each topic with an explanation of each.

Invasion Games:

An invasion game is the term used for any game where the aim is to attack an opponent's territory and score a goal or point. Usually consisting of teams of equal players these fast paced games focus on teamwork, keeping possession, scoring and defending. Some of the sports the children will work on are: tag rugby, football, basketball and netball.

Sportshall Athletics:

Sportshall Athletics helps develop children's agility, balance and co-ordination skills. They work on range of jumping, throwing and running activities and also learn to time and score their own activities.

Last year, our Sportshall athletics team competed at the county finals in Southend. They competed against 14 other schools. This is a huge achievement which we are incredibly proud of.

Gymnastics:

When looking at gymnastics the children focus on using their bodies in different ways to create sequences, work on their jumping and landing, balancing and also explore and use different pieces of apparatus.

Last year our gymnasts were crowned as county champions.

Multi Skills:

During this time the children work on a variety of skills such as circuit training, orienteering, tennis, new age curling, boccia and ladder work.

Athletics:

During this time the children look at a variety of running, throwing and jumping activities. They also take part in team relay races and learn how to correctly perform a baton changeover. This also helps prepare the children for their school sports day which will involve many of the running races and field activities.

Striking and Fielding:

During this time the children focus on their cricket and rounders skills, they learn how to throw and catch correctly and field the ball both from the ground and when the ball is travelling in the air. They also look at how to bowl the ball in both sports, including both underarm and overarm in cricket. They also look at different techniques for batting and begin to understand the rules of each sport and how to play matches.

Please can you support us by making sure your child has their PE kit in school.

