



RICHARD TAYLOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Key Dates

Monday 1st March
Fairtrade Fortnight continues
Thursday 4th March
World Book Day
Monday 8th March:
School re-opens to all children.
Tuesday 9th March
Children's Author Sarah Oliver virtually visiting classes
Friday 19th March
Comic Relief Day
Wednesday 24th March
Children's Service of Reflection
Friday 26th March
Virtual Easter Service
Monday 29th Easter Holidays Begin
Sunday 4th April
Easter Day
Monday 12th April
Staff Training Day
Tuesday 13th April School re-opens

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School Re-opening 2021



We are all delighted to be welcoming back all of the children to school from Monday 8th March.

Every family and child will have received a letter welcoming them back to school; this will be followed by detailed guidance which will be sent to every class.

Ahead of the detailed guidance I have included a few headline announcements below which will help you to prepare for your child's return to school.

- ◆ The uniform policy will be the same as the one implemented at the start of the year, with school sweatshirts being worn whilst children should continue to wear jogger bottoms and trainers. We do not want parents to have the expense of buying new uniform at this point in the year. Please note we will be returning to our traditional uniform policy from September 2021.
- ◆ Staggered starts and ends will remain in place to avoid congestion in the playground as will the existing one way system. We are reducing the length of the stagger to limit the impact on the school day. Each class will receive notification of its arrival and departure times, with the morning stagger running from 8.50am to 9am and departure times from 3.05-3.15pm. If you are collecting from more than one class, please follow the earliest time for all children.
- ◆ We are still requiring all adults, except those with an exception, to wear a mask or face covering at all times when on school site.
- ◆ The curriculum catch up programme will restart from Monday 8th March. Further information regarding the governments expanded tutoring programme and summer activities scheme will be shared with parents as soon as the school receives the detailed plans behind the initial headline announcements.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March 2021

Remote Learning

Thank you to everyone for the magnificent way that you have supported your children with their remote learning via the seesaw platform. Since January 60,379 posts have been submitted by children with 59,775 written staff comments. In addition to the daily class teams calls and worship times published on both seesaw and youtube, it has been a fantastic effort.

We are going to ensure that we continue to harness the remote learning platform created to support with the learning of our children, even after they return to school on a full time basis, both as an in school tool and for home work. The remote learning platform will remain the focus for home learning should any class bubbles need to self-isolate for a 10-day period at any time in the future.



Friends News

friends
of RICHARD TAYLOR SCHOOL

The Friends have continued to support the school through the latest lockdown via the work of the prayer group, details of the prayer group can be found on the school website. At the start of the week the school received a certificate of thanks from 'Save the Children' for its Christmas Jumper fundraising efforts. We will have more news regarding future events planned for the Summer Term in our next newsletter.

Kitchen News

Jo and her team are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school lunches from Monday 8th March, as well as Pizza Thursday and Fish Friday, they will be planning our special Easter lunch.

Jo has been really impressed by the number of children who have been baking during the latest lockdown and sending in the photos of their finished results.

As we welcome everyone back she has another cooking challenge for everyone to enjoy; the recipe below is for her special Ratatouille Pasta Bake

Ingredients

1 Courgette 1 Red Onion 6 Medium Mushrooms
2 Tomatoes 1 Aubergine 1 Clove Garlic 1 Jar Passata
600 grams Pasta Grated Mozzarella

Method

Put a pan of water on to boil add the pasta and simmer until cooked. Drain and set aside all the vegetables, crush the garlic and put in a pan with a little olive oil or vegetable oil and cook until tender stirring all the time.

Put the pasta and cooked vegetables in a mixing bowl, add the passata and mix them all together until coated.

Place the mix in a baking dish sprinkle the grated mozzarella over the top and cook in a pre-heated oven for approximately 20 – 25 minutes until golden brown.

Remove from the oven and serve.

The pasta is nice served with a tossed salad and garlic bread.



Note

You can use vegetables of your choice to mix with the pasta, children love pasta so this is a great way to get their 5 day.



Parents Consultation Evenings

The next parents consultation evenings at Richard Taylor are going to be moved to Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th April. The aim is to be able to give more detailed feedback on the progress made by children from the wider reopening of schools.

This will include an opportunity to discuss the way in which those children who have experienced remote learning since January 2021 have managed their transition back to school.

The current guidelines would suggest that this will be a remote meeting using the teams platform; however we will be guided by the science and consider the possibility of socially distanced school based meetings nearer the time.

The school will still work closely with parents as their children return to the classroom and if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher please contact the school in the normal way at any point.

Science News

During the current lockdown the school has continued its science project to see if it is possible to grow vegetables using the hydroponic systems trialled by NASA and used in the European Space Station to provide fresh food for the astronauts and cosmonauts who live and work there. As you will see from the photograph, using the specially built growing tower the results are beginning to show. The target is to have grown enough produce to feed Coverdale Class. We will be keeping a close eye on the rates of growth over the next couple of weeks.



Music Tuition

From the week beginning Monday 8th March we look forward to the resumption of music tuition at Richard Taylor School. All of the music teachers have been in contact with the school to plan the roadmap for their return.

Some will continue to deliver remote lessons for the period up to Easter, whilst some will return to delivering lessons on site using the old caretaker's bungalow, which operated as a base for music lessons during the Autumn Term 2020.

If you have any questions regarding your child's lessons please contact your music teacher who will explain their plans for lessons at RTS.

Prayer from Emma James. Youth Worker

Loving Father,

We thank you for being with us at the moment,

Wherever we are learning: home, school, online or in person.

We thank you for the technology that helps us stay connected and pray that it works well this week.

We thank you for all the adults in our school that are working so hard to plan lessons that are interesting and fun.

We pray for those in our community that are ill,

May you heal them and comfort them.

We pray for those in our community who are isolated and lonely,

Be close to them and sustain them.

We pray for those in our community who are worried or sad

May they know your peace and may it fill their hearts.

We thank you that you are a God that will never leave us or let us down;

Help us to know you more each day

Amen



MSA News

The school is currently advertising for a new Midday Supervisor to join our lunchtime team. The advert can be found on northyorks.gov.uk/jobs.

We are looking for a full time member of the team but have the flexibility to offer part time hours if required

The deadline for applications is 05/03/2021 and we are looking for the successful candidate to start their probationary period as soon as possible.

Please contact the school if you require any further details and pass on the information to anyone who you think may be interested.

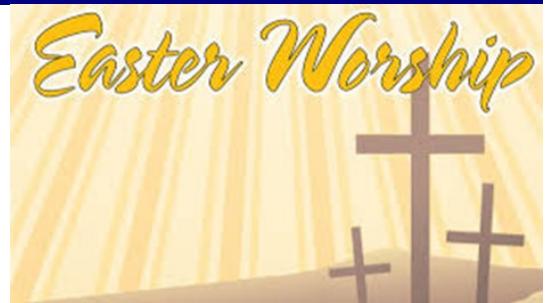


twinkl.com

Worship News

The school will still not be able to hold our daily acts of worship in the hall after the children return on Monday 8th March and so will continue to produce worship times which can be shared in classrooms, but which bring us together as a school community.

We are already planning our Easter Worship time which we will be able to share with everyone via our school youtube page. The theme of this year's Easter Celebration is 'The Colours of Easter' and will include contributions from every class. It will be published on Friday 26th March, which is the last day of the Spring Term. On Wednesday 24th March we will be holding our annual service of reflection for the children, which will hold a special meaning as it takes place almost a year to the day after the first national lockdown. Each class will share their reflections in a virtual service which will be shared with parents and families.



Mr Groves Gardening News

March is a month when you can start to sow outdoor, but only when the soil conditions and weather allow, so I thought I would go for containers as they can be protected from the elements.

Growing Vegetables in Containers.

Containers can come in all shapes and sizes and usually there are a few at home surplus to requirements, that can be used to grow vegetables outside. Make sure you choose a sheltered sunny spot.

At my allotment I use containers recycled from old buckets, washing up bowls and large plastic containers, just make sure you get an adult to put some drainage holes in the bottom of your containers to avoid them from being water logged in wet weather and have some fleece or old sheets ready to protect them with, if we get any late frosts.

Fill the containers with potting compost, you could use ordinary garden soil if you are unable to get any, but potting compost will increase your chances of seed germination and give the plants a good start, also you should have less trouble with slugs and other nasties. Your chosen vegetable seeds can be sown thinly, directly into your container or grown in containers inside, on your windowsill or in a greenhouse. I would suggest you don't sow anything outside until Easter and always keep an eye on the weather forecast.

You could try growing the following crops, Tomatoes, seeds will have to be sown indoors, choose a bush variety as you don't have to bother removing the side shoots, Swiss Chard, Beetroot, Potatoes, Radish, Lettuce and all salad crops, Spinach and Dwarf Beans, but don't plant these outside until the middle of May, always remember to keep the compost moist, seed can't germinate without water.



Sports News

Thank you to everyone who supported the target through challenge. We are now moving towards our third PE Challenges topic and for this half term it will be volleyball.

In the challenges online, you will be able to learn some of the basic skills of this game. As the weather is a little unpredictable, and sometimes snowy and cold, it might be an idea for you to start off indoors with a balloon before moving outside. There are lots of things around your home you can use to make a net e.g. a wash-stand or chairs if you are indoors, or a hedge or washing line if you are outside. Starting this week, we will be trying activities one and two. Both of these are tasks that can be done indoors and all you will need to do them is a balloon. When you click on the task there are clear instructions for what you need to do and at the bottom of each video there are some helpful tips to help you on your way.

Here is the web address. All you will need is your log in with your own personal username and password - your teacher will be able to help you with that.

www.pechallenges.com

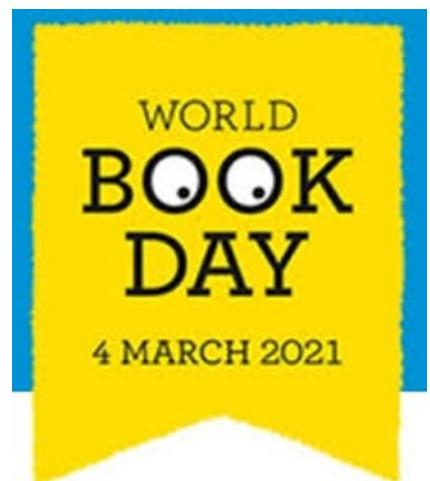
World Book Day: Thursday 4th March 2021

World Book Day falls within the current lockdown and so our celebrations will take place online as well as in school.

There will be lots of special activities on the class seesaw pages as well as special readings and a virtual visit from the children's author, Sarah Oliver, that will take place on the 9th of March when everyone has returned to school.

There are lots of activities and suggestions for families on the World Book Day website <https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/share-a-story/>

We won't be dressing up for this year's event but I hope that everyone both at home and at school will be able to join in with the celebration of books and reading.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2021



Thank you to everyone who has been supporting this year's Fairtrade fortnight campaign which is highlighting the impact of climate change on the small growers who produce so much of the bananas, coffee, tea and chocolate in areas of the world which feel the effects of climate change on their crops and incomes.

The image shows the Fairtrade logo created by the Ribblesdale/ Dentdale bubble out of reused materials.

We have received lots of wonderful recycled Fairtrade images from children at home. They will all receive a prize in due course.

If you want to enter your masterpiece into the regional Fairtrade competition please send your photos to liz@cravendec.org.uk with your Fairtrade logo filling the frame of your photograph. Include your name age and school with each entry. Closing date for entries is 8th March 2021

Good luck to everyone who participates.

Comic Relief 2021

There has not been a great deal to celebrate this year and so it will be good for the children to enjoy Red Nose Day 2021 which takes place on Friday 19th March.

We will be making it a non-uniform day for children who wish to make a donation to the work of Comic Relief both in the UK and abroad.

The theme will be wearing something red and the children will enjoy our traditional talent show in the afternoon with each class selecting an act whose performance will be shown via big screen in every classroom.



