



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Friday 20th March 2020

SCHOOL WILL CLOSE TODAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

St Richard's will close today and will also be closed to **all pupils** on Monday 23rd March 2020. We wish the whole community the very best for the future but we know that your cheerfulness, cooperation and resolution will help overcome any challenge.

As part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus we will be offering reduced provision to only our most vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers in critical **areas from Tuesday 24th March 2020 onwards.**

All our vulnerable children have now been identified and their parents will be contacted by 4pm today and arrangements made for next week and beyond. If this does not include you then your child **must** remain at home with appropriate care until further notice.

Do not bring your child to school if they are not in one of these two categories - they will not be admitted under any circumstances. Many thanks for your complete support, cooperation and understanding.

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. There is no requirement - even for parents who are key workers in critical sectors - to send their child to school if they do not need or want to. From Tuesday 24th March 2020 and until further notice, St Richard's will be offering reduced educational provision and we will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. A downloadable application form for parents who are key workers in critical sectors is available at www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk

I want to reassure parents and carers that children appear to be in the least vulnerable group when it comes to COVID-19 and that coming to school this week has provided an important sense of normality and stability for all our pupils. We have continued to learn in an incredibly ordered, calm and cheerful manner at St Richard's. This is a great testament to all our pupils, their parents and our amazing staff.

HOME LEARNING

The staff at St Richard's have worked tirelessly over the last few days in order to make sure that children are able to continue learning at home. We have set up a 'Home Learning' section (the title is on the far right hand side of the home page of the website) for each year group.

Children who are already off school are welcome to begin using the resources placed on the website. We ask that all other children begin to access these resources from Monday 23rd March onwards.

We are also providing complimentary packs of paper and book based work for all pupils who are still in school on Friday 20th March. Please do not approach/contact your child's classteacher or any other member of staff to ask for any additional homework tasks, as these will not be granted.

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

Difficulties and worries are becoming a growing part of all our lives at the moment. Yet, when we believe in Jesus it can change how we see the world (even at the most testing times) and it can bring us healing too. Please enjoy a special time this week hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HEALING**.

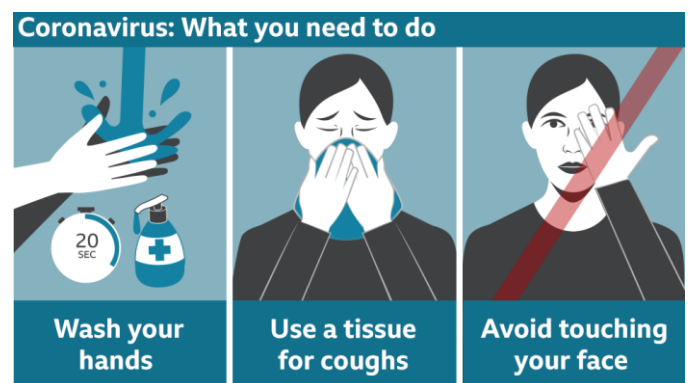
Given that school will be closing today for almost all our pupils until further notice, we have distributed future copies of the Wednesday Word along with this week's version. Please also see next item, which is related to this.

STATEMENT BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales released a letter on Wednesday stating that, during the coronavirus situation, we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice. Catholic churches will remain open though. They are not closing. However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation. The full text is available at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/about-us/st-richards-parish-church/>

IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY ARE UNWELL

Even when school is closed to most pupils, current Public Health England advice remains the same: it is vital that if **anyone** in your household presents with a high temperature (37.8 degrees or above) and/or a new, continuous cough then you **MUST** all self-isolate for 14 days. Updates are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



STAYING IN TOUCH AND INFORMED WHILE WE ARE CLOSED

Please make a habit of visiting the home page of the school website www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk regularly for updates on the coronavirus situation as it impacts on our school community. We will also use ParentMail texts and the weekly newsletter to communicate important information to you - even while we are closed. Please feel free to use comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk in order to stay in touch with school during the closure period. You are welcome to share any questions or concerns and we will endeavour to respond. Some families might also receive phone calls from school staff to have a chat about how things are going during the school's closure.

BENEFITS-LED FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT

We are very aware that, during the forthcoming period of school closure, there are pupils registered at St Richard's who will still be entitled to - and will require - a free school meal.

This provision is only for parents whose child(ren) are entitled to a free school meal as a result of eligibility to benefits. Unfortunately, this provision is not available for all EYFS/KS1 pupils who currently have a free school meal as part of the universal Infant Free School Meal programme.

Eligible families have been contacted today by text. If you have not been contacted and you think you are eligible, please contact the school office. Any further information will be notified on the school website or in the newsletter next week.

With many thanks for your continuing support and with every best wish,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School