



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## **HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!**

Easter is not just a one day celebration but a whole season which lasts from Easter Sunday (last Sunday) until Pentecost Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> May 2020). Below is a prayerful meditation from Raymond Friel which recalls the events of the first Easter morning but which also helps us to look forward - to Pentecost and the birthday of the Church:



‘The rock split and a shaft of light shone into the darkness. Only the angels witnessed the resurrection, the power of the Spirit transforming Jesus into glory.

Mary Magdalen was the first to know, arriving early to find the empty tomb, called to a new life when she heard her name spoken by the risen Lord, whose very breath was peace.

There was no revenge now he was risen, no lessons in power for those men who struck him and flogged him. That’s what we would do.

He simply forgave and taught his friends the meaning of everything he had said and done and told them to wait until the Spirit powered them up to go out and tell the world.’

## **PRIMARY SCHOOL NATIONAL OFFER DAY**

Despite the current situation, primary offer day was due to go ahead as planned today. Parents of children due to start in Reception at St Richard’s in September 2020 will be asked by the local authority admissions team to contact school directly to accept a place but will be given the school admissions email address should they also wish to inform the local authority directly.

## **SCHOOL REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

As you are all very aware, St Richard’s closed on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. 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(ren) to school if they do not need or want to. A downloadable application form (which must be printed off, filled in, signed and brought back to school) for parents who are key workers in critical sectors is still available at [www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](http://www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

## **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](http://www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)) regularly for updates on the coronavirus situation as it impacts on our school community (Thursday afternoon is a good time to do this). We will also use ParentMail texts as well as this weekly newsletter in order to communicate important information while we are closed. The weekly newsletter will be available every Thursday afternoon at: [www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/key-information/letters-reports/](http://www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/key-information/letters-reports/)  
Please feel free to email [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto: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. During the closure period, some families will also receive phone calls from school staff to have a chat about how things are going.

## **FURTHER ADVICE**

One Education are inviting parents or carers who require any further advice or support relating to the Coronavirus situation from an educational psychologist to contact the following help line: 0161 276 0115 - Monday to Friday 09:00am-12:00pm

## **MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL (MCC) WELFARE SCHEME**

For families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are in need of additional financial support, please continue to visit:

[https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200008/benefits\\_and\\_support/6302/apply\\_for\\_a\\_cash\\_grant\\_if\\_you\\_are\\_in\\_financial\\_crisis](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200008/benefits_and_support/6302/apply_for_a_cash_grant_if_you_are_in_financial_crisis)

For parents of pupils at St Richard’s, this MCC scheme will continue until tomorrow, **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**. From **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**, we will have transferred to the national voucher scheme (see below). From this date, the MCC Scheme will not be available to parents and carers of children who are normally entitled to benefits-related free school meals. After Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April the MCC scheme will still be available but only to families who are **not** currently eligible for FSM but who are experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19.

## **VOUCHERS FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS-RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

The Department for Education (DfE) has developed a national voucher scheme to support schools to provide parents of pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals with supermarket vouchers in term time whilst school is closed to them.

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, St Richard’s will be able to provide eligible families with a weekly supermarket shopping voucher worth £15 per child, while schools are closed due to coronavirus. We will be providing vouchers electronically (which can then be redeemed online via a code). We can only do this if we have up to date and useable email addresses. If an email address is not available, parents will have to come to school to pick up a paper voucher.

There have been reports nationally of teething problems with this scheme. We ask eligible parents to be patient should this be the case next week with St Richard’s but, rest assured, we will do all that we can to ensure that vouchers become available as soon as possible.

To easily check your free school meal eligibility online, all you need is your personal details and your National Insurance Number/National Asylum Seekers number. Go to: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>

## **UPDATED HOME LEARNING ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

By Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April we will have updated the Home Learning pages of our school website with new activities for children in every year group. This content should be used from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Should it be required, a further two-week’s worth of work will then be available from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

## **PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

As requested, Kitty O’Meara’s prose poem is re-printed below:

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.”

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray  
Headteacher  
St Richard’s RC Primary School