



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

## **WELCOME TO THE SUMMER TERM**

A very warm welcome everyone to our first ever 'remote' Summer term. I hope that everyone is safe and well and that you enjoyed a restful Easter break, albeit in very different times. I wanted to take this opportunity to say what an amazing job all our parents and carers are doing in supporting your child(ren)'s wellbeing and learning during this time. I also wanted to thank all our fantastic school staff for the great job they are all doing in keeping the school open and running for those very few children who still need to be here. We do not know when schools will be back to normal. The Government have stated that they will only fully re-open schools when the scientific advice indicates that it is safe to do so. Remember, if you need any support from school, please let us know by emailing [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

You are welcome to share any questions or concerns using the above email address 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.

## **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 particularly good time to do this). We will continue to use ParentMail texts as well as the 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/)

## **SAINT GEORGE'S DAY**

Today (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April) is Saint George's Day. St George was martyred in the middle east around 303AD. St George was chosen as England's patron saint in 1350, by King Edward III. St George was and is admired for his bravery in the face of terrible suffering. He remains an example to us all.



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

The Home Learning pages of our school website have been updated 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. A further two-week's worth of work will then be available from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Please also see below for links to new, Government approved additional online learning resources.

## **ADDITIONAL (GOVERNMENT APPROVED) ONLINE RESOURCES**

The [Oak National Academy](http://www.thenational.academy) launched on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. This new website has been created by teachers from schools across England, backed by government funding. This online learning resource provides 180 video lessons each week, across a broad range of subjects for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. The link is: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

In addition, there is a GOV.UK list of [high quality resources](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education) to help parents to provide remote education. The link is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

The Government also published [new guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19) on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 for parents on how best to support their child's education and development during this extended period of school closure. The link is:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The BBC has also launched its own [education package](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) across TV and online, featuring celebrities and teachers – helping to keep children learning and supporting parents. The link is: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

**All of the links mentioned here are also available on your child's year group page on the Home Learning section of our school website.**

## **SECURING A RECEPTION PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD**

Parents of children due to start in Reception at St Richard's in September 2020 have been informed and have been asked by the local authority admissions team to contact our school directly in order to accept a place. If you have not already done this, then please phone us on 0161 224 5552 as soon as possible and certainly by the closing date of **30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.

## **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 is able to provide eligible families with a weekly supermarket shopping voucher worth £15 per child. 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.

There have been significant teething problems with this scheme on a national level. At St Richard's we have input all the required information on time so that vouchers should be available. Rest assured, we will do all that we can to ensure that vouchers are available as soon as possible for all our eligible children. We ask you to remain patient. There is a 5 page FAQ document about the scheme at:

[https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE\\_FreeSchoolMeal\\_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf](https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeal_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf)

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

Since the national scheme was introduced, the Manchester Welfare Scheme is no longer available for families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. The council will continue where it can to support households with no existing entitlement to free school meals that may be experiencing severe hardship. Residents who have become unemployed or experienced a substantial fall in income due to Covid19 are strongly advised to claim Universal Credit and Council Tax Support or seek other available financial support from the Government. See the Council's Coronavirus - [Benefits and money webpage](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500361/coronavirus/7928/coronavirus/4) for more advice. The link is: <https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500361/coronavirus/7928/coronavirus/4>

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

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/posted to school) for parents who are key workers in critical sectors is available at [www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](http://www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

## **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

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray  
Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School