



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## **POSSIBLE REOPENING OF SCHOOL TO MORE PUPILS**

You will have seen in the news that schools may reopen from June at the earliest to pupils from certain year groups if the government thinks it's safe then. We are currently waiting for further guidance and clarification from the government and local authority, which will hopefully help us plan for our phased re-opening. We will share information with you as soon as possible so that you know what the school's gradual re-opening will look like.

It's a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive more pupils in the coming weeks as long as it is safe for St Richard's to do so.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. We are not in a position to extend places to other children until we receive further guidance and until we have created our own robust plans.

We would like to thank you for your continuing support in helping your child learn from home. We will need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please continue to access the Home Learning pages of the school website.

## **WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE**

The Wednesday Word team have taken the generous decision to support families during lockdown with **free** online editions of the Wednesday Word. These are now available every Wednesday by visiting [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org), clicking "Schools please click here for the Primary School version" and then following the link. The Wednesday Word this week is **HELPER**.

## **MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY**

May is a special month of devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. This May, we can set extra time aside in order to look up to Mary as the perfect model to imitate and as a powerful helper to assist us in this time of need. In the Catholic tradition, we pray to Mary to intercede for us with her Son, we do not worship Mary. This month, we can ask Jesus to grant us a small amount of the heroic patience, angelic kindness and heavenly wisdom which Our Mother Mary demonstrates in such gracious abundance.

## **GOVERNMENT HANDWASHING ADVICE**

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

## **OFFER FROM MCS STORES SCHOOLWEAR**

One of the school uniform suppliers which many of our parents use (MCS Stores Schoolwear) are taking orders for school wear and offering a free delivery service for spends over £25. If you are interested, please email [mcsuniform@gmail.com](mailto:mcsuniform@gmail.com) and one of MCS school wear's consultants will be in touch. More details are available at: <https://www.facebook.com/356534794479465/posts/1945354732264122/>

## **ONLINE RESOURCES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Both our school's and additional (government approved) online resources continue to be available on the Home Learning Pages of our website (accessible through the home page) for each year group. The school's own resources (planned by each year group's teachers) will continue to be updated on a fortnightly basis for the foreseeable future. New fortnightly plans will be in place for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May for all year groups.

## **STAYING IN TOUCH AND INFORMED WHILE WE ARE CLOSED**

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. 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/)

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

The Department for Education (DfE) has put in place 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.

Unfortunately, significant problems with this scheme continue across the country. At St Richard's, we have input all the required information on time so that vouchers ought to 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. If you have not received your free school meal voucher code from the Government, firstly open your email and check your spam/junk folder, and if you still have not received it or are experiencing problems please email [freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com) for support.

There is also a 5 page FAQ document about the scheme at: [https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE\\_FreeSchoolMeals\\_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf](https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf)

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

Since the national scheme described above was introduced, the Manchester Welfare Scheme no longer operates 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](#) for more advice. The link is: <https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500361/coronavirus/7928/coronavirus/4>

## **FREE PARENTAL SUPPORT HELPLINE**

The One Educational Psychologists team have created a new daily helpline for parent / carers across Manchester who may require support talking about coronavirus which is FREE. 0161 276 0115 (Monday to Friday 09.00 -12.00)

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School