



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 21st May 2020

POSSIBLE REOPENING OF SCHOOL TO MORE PUPILS

We continue to plan for the careful and phased re-opening of St Richard's. School will not be opening for more pupils on 1st June 2020 because we will be closed that week to all pupils for our half-term holiday.

We are currently doing everything we can to make sure that we can receive more pupils after the half-term break - as long as it is safe to do so. These plans will be shared with parents as soon as possible. We would like to thank you for your patience and continuing support in helping your child learn from home.

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The Wednesday Word team continue to support families during lockdown with **free** online editions of the Wednesday Word. These are available every Wednesday by visiting www.wednesdayword.org, clicking "Schools please click here for the Primary School version" and then following the link. The Wednesday Word this week is a bumper three-week edition, in recognition of the Whitsuntide holiday.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven, 40 days after his resurrection. Lord, as we contemplate your ascension back to the Father, help us to understand that you never left us, your spirit is still with us. May we take comfort and strength from your last words to the disciples at the end of Matthew's Gospel, "I am with you always, to the end of time."

LAUDATO SI' RESOURCES

From Saturday 16th May 2020 to Friday 24th May 2020, Catholics across the world will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the publishing of '*Laudato Si': Care for our Common home.*' The CES have produced resources to help us celebrate at home: <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/laudato-si-resources>

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 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 until further notice.

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)

NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY 2020



Yesterday was national 'Thank a Teacher Day'. We celebrate teachers across the country every year on National Thank a Teacher Day. On behalf of the whole community of St Richard's, I wish to say a huge "thank you" not only to our teachers, but also our senior leaders, teaching assistants, and all our support staff for their amazing work, not only in these challenging times but all year round.

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. 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) 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/

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

Please note there will be no Free School Meal vouchers issued for the week commencing Monday 25th May 2020. The Department for Education are not providing vouchers as it is Manchester City Council's official half-term. You will be notified when and if the vouchers will continue.

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>

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher

St Richard's RC Primary School