



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 7th May 2020

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

As mentioned last week, 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, clicking "Schools please click here for the Primary School version" and then following the link. The Wednesday Word this week is **TRUST**.

75th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

Tomorrow, Friday 8th May, is the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Whilst the lockdown will affect many of the planned events here and abroad, we can still use the occasion to pray for future peace, as well as to give thanks for the sacrifice which was offered by so many:



Dear God our Father, let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe 75 years ago, and for the good example they have given us.

We pray for nations still devastated by war and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace.

We pray for all young people and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served.

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 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 the school's and additional (government approved) online resources continue to be available on the Home Learning Pages of the 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.

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

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.

Nationally, significant teething problems with this scheme continue unfortunately. 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 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

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