



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

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

## **MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE**

This is the last newsletter of an academic year the like of which none of us could have predicted. As I write, my overwhelming feeling is one of thankfulness for all the help and support that has been so much in evidence in our amazing school community since late March 2020. I want to thank all our governors, senior leaders, teachers and support staff for their energetic dedication to St Richard's in very challenging circumstances.

I also want to thank all our parents and carers for their resilience and perseverance in meeting the demands of home learning and having children at home for such an unexpectedly protracted period.

Finally, I want to thank all our amazing children – whether they have been in school or not since 'lockdown' – and say a massive "Thank you!" for all your patience and to assure you all that we are looking forward to having you all back in school in September 2020. On behalf of the whole staff I want to wish our Year 6 pupils all the very best in their new high schools in September. They leave with our prayers and our very best wishes for the future.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

Loving Father,

We come to the end of a school year like no other.

We thank you for your love, protection and guidance.

Bless our school and all who work here.

Bless those who are leaving us, all our Year 6 pupils and pupils from any other year groups as well as Miss Bradbury, Miss Sandwell and, for the time being, Mrs Bentley.

May they all find happiness in the next stage of their journey.

Bless those who we will spend time with over the break and help us to appreciate what they truly mean to us.

Keep us all safe over the break and help us to follow our heads and hearts to avoid situations we feel may not be right.

Inspire us to use the opportunities presented by the break to grow, to visit the wells that will nourish us and to encounter you in the beauty of nature and in the depth of family love and friendship. We make this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord, our friend and saviour. Amen

## **WE BREAK UP FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS TOMORROW**

St Richard's will close to all pupils (including vulnerable children and children of key workers) tomorrow, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July for the Summer holidays. **This will be a non-uniform day in school.** School will re-open to pupils from Reception to Year 6 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Different arrangements apply to our new Nursery children's staggered start and parents will be notified of these as soon as possible, in a letter through the post.

## **FULL REOPENING OF SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2020**

We will provide the most up to date information on how school will re-open in September 2020 in two ways:

1. In the envelope with your child's annual school report there will also be information about which class teacher your child will be with next academic year as well as which room, which building and which gate they must enter and exit school from.
2. On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July we will place two new documents on the home page of the school website. These are the Risk Assessment for Whole School Reopening September 2020 and Whole School Reopening Procedures September 2020.

It will be vital that all parents read both new documents before children return to school in September. It will also be important that parents and carers continue to access the home page of the school website periodically over the summer holidays just in case we need to deliver urgent, updated or more detailed information. There will be no weekly newsletter over the summer break and no monitoring of emails.

## **PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH A NAMED WATER BOTTLE**

From September 2020 onwards, each child in school must bring in their own name-labelled (Sharpie pen would do it) water bottle to drink from in class. This is in order to limit the chance of the spread of the virus.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

As a consequence of the many other considerations and adaptations we are making at St Richard's in order for it to be safe for all adults and staff to return in September 2020, **we are suspending our Breakfast Club until further notice.** We have no idea how long this suspension will be in place for and therefore we advise parents to seek alternative before-school care provision for the foreseeable future.

## **DROP OFF AND PICK UP FROM SEPTEMBER**

In order to reduce congestion around school from September 2020 onwards, we are asking that only one parent/carer drops off and collects their child(ren) from the relevant school gate. You may wish to encourage your older KS2 children to walk to/from school by themselves. Families and pupils that have no alternative but to use wider public transport are asked to read the Government's guidance on [safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

## **THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2020, 'SILLY SQUAD'**

The annual Summer Reading Challenge has launched early this year. It is aimed at children aged 4-11 and will run over the summer until early September. The challenge is very different as it will not involve a library visit or reading books from the local library. Children join online at [www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk) and can read any books (from home, from school, e-books etc). There is no minimum number of books to read (previously it was 6). Manchester Libraries will be offering daily online content Monday to Friday from 1<sup>st</sup> July. This includes a weekly 'Draw with Me' with Nick Sharratt, craft sessions, poetry and storytelling. There will also be a Book Review competition.

## **RETURNING READING BOOKS TO SCHOOL**

At the start of lockdown, we issued two reading books to almost every child at St Richard's (that's almost a thousand reading books). When children return to school in September we would like children to bring this reading stock back to school with them. For children who will not be returning to St Richard's (eg – Year 6 leavers) we would also like these books to be returned. This can be in person for Y6 currently attending or via younger siblings in September if this is an option. If neither option is available, we would still like books to be brought back either in person by a parent or posted to school as soon as possible. Many thanks in advance.

## **FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER 2020**

At St Richard's RC Primary School, children will be expected to dress neatly and in uniform at all times from September 2020 onwards. Uniforms will not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. We thank all parents and carers in advance for their invaluable support in ensuring that our school uniform policy will always be strictly adhered to. Uniform is available to purchase from MCS Stores in Didsbury or Barbara's Uniforms on Longsight market. MCS now has an online ordering facility. Go to [www.mcsstores.co.uk/shop-by-school/?school=st-richards-rc-primary-school](http://www.mcsstores.co.uk/shop-by-school/?school=st-richards-rc-primary-school) and use Coupon: Early10 for a 10% discount on some items.

Our current School Uniform policy (September 2019 onwards) is available on our website at <http://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/key-information/policies/>

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

Home Learning Plans produced by our teachers for every year group from Nursery to Year 6 for Week 13 and Week 14 are currently available on the Home Learning section of the school website. Please remember that you can supplement these plans with all the other resources sign-posted on our website such as Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize. Our accumulated 'back catalogue' of bespoke St Richard's fortnightly Home Learning Plans will remain available on the website over the Summer holidays for catch-up or revisiting.

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School