



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 2nd July 2020

WE BREAK UP FOR THE SUMMER ON FRIDAY 17th JULY

The Secretary of State for Education confirmed yesterday that the Government are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. I can therefore confirm that St Richard's will close to **all pupils** on Friday 17th July and will not re-open to pupils until Tuesday 1st September 2020 at the earliest.

YOUR CHILD'S ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

Before we break up on Friday 17th July, you should receive an annual school report (in an envelope, through the post) which details your child's effort and progress in relation to the subjects that they studied - as well as comments on their general progress and behaviour - from September 2019 until we closed the school due to the pandemic. We also intend providing the most up to date and detailed information on how school will re-open in September 2020 in the envelope too. For this reason, it may arrive quite close to (or even soon after) Friday 17th July. It will be vitally 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 even more updated information this way.

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The Wednesday Word team continue to support families with **free** online editions of the Wednesday Word. These are available every Wednesday by visiting www.wednesdayword.org and then following the link. The Wednesday Word this week is **COMPANION**.

RE-OPENING OF SCHOOL TO MORE PUPILS

We now have some pupils from Reception, Year One and Year Six in school, alongside children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. No other year groups (including Nursery) will be able to return to St Richard's until after the Summer holidays. You will not be pressured to send your child back to school this term and the government has said that there will be no fines issued to parents of children not attending school during the period of school closure in this academic year.

The Government has yet to send any detailed guidance to schools about next academic year, which is due to start in September. You may have seen headlines about the Government's commitment that all school children in all year groups will return to school in September 2020. Events in Leicester this week have shown that things may not be that straightforward. Rest assured that we will communicate our plans for September as soon as we can, following the issuing of more detailed guidance from the Government.

Any more Y6, Y1 and Reception children will only be allowed to attend St Richard's if parents have informed us in advance via email or phone (the weekly closing date is 3pm on the Wednesday before the Monday that children are due to return). Please DO NOT bring your child to school unless you have received confirmation from school following your application.

Details of how parents can make this application are contained in **Headteacher's letter on the wider re-opening of St Richard's school - 29th May 2020**, a link to which is on the homepage of the school website.

A link to our **detailed risk assessment for the wider reopening of St Richard's** can also be found on the home page of our website at www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk. Please read this very carefully in advance of your child's return. Please also read the **Revised School Procedures**. All three documents contain essential information. By sending your child back to school you are agreeing to abide by all the conditions and rules contained in these three documents.

ST RICHARD'S CHURCH TO REMAIN CLOSED

Father Dever has asked me to let all our parents and carers know that St Richard's Church remains closed for the time being. St Mary's RC Church in Levenshulme is open for private prayer three times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) from 9.30am until 11am. Neither church will be resuming the celebration of public Mass from 4th July. As Father Dever states, *'It is important for all of us to realise that there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass in these very difficult times. The time will come, hopefully soon, when we can once again celebrate the Eucharist together in our churches. We have come a long way in our journey through the crisis but our guiding thought must always be the safety of others and ourselves.'*

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 continue to 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/

CONFIRMATION FOR OUR CURRENT YEAR 6 PUPILS

A message from Fr Michael Deas (Assistant priest St Catherine's, Didsbury and St Ambrose, Chorlton):

The Diocese of Salford has changed the age at which children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to when they are in Year 8. So your child is due to be Confirmed in Easter 2022. Confirmation is the next sacramental milestone after First Holy Communion, when a person 'confirms' their faith and is strengthened by the Holy Spirit. All the preparation for this Sacrament will be organised on a local deanery level, or in your local parish. At this time, we are just contacting you to make you aware and so that you can register your interest. So, if you and your child are interested in taking part in the preparation and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please fill out and submit the attached Google Form and your parish priest will contact you with more information in the future.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNmxelw4nYSOmOCF40vCpR-6q_OuzoKoxliHoMsBeUla0EeA/viewform

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 (Monday 29th June until Friday 10th July) are currently available on the Home Learning section of the school website. We break up for the Summer holidays on Friday 17th July. Therefore, these most recent plans will be the last ones which teachers from St Richard's produce this academic year. 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