



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 9th July 2020

WE BREAK UP FOR THE SUMMER ON FRIDAY 17th JULY

St Richard's will close to all pupils (including vulnerable children and children of key workers) on **Friday 17th July** for the Summer holidays. School will re-open to pupils from Reception to Year 6 on **Thursday 3rd 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.

RE-OPENING TO MORE PUPILS BEFORE WE BREAK UP

The deadline to apply for pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Six to attend school next week (our final week in school) has now been passed and so no more pupils will be admitted to school next week into these year groups. Key worker parents and parents of vulnerable children may still apply for a place in that provision by using the application form on the homepage of the school website (<https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/>)

FULL REOPENING OF SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2020

We are currently ordering equipment, finalising plans, reviewing risk assessments and re-writing procedures in order to be able to fully reopen St Richard's RC Primary School to all pupils on Thursday 3rd September 2020. We have missed you all and we are really looking forward to being reunited as the happy, vibrant and successful school community which we have always been.

We intend to provide the most up to date information on how school will re-open in September 2020 in the envelope with your child's annual school report. This will be posted out to you. It may arrive quite close to (or even soon after) Friday 17th July. In the envelope 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.

It will 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 updated or more detailed information. There will be no weekly newsletter over the summer break and no monitoring of emails.

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 for the time being. 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.'*

STREAMED LEAVERS' MASS

Whilst we can't all be physically united, there is an opportunity to be spiritually united tomorrow morning at 11am. This is when a streamed Leavers' Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John, live from the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, Salford. Our whole school community: governors, staff, children and parents are invited to join this live-streamed mass from the cathedral. The mass is intended to touch all members of the school community and to give thanks for what has been a very difficult and challenging school year. The mass will be live-streamed by the cathedral's live-streaming service, and the web-link is <https://www.churchservices.tv/>. It can be viewed in any web browser from any computer.

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 **LISTENING**.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO SOME SCHOOL STAFF

We say a fond farewell and a huge thank-you to Miss Bradbury, who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Her contributions to the life of St Richard's have been substantial in her 9 years of service and she will be greatly missed. Miss Sandwell also leaves us at the end of the academic year in order to pursue a career in teaching and we wish her all the best for the future. Mrs Bentley is now on maternity leave and we wish her all the best on the imminent arrival of her baby.

Avid and ardent readers of the newsletter will recall that Miss Wallace got married last year. From September 2020 onwards, Miss Wallace will be using her married name of Mrs Edelman.

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 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 1st 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.

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.

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

The government is encouraging all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. 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. 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 (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