



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020



Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>  
September 2020

## **WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!**

Well done to all our parents and carers who have done such a marvellous job of coping with lock-down and home-learning and the many other challenges presented by COVID-19 since last March. Well done too for getting the children back to school last week. Almost all our pupils returned last Thursday and Friday (Nursery children began a staggered intake this week). The children have been exceptionally well-behaved and have listened carefully and responded very well to the many extra safety requirements in school. All the staff have been delighted to be reunited with the pupil population of St Richard's and we will strive relentlessly to ensure that the children in our care continue to receive a truly outstanding education which is as safe as it can be.

Please be fully assured that at St Richard's we are following full safety guidance from the government and have a robust risk assessment (which has been approved by our Governors and Manchester local authority) in place. There is no need for children to bring their own hand sanitiser gel to school as we have over 40 dispensers in school - including one in every classroom. Pupils are encouraged to use these throughout the day.

## **FREE PRIZE DRAW TO WIN A BRAND NEW LAPTOP!**

In order to help us plan and deliver the right kind of home learning in the event of a lockdown or pupil self-isolation, we would like to know whether our pupils have access to a computer or tablet at home, along with a reliable internet connection. Please [click here](#) in order to complete and submit the very short questionnaire by 4pm on Thursday 17th September. One lucky respondent will be selected at random and will receive a brand new laptop as a prize. If you have more than one child at the school, please complete a separate form for each child.

## **KEEP CHECKING THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Our risk assessment and whole school reopening procedures are available to read on the home page of the school website at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/>. Please read both documents carefully as they contain important and useful information about how St Richard's is currently operating.

## **NO PARENTS/CARERS ON SITE AT THE MOMENT**

At the moment, parents and carers are not allowed on the school site. This is in order to minimize mixing and therefore prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is therefore vital that parents wait outside school as safely and as socially distanced as possible.

Please ensure that only one parent or carer per household comes to school to pick up your child. Parents/carers should consider wearing a mask whilst they wait. A distance of one metre plus (ideally two metres) should be observed at all times.

## **STAYING IN TOUCH AND INFORMED**

It is vitally important that parents receive and read the newsletter every week. It can be accessed on the school's website every Thursday afternoon. If you wish to receive the newsletter directly every week by email, then simply send:

1. Your full name
2. Name(s) and class(es) of your child(ren) at our school
3. Preferred email address
4. The message 'I consent to school using my email address in order to send me a copy of the newsletter each week of term'.

to [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk) and you will be added to the mailing list.

## **RESPONDING TO THE NEWSLETTER**

We are always happy to receive comments, observations or suggestions about the newsletter or any aspect of school life in general. Any such comments will be read and considered. These can be emailed to: [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Many thanks for your wonderful efforts in sending your child(ren) to school in such smart uniform. May I remind parents that no earrings (or any other jewellery) can be worn by pupils. Girls may wear smart school trousers, grey or black tights (white with summer uniform) or grey, black or white socks. However, leggings or footless tights are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn. No make-up or nail varnish is allowed. Smart black school shoes and school ties are required.

## **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](http://www.wednesdayword.org), clicking "Schools please enter here for the Primary School version" and then following the link. This Wednesday's Word is **FORGIVENESS**.

## **PRAYER OF ST RICHARD**

Our school prayer is re-printed below in the hope that you may occasionally wish to pray this prayer at home as a family:

*Thanks be to Thee my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits that You have given me, for all the pains and insults that You have borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may I know You more clearly, love You more dearly and follow You more nearly, day by day.*

## **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FOR THE TIME BEING**

Until further notice, our before-school breakfast club has been suspended. No after-school clubs will run until further notice either. We are hopeful that swimming for Year 3 pupils will commence before Christmas. Parents will receive a separate letter when this is the case.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF PUNCTUALITY**

At the start of each school day it is vitally important that all our pupils arrive on time. There is still a generous window of opportunity at St Richard's - between 8.30am and 8.58am. Punctuality is essential as it sets the tone for the whole day, reduces pupil anxiety and maximises learning opportunities. At the end of the day we always expect **parental punctuality** - picking your child(ren) up on time. During the pandemic, pupils who are not picked up on time will have to wait outside to be picked up. We will keep a record of any parents who are persistently late in picking up after school. We reserve the right to charge parents for the cost of the additional child-care which this inconvenience and lack of punctuality inevitably incurs.

## **FREDDIE BENTLEY**

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Bentley gave birth to a baby boy - Freddie Noah Bentley - on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## **A WARM WELCOME TO MISS MORRIS**

We offer a very warm welcome to Miss Morris who will be teaching Class 10 (Year 5) this year. Despite the restrictions and unusual circumstances of the pandemic I am sure you will help to make Miss Morris feel welcome whenever you are able.

## **SCHOOL PAYMENTS ARE TO MOVE ONLINE**

As a result of the pandemic (cash handling can help the virus to spread) we will be moving to an online cashless payment system at St Richard's for all payments (school meals, milk and school trips etc). This will take place after October half-term 2020 and a more detailed letter will follow. This is advance notice that - if you need to make payments to school after October half-term you will have to have a bank account as we will not be accepting cash after Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

*Mr J Murray*

Headteacher

St Richard's RC Primary School