



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020



Thursday 24th
September
2020

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE AT ST RICHARD'S

Whenever we have information of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school then all other pupils and staff in the same class bubble will always be informed as soon as possible. We will also use this section of the newsletter to keep the rest of the school community updated, on a weekly basis. On Monday 21st September our Class 2 bubble was sent home until Wednesday 30th September, following a confirmed case. We know that this length of self-isolation is frustrating and inconvenient but it is an essential way to help control the spread of COVID-19. There are other things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- **Not mixing households** Longsight and North Levenshulme currently have one of the highest COVID-19 transmission rates in Greater Manchester as a result of households mixing- (according to the Manchester Evening News)
- **wash your hands** with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds and as soon as you get home
- **use hand sanitiser gel** if soap and water are not available
- **cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. Use a face mask when required.
- **maintain an appropriate social distance** with non-household members of over 2 metres whenever possible.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT IF YOUR CHILD'S BUBBLE IS SENT HOME OR ISOLATING DUE TO COVID-19

If your child is self-isolating and is entitled to a benefits based free school meal (not Universal Infant Free School Meal) you will be able to collect, should you wish, a packed lunch from school. This must be collected at 11am each day. If you fail to collect a meal then no further meals will be prepared for your child during that period of self-isolation without notification in advance. Please advise school on the first day of your child's isolation if you will require a free packed lunch each day.

TOM DALY RIP

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Tom Daly. Tom was a faithful and dedicated friend of St Richard's for over 30 years and was an expert on all areas of the school building and infrastructure. He was a lovely man who always put the needs of the children of St Richard's first in all his work. He will be sadly missed. Please remember Tom and his family in your prayers.

FREE PRIZE DRAW LAPTOP WINNER

Well done Hezekiah for being the winner of the free prize draw which was linked to our questionnaire. Thank you to everyone who participated. The information that we have gained will be tremendously helpful to us in designing and providing the best possible home learning solution for all the pupils of St Richard's in case we ever have to self-isolate or lockdown in the future.

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 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

NO PARENTS/CARERS ON SITE AT THE MOMENT

At the moment, parents and carers are not routinely 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.

BE CAREFUL ON PATHS AND PAVEMENTS AROUND SCHOOL

Some of the pavements and pathways around the school perimeter are in need of repair. Please be extra vigilant and careful when you are dropping off and picking up your child(ren).

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, clicking "Schools please enter here for the Primary School version" and then following the link. This Wednesday's Word is **CHANGE**.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK STAFF AT THE GATE TO PASS ON ITEMS

Please help your child to ensure they bring everything they need to school every day. Parents must not ask staff on the gates in the morning to be couriers of items to classes. This is a potential bubble-breaking way of COVID-19 spreading and so I have instructed staff to decline these requests.

NO PARENTS ARE TO PARK IN THE STAFF CAR PARK

Since last week our Year 2 pupils have been dismissed at the end of the day from the church car park. This is to improve social distancing on Sutcliffe Avenue. Under no circumstances should any parent attempt to drive into this car park whilst it is filled with parents and children. If this happens, we will have to stop using this facility.

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Parents of pupils who are currently in Year 6 must apply for a secondary school place by the closing date of 5pm on Monday 2nd November 2020. The application portal opened on 1st July 2020 at https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en Information about secondary school open mornings and evenings is available at www.manchester.gov.uk/schools

APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The application round for Reception 2021 opened 17th August 2020. The closing date for Reception 2021 school applications is 5pm on Friday 15 January 2021. The application portal opened on 1st July 2020 at https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en. You can change your application up to the closing date, but not after. You must apply on time to be considered for your preferred schools.

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 23rd October 2020.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School