



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 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. **There have been no further confirmed cases and no classes sent home from St Richard's since last week's newsletter.** There are many things that 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.

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. The application portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at [https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en) Information about secondary school open mornings and evenings is available at [www.manchester.gov.uk/schools](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/schools)

## **ST PETER'S RC HIGH SCHOOL GUIDED TOURS**

All our Year 6 parents ought to have received a letter with details of the open morning guided tours which our feeder Catholic secondary school, St Peter's RC High School, will be running from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. This is a great opportunity for parents to see St Peter's in action, get details of the admissions process and see St Peter's students happy and engaged in their studies. Thank you for continuing to support St Peter's RC High School.

## **APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**

The application round for Reception 2021 opened on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The closing date for Reception 2021 school applications is 5pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The application portal is at: [https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](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. **Having a Nursery place at St Richard's in no way guarantees a place in our Reception class. Please apply on time.**

## **MR NORTH'S Y6 EVOLUTION WORKSHOPS**

Dennis in Class 13 writes, *'This year Mr North's workshop was about adaptations and how animals evolve over millions of years to adapt to their habitat. We learned about things such as camouflage and mimicry and we all really enjoyed it.'*

## **WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE**

The Wednesday Word team continues 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 **MESSENGER**.

## **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)

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AUTUMN 2020**

Many children (mainly now in Year 4) missed out on the opportunity to make their First Holy Communion in summer 2020, as a consequence of school lockdowns and church closures. Tomorrow, all those affected should be bringing home a letter containing plans for how we intend for these children to be able to make their First Holy Communion in late October and November 2020. Please ensure that you read and return the reply slip on this letter by **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**.

## **OUR HOME LEARNING POLICY OCTOBER 2020 ONWARDS**

It is vital that children at St Richard's continue to make excellent progress in their learning in the event of the need to self-isolate or if we were closed to most pupils in the event of any future lockdown. We have therefore published updated home-learning resources on our website this week. We are recommending a **minimum of two hours** of good-quality home learning per pupil per day whilst children are not in school.

Our COVID-19 Home Learning Policy is available here: <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Home-Learning-Policy-October-2020.pdf>

The main points are:

**Internet-based home learning for self-isolation or lockdown:** St Richard's will be using the Education City platform to allow our teachers to set, monitor and mark tasks on a daily basis for pupils in their class. Children have been shown how to access these resources.

### **Internet-based home learning for a child exhibiting**

**symptoms:** Individual children who are sent home with symptoms of COVID-19 and who subsequently test positive may still be well enough to learn from home during their period of self-isolation. In this case, they should complete the self-isolation paper booklet given to them by their teacher and use the online resources from Oak National Academy and the BBC's Bitesize education package (links are on our Home Learning page).

**Self-isolation paper-based home learning:** In the case of a class bubble having to self-isolate, the class teacher will distribute a paper booklet with a sufficient amount of work to last for 10 school days. We are asking parents to support, mark and comment on their child(ren)'s work, and ensure that the work is returned to school as soon as their child(ren)'s self-isolation period ends.

**Lockdown paper-based home learning:** If we go into a whole-school lockdown, children will bring home published CGP books with a greater quantity of work than the self-isolation booklet. There are answers at the back of most CGP books, as well as a comments sheet at the front. We are asking parents to use both to monitor their child(ren)'s efforts. House points will be awarded for returned work.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH: 'FROM ATLANTA GEORGIA TO LONGSIGHT, MANCHESTER'**

Black History Month begins today. Originally observed in the USA, it began as a way to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It was first celebrated in the United Kingdom in 1987. At school we will be learning about the contributions made by significant black men and women from Britain and around the world in the week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Our specific focus will be the influences that black composers and singer-songwriters have had on the story of modern music, from classical to popular.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

*Mr J Murray*

Headteacher

St Richard's RC Primary School