



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 22nd
October 2020

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE AT ST RICHARD'S

Earlier this week we closed Reception 1 Bubble for two days as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19. We thank all our parents for their cooperation and understanding. Thankfully, **there were no positive cases in R1** and it means that R1 pupils should return to school today and tomorrow.

On Tuesday evening this week, the Government announced that Manchester's COVID alert level will move to 'very high'. This means new measures will come into effect from midnight today, Thursday 22nd October. These measures include a **ban on households mixing** - both indoors and outdoors. You must not meet with people outside of your household or support bubble in a private garden or in most outdoor public venues.

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. Along with no household mixing and the recommended hand-washing and hygiene measures, **please keep two metres apart at the school gates**. We have a new sign on Norton Avenue with these words on it. Despite the challenges involved, it is very important that we all give each other as much space as possible during drop-off and pick-up in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

OCTOBER HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

Thank you all (pupils, parents and staff) for your help and cooperation this term. It has been great to see everyone working together to become familiar with the new way things are being done in and around the school, and to see the children enjoying the benefits of being with friends and being back in education. We break up tomorrow (Friday 23rd October) for our Autumn half-term break. School reopens at 8.30am on Monday 2nd November. Please have a safe and restful break everyone.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

This evening at 6pm is the first of four masses at St Richard's RC Church which will see children mainly in Y4 (who missed out due to the pandemic) receive the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. Please remember all these children in your prayers.

REMINDER: STAFF INSET DAYS AFTER HALF-TERM

St Richard's will be closed to all pupils on Friday 20th November and Monday 23rd November 2020. These are allocated INSET days for staff professional development and no pupils should come to school on these days.

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 on 17th August 2020. The closing date for Reception 2021 school applications is 5pm on Friday 15th January 2021. The application portal is 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. **Having a Nursery place at St Richard's in no way guarantees a place in our Reception class. Please apply on time.**

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The Wednesday Word team continues to support families with free online editions of the Wednesday Word. These are available every Wednesday (including over half-term holidays) 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 **LOVE**.

FLU VACCINATIONS HAVE BEEN RE-ARRANGED

These were unfortunately postponed due to staffing challenges at IntraHealth. Pupil flu vaccinations at St Richard's have been rearranged for Tuesday 3rd November.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY PROJECT IN YEAR ONE

Ethan in Class 2 writes, 'Today, Amanda Morrow came to Class Two. We made playground structures. We used straws, pipe cleaners and card to make swings, seesaws and slides. I made a swing. I had lots of fun.'

WE ARE GOING CASHLESS AFTER HALF-TERM

All parents have been sent a text about St Richard's going cashless after the October half-term holidays (from Monday 2nd November). All children who did not already have a SIMS Pay account were sent an invitation code via their teacher over the last month. If you haven't already done so, please use the code to register for SIMS Pay by visiting www.sims-pay.co.uk

SIMS Pay must now be used to make all payments to school with the exception of ties, book bags and PE bags. If you are having any problems registering or using your account, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

TOM DALY RIP

Tom Daly was laid to rest on Wednesday 14th October. Please continue to remember Tom and his family in your prayers. We will be creating a permanent memorial to Tom in the form of a plaque in school – a place that he dedicated much of his working life, energy and expertise to.

SMISHING

As reported in St Peter's RC High's newsletter earlier this month, 'Smishing' is when criminals steal money or an identity (or both) as a result of a response to a text message. Smishing manipulates innocent people and leads to fraud. If you have been a victim of smishing, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 20 40 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk

NO CROSSING PATROLLER FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS

We have been informed that there will be no crossing patroller outside Crowcroft Park school for the next few weeks or so. Please exercise additional caution when crossing the roads around school.

NO IN-SCHOOL PARENTS' EVENING AFTER HALF-TERM

There will be no face-to-face Autumn term 2020 Parents' Evening in school due to COVID-19. Instead, in the week of 9th November, parents will receive (through the post) a short written report detailing how your child has settled in to their new class. The envelope may include other important information so please take the time to read it all carefully.

NO CHRISTMAS CONCERTS IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR

We have taken the sad decision not to have Christmas concerts and performances in school this year. This is unfortunate but necessary during a time of pandemic when we are seeking to minimise mixing in order to halt the spread of COVID-19.

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 all or most of our 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>

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher

St Richard's RC Primary School