



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## **COVID 19 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL**

Reception 2 Class continue to self-isolate following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in their bubble last week. They will return to school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Since this, we have had no further bubble closures as a result of COVID-19 in school.

## **NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE IN FORCE**

[New national restrictions](#) came into force on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November for 4 weeks (until Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December) as a result of rapidly rising COVID-19 cases nationally. **Schools (including ours) remain open.** It is very important for children to continue to attend St Richard's, in order to support their wellbeing and educational progress. Senior clinicians advise that school is the best place for children to be. At St Richard's we have a wide range of protective measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

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 sign on Norton Avenue with these very 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 times in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## **REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER**

Yesterday was Armistice Day and we observed 2 minutes' silence in school at 11am in order to remember all those who gave their lives and all who have been victims of war. Teachers reported how well observed and respectful these acts of remembrance were. Well done and thank-you everyone.

## **TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS (TTRS)**

Until this coming Saturday (14th November) schools across the country are competing on TTRS to correctly answer the most multiplication questions. Only questions answered correctly between 7.30am - 7.30pm by the children will count. Children can gain points for our school by playing any of the games on the TTRS website. The school that answers the most questions correctly will win a £100 Amazon voucher for their school! Please encourage your child to take part.

## **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.

## **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 **TALENT**.

## **REMINDER: STAFF INSET DAYS AFTER HALF- TERM**

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

## **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.

## **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

Due to the inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous driving and parking habits of a tiny minority of our parents and carers, we are inviting MCC Traffic Enforcement Officers to visit school at the end of the school day in order to encourage safe and considerate driving and parking and to deter anything less than this. Many thanks in advance for your continuing cooperation and consideration in keeping all our pupils safe at the start and end of the day on the roads around school.

## **AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM SCHOOL**

This week you ought to have received through the post a short written report detailing how your child has settled in to their new class. We hope that you find this report informative. The envelope also contained a data collection sheet. It is vital that this is completed and that your child returns it to their class teacher by tomorrow, **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**. Please check, amend and sign the form (sign and return even if there are no changes) so that we can update your details on our system. For more information about how we process your data, please visit <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/privacy-policy/>

The envelope also contained a letter about how you (on your child's behalf) could lease to buy a new Chromebook through a scheme that we are setting up at St Richard's with the aim of ensuring that all our pupils have access to online learning at home. If you would like to take part, it is vital that the reply slip to this offer is also completed and that your child returns it to their class teacher by tomorrow **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**.

## **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 any time in the future. We have therefore published updated home-learning resources on our website. 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>

## **BBC BITESIZE DAILY**

BBC Bitesize Daily is currently taking over the CBBC TV channel for an hour every morning from 9am.

There's an hour of dedicated programming for primary school children who are learning from home. The BBC will be showing three 20 minute lessons on CBBC each day:

- 5-7 year olds at 9am
- 7-9 year olds at 9.20am
- 9-11 year olds at 9.40am

The lessons will be useful as part of remote learning provision or as extra support for any children who have to self-isolate. All lessons are also available on the BBC iPlayer.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

*Mr J Murray*

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School