



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Wednesday 18th
November 2020

ST RICHARD'S IS CLOSED THIS FRIDAY AND NEXT MONDAY

St Richard's RC Primary School will be closed to all pupils this Friday (20th November) and on Monday 23rd November 2020. These are allocated INSET days and no pupils should come to school on these days.

COVID 19 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

We were delighted to welcome Reception 2 back to school today. Class 9 are having to self-isolate following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in their bubble this week. They will return to school on Monday 30th November. Since this (and up until this morning) 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 5th November for 4 weeks (until Wednesday 2nd 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.

NO CHRISTMAS CONCERTS IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR

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

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.**

FAMILIES WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

If you are a family with no recourse to public funds but would like to apply for temporary free school meals, then please contact our school office on 0161 224 5552 **in complete confidence** and we will provide you with an application form which you will then be able to send back to us.

TAKE EXTRA CARE WALKING HOME

It has been reported to us that an act of theft took place in Crowcroft Park last night (the police have been informed). Now that darker afternoons and evenings are definitely with us, it is vital that parents and pupils are extra vigilant and careful on the journey home from school for all kinds of reasons – including personal safety. Please take extra care everyone.

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.

Please do not park on the pavements around school – all our parents and children need to use these at arrival and dismissal in order to stay safe and socially distanced. Nobody should be forced to walk in the road because cars are on the footpath.

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

Early last 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. Due to delays in some parents receiving the letter, we extended the closing date until today, **Wednesday 18th November**. 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 **Wednesday 18th 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