



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 26th
November 2020

COVID 19 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

Class 9 continue to self-isolate following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in their bubble early last week. They will return to school on Monday 30th November. Since then, we have had no further bubble closures as a result of COVID-19 at our school.



ADVENT BEGINS ON SUNDAY

This coming Sunday, 29th November, is the first Sunday of Advent. The countdown is about to begin – Christmas is coming. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Now is the time to think especially about, and look forward to, the celebration of Jesus' birth and to his

return in the future. A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this – to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. We all know that Christmas will be different this year. The challenge, in the words of our Bishop of Salford, John Arnold, is 'Can we connect more closely with the simplicity of Christmas and the importance of what God is saying to us in the birth of His son?' This Advent is a great time to try. Good luck everyone.

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, very appropriately, **ADVENT**.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN FORCE

[New national restrictions](#) are currently in force until Wednesday 2nd December 2020, as a result of rapidly rising COVID-19 cases nationally. At the time of writing it seems certain that Greater Manchester will then be placed into a tougher 'tier three' and it will be very important that we all follow the relevant guidance. 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 time in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

CLASS 4 WHEELS AND AXLES

Cian in Class 4 writes, 'Yesterday was really fun because we had a visit from Amanda Morrow. We were making toy cars using cardboard boxes. Everybody was making lots of different cars.'

FANTASTIC NEWS!

We are delighted to announce that, last Sunday, St Richard's appeared in The Sunday Times 2021 Schools Guide, a list of Britain's leading schools. Using SATs results and rankings dating from 2010 up to the most recent data available, this is the most comprehensive resource covering elite primary school performance in the UK.

St Richard's is placed 159th on the list of the top 500 English state primary schools (there are 16,769 primary schools in England) so this puts St Richard's in the top 1% of primary schools nationally. This is a tremendous achievement and a great reflection of the amazing performance of the whole community at St Richard's, going back many years. Well done everyone!

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.

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.

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.

MANCHESTER FOODBANK

HUMANSMCR Foodbank have been in touch with us to say that they would welcome referrals to their service. If you are in need or experiencing food poverty, then please contact school and Mrs Kelly will refer you on. You will need to be happy for HUMANSMCR to contact you but your referral will otherwise be strictly confidential.

MCS STORES SCHOOL UNIFORM SPECIAL OFFER

MCS stores (one of the companies which produces our school uniform) have asked us to communicate that they are holding a Black Friday Event offering 15% off school uniform and work wear, should families need to purchase anything.

More details are available at www.mcsstores.co.uk

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School