



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2020

Thursday 5th
November 2020

COVID 19 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

Today we sent our Reception 2 bubble home to self-isolate following news of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in that class. Pupils and staff from R2 will be returning to school on Wednesday 18th November but must self-isolate until then. A letter with full details will be posted out tonight to all parents of pupils in R2.

NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS COME INTO FORCE TODAY

New national restrictions come into force today (Thursday 5th November) for 4 weeks until Wednesday 2nd December as a result of rapidly rising COVID-19 cases nationally. **Schools (including ours) will 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 still 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 in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE

As a consequence of the new restrictions coming into force today, we are having to postpone the next three First Holy Communion Masses which had been scheduled to take place on 5th November, 12th November and 19th November. When this national lockdown is over and the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted to allow for church services in places of worship again, we will inform you of the new dates for these three First Holy Communion Masses. Thanking you again for your patience, understanding and support during this year's rather unusual Sacramental Programme.

REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER

November is traditionally a month for remembering. On Sunday 1st November we celebrated the Feast of All Saints, when we remember all the triumphant saints in heaven. Monday 2nd November was the Feast of All Souls. On this day we were asked to remember and pray for all who have died. November is also the month of Remembrance Sunday (Sunday 8th November this year) when we remember all those who sacrificed so much in both world wars and in conflicts since then.

TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS (TTRS)

From Monday 9th November to Saturday 14th November schools across the country will be competing on TTRS to correctly answer the most multiplication questions. Only questions answered between 7.30am - 7.30pm correctly by the children will count during these dates. Children can gain points for our school by playing any of the games on the 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.

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 **WISDOM**.

Y5 EGYPTIAN FASHION WITH MR NORTH

Ehiabhi and Isabella in Class 10 said "It was an Egyptian experience like no other, as class 10 were visited by Mr North, who taught us about the fashion and design of the Ancient Egyptians. We created jewellery decorated with Scarab beetles, made mirrors with the eye of Horus and designed ornate collars to wear. It was a great day, enjoyed by all."

TOM DALY RIP

Earlier this week, Tom's wife Mary wrote a lovely card to all the staff, parents and children of St Richard's, it said: 'We would like to thank you all for your kind messages of sympathy, mass cards and generous donations for the charity in Tom's memory. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of support we have received. Today we have sent a total of £1000 to CF Dream Holidays and would not have been able to do that without your help. We know how lucky we are to have had Tom in our lives. Thanks again for all your thoughts and prayers, Mary Daly and family.'

YOU WILL RECEIVE AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM US

There will be no face-to-face Autumn term 2020 Parents' Evening in school due to COVID-19. Instead, next week, parents will receive (through the post) a short written report detailing how your child has settled in to their new class. The envelope will also contain two other forms:

- A data collection sheet. It is vital that this is completed and that your child returns it to their classteacher by Friday 13th 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/>
- A letter about how your child could lease to buy a new Chromebook through a new 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. It is also vital that the reply slip to this offer is completed and that your child returns it to their classteacher by Friday 13th November too.

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

Starting from Monday 2nd November, BBC Bitesize Daily will take 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