



St. Richard's RC Primary Christmas Newsletter 2020



WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Thank you all (pupils, parents, governors and staff) for your excellent collaborative efforts in getting us to the end of the Autumn term in such strong shape and in such good spirits – especially considering that we are still in the midst of a world-wide pandemic. We know there has been some disruption this term but we also know that – through our continuing partnership – we can ensure that all our pupils' progress is maximized and that their happiness and comfort protected and developed. We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and very safe Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

WEEKLY COVID 19 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

We have had no class bubbles closures at St Richard's this week.

NOTIFYING SCHOOL OF POSITIVE TEST RESULTS FOR COVID-19 OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Until 3.30pm on Wednesday 23rd December, if your child tests positive for COVID-19, parents are asked to notify school via an email to comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk

The school will then identify possible close contacts of your child in school and – if necessary - advise self-isolation for other pupils and staff (as your child may have been infectious whilst in school). This advice to self-isolate will be via a ParentMail text.

The comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk email account will not be monitored after 3.30pm on Wednesday 23rd December. Even during this period, school staff will not be on-call at all times. Instead, there will be a limited period on each day where staff will check for notifications.

After 3.30pm on Wednesday 23rd December **the school must not be contacted**. Instead, parents and carers must contact NHS Test and Trace. If this happens, school do not need to be informed about an absence until the first day of the new term (Wednesday 6th January 2021).

PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO EACH OTHER'S HOUSES

At the time of writing, Manchester remains in the tier three ('very high') band of COVID-19 related restrictions. Amongst many other restrictions, in Tier 3:

you must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble. This includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues.

Please do not go into anyone else's house and do not allow anyone into yours (unless they are in your support bubble). Please do not exceed the Christmas regulations in any way. By following the rules of Tier 3 we will help to suppress the spread of the virus – something we all want.

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

This year in particular, the idea of waiting in hope is more apt than ever. As we near the end of our journey through Advent, we should grant ourselves the gift of pausing to reflect on the great mystery of God's love for us. God loves us so much that he chose to be born into the world as one of us. So – amidst the last minute online shopping and the queues and the traffic and the stresses of Tier 3 and what to do on Christmas day – we pray that our hearts do not become just like the inns of Bethlehem over two thousand years ago ... too full to welcome the Son of God.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS

Hopefully your child will bring home a photo of themselves before we break up for Christmas. These are in frames which we purchased specially as a souvenir of school's 50th anniversary last academic year – but which were never used as a result of school shutting to most pupils due to COVID-19. We hope you enjoy your photo.

Thursday 17th December 2020

CATCH-UP NASAL FLU VACCINATION CLINICS

Intrahealth are holding catch up clinics on the following days for the Nasal Flu Vaccinations:

Saturday 19th December at St George's Community Centre, Bothwell Road, Collyhurst, Manchester, M40 7NY, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd December at St. Matthew's Church Crumpsall at Cleveland Road, Manchester, England M8 4QU. If any parent would like to consent to their child receiving the nasal flu vaccine, please ring 0333-358-3397 option 4 and IntraHealth can fill in a consent form and can add them to the clinic.

VISITS FROM SANTA VIA ZOOM

All the children, from Nursery to Year 4, had a visit from Santa on Wednesday this week. On behalf of them all, Cian in Class 4 writes, 'Yesterday we had the most exciting day. Santa phoned us on Zoom! He was reading a story called 'Ho-ho-hopeless Santa'. We played a Christmas game which when he said reindeer, we had to put our hands on our heads like Rudolph's antlers'.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Please visit <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/about-us/st-richards-parish-church/> for a full list of mass times at St Richard's Longsight and St Mary's Levenshulme (the parish of St Robert of Newminster) over Christmas as well as to read an important message from Father Dever. **At present there is no obligation to attend Mass even on Christmas Day.** Bishop John has asked that we celebrate Christmas in a different way this year by returning to the ancient tradition of observing the Christmas Octave. During the Christmas Octave both churches will have 'Family Benches' so families will be free to celebrate Christmas together on any one of the days during the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

READING BOOKS WILL BE COMING HOME IN JANUARY

When we return to school in January 2021, your child will be bringing home a reading (colour band) book every week in a plastic punched pocket (not their book bag). Reading books will come home each **Monday**, must be read at home during the week, and must be returned to school in the plastic wallet on the **Friday** of the same week. Reading records will not be sent home for the time being (the most important thing you can do at present as a parent is to hear your child read). This procedure will continue each week during Spring Term 1 and will then be reviewed for its effectiveness.

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 school 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 **MARY**. The Wednesday Word is now in its holiday format (a longer booklet) which will provide readings, prayers and activities until Wednesday 6th January 2021 (the day school re-opens after the Christmas holidays).

CHANGES TO HOME LEARNING

In line with recently revised Government guidance, our home learning policy now states that we expect pupils to undertake a minimum of **three hours** of good-quality home learning per pupil per day whilst children are not in school (for example, if they are self-isolating).

YOU CAN ORDER UNIFORM ONLINE

Home delivery and Click and Collect are now available from one of our school uniform suppliers. For more details please visit <https://mcsstores.co.uk/>

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Christmas break,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School