



St. Richard's RC Primary Advent Newsletter 2020



Thursday 3rd December 2020

WEEKLY COVID 19 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

Since last week's newsletter, we have had no further bubble closures at St Richard's as a result of COVID-19.

PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO EACH OTHER'S HOUSES

Manchester went into the new and tougher tier three ('very high') band of COVID-19 related restrictions yesterday, following the end of the national restrictions which had been in place for four weeks. 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.

We know of at least two cases this week where individuals connected to St Richard's are now having to self-isolate as a result of their household not following this rule. **Please do not go into anyone else's house** and do not allow anyone into yours (unless they are in your support bubble). By following the rules of Tier 3 we will help to suppress the spread of the virus – something we all want.

NO CHRISTMAS CARDS OR GIFTS IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR

We have taken the sad decision to not allow pupils to bring in and distribute Christmas cards or gifts in school this year. Whilst this is unfortunate I am sure that you understand our reasons – COVID-19 survives on surfaces for varying lengths of time and we are trying to reduce the spread of the virus in as many ways as possible. Many thanks for your understanding.

THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

The second week of Advent begins on Sunday 6th December: *'Advent is the season of preparation and hope, culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, which brings us the good news that we are loved unconditionally by God... This season of hope is a great opportunity to be spiritually refreshed, to get rid of everything negative in our life and to make it altogether positive: to look forward knowing that God is with us. Let's use this Season of Advent to make a fresh start and to be filled with hope.'* (Dom Henry Wansbrough in the Wednesday Word)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

As a result of the second national lockdown finishing yesterday and the new Tier 3 guidance coming into place in Manchester, the good news is that our (mainly Year 4) children's First Holy Communion Masses can restart. Keeping in mind that there could still be changes, these masses will be celebrated at 6pm on Thursday 10th December, Tuesday 15th December and Thursday 17th December. Thank you again for your patience, help and support during this year's unusual Sacramental Programme. Please remember all our First Holy Communicants in your prayers.

LAPTOP LEASING SCHEME UPDATE

Unfortunately, progress on this project has been slower than we hoped (due to factors beyond our control). We will not be able to offer a laptop leasing scheme before Christmas but we will update you all as soon as we can in the New Year.

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.

ONLY SAFE AND CONSIDERATE PARKING PLEASE

Please consider parking further away from school and walking the last few hundred metres when dropping off and picking up your child(ren). You will find this healthier and less stressful and it will alleviate congestion around school. Most importantly, this will make the roads and pavements around school safer for all our children. Many thanks in advance.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY

Christmas lunch day at St Richard's will be on **Tuesday 15th December**. This will be a non-uniform day and Christmas jumpers may be worn on this day. The decorated packed lunch box competition will take place on this day too.

Unfortunately, if your child usually has sandwiches it will not be possible to order a Christmas dinner from school this year. All our current COVID-19 reducing measures for lunchtimes will be in place on Christmas lunch day, in order to maintain the integrity of bubbles and to limit the spread of the virus. Whilst this is unfortunate, it is vital that we all continue to abide by these procedures and do not drop our guard. We will still have a great time.

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 **HOPE**.

CLASS 9 & CLASS 3 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DAYS

Fatima in Class 9 writes, *'On Tuesday with Amanda we made a buzz game. We followed instructions and got a lot of wires to make the game. It buzzes very loudly.'*

Angel- Mary in Class 3 writes, *'I loved designing and making my vehicle. I added tissue paper and coloured card to create my ideal ice cream van. It has been a fun day.'*

FRESHWATER WORKSHOPS FOR C6, C5 AND C2 THIS WEEK

Class 5 and Class 6 both enjoyed their Freshwater Theatre workshops in the hall this week. So did Class 2 who (collectively) write, *'On Wednesday we became Earth Explorers! We travelled to the different continents of the world to check out what the weather was like. We learned that the North and South poles are cold places but penguins can live there because they have lots of blubber to keep them warm. We also know that Africa is the hottest continent in the world. We had a great time!'*

ARE YOU IN NEED OF SOME EXTRA HELP?

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.

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.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School