



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 11th February

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

For parents of those children currently attending school, please note that we will break up for half-term holidays tomorrow (Friday 12th February) and return to school on Tuesday 23rd February. Monday 22nd February is an INSET day. School will be closed to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during this time. No work will be set on Google Classroom during the half-term break. Work will re-appear on Google Classroom from 8.15am on Tuesday 23rd February.

WE ARE CLOSED TO MOST PUPILS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

During the current national lockdown, every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. There is no requirement – even for parents who are key workers in critical sectors – to send their child(ren) to school if they do not need to.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

The season of Lent will begin next Wednesday (17th February) with Ash Wednesday. Lent lasts for forty days. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and helping others.



ST JOSEPH'S PENNY

At St Richard's, the focus of our Lenten alms-giving (helping the poor) will be through supporting St Joseph's Penny. All the money raised by St Joseph's Penny is used to support Caritas in the Diocese of Salford. Caritas is a Catholic charity which responds to poverty and social injustice in our local area. All contributions are gratefully received and deeply appreciated. Please consider making a donation in one of the ways explained below:

For families to pay in raised funds	
Method	Details
Text Giving	To donate £2 please text SJP to 70460. If a UK tax payer, gift aid makes it worth £2.50 to the charity, at no extra cost to the donor. To give £2 but opt out of marketing, text the words NO INFO SJP to the same no.
If setting up a fundraising 'event' that sponsors can pay in safely	To start fundraising and make your own page, link it to the Caritas one here please: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SJP2021
Bank transfer	Caritas Diocese of Salford Account 41523268 Sort code 16-00-18 Reference: SJP & your school name
Debit or credit card	Online https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/SJP2021/ Reference: SJP & school name

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The Wednesday Word team continue 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 **COMPASSION**. The Wednesday Word is in the holiday booklet format for the next three weeks.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK AT THE GATES

If your child is currently accessing educational provision at St Richard's, then it is vital that you wear a mask or other face covering when you drop them off and pick them up. This is to reduce the risk of transmission at the school gates and is designed to protect both parents and our staff. If you have an exemption from wearing a mask, please let a member of staff know. If you do not, please wear one.

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

Until 3.30pm on Monday 15th February, if your child has been in school and subsequently 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 above email address will not be monitored after 3.30pm on Monday 15th February. 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 Monday 15th February, **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 second half-term (Tuesday 23rd February 2021).

CHINESE NEW YEAR IS TOMORROW

This Friday marks the start of the Chinese Year of the Ox. The trees in the city centre will be decorated with red lanterns but Manchester's world famous Chinese New Year festival will be different this year, due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. The usual colourful Dragon Parade and Chinatown street events won't be taking place sadly. Instead, you could head online to find out about community events and celebrations that will wish everyone a healthy and happy 2021. Visit www.visitmanchester.com/ideas-and-inspiration/chinese-new-year for more information.

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY IS ON SUNDAY

It is believed that St. Valentine of Rome lived and ministered as a priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Claudius made it illegal for young men to get married - so that they would be better soldiers. In direct violation of the Emperor's edict, Valentine performed clandestine marriages for young couples. That's how he came to be a patron of young lovers. For these illegal, Christ-centered acts, Valentine was martyred in about the year A.D. 269.

HOME LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Please visit the school website at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/> for the most up to date information about our Home Learning provision and our expectations.

ONLINE SAFETY

On Tuesday this week it was Safer Internet Day 2021. This annual event celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst reminding us all to be safe on line. We want all our pupils to be safe every day in every way and, with so much learning taking place online at the moment, internet safety is more important than ever. Please visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021> for more information about this year's event. Please also go to <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/home-learning-from-january-2021/> for links to a range of resources that will help keep your child learning safely online.

LAPTOP UPDATE

We are still striving to overcome barriers to digital access for our pupils by loaning out school-owned laptops. We have lent out nearly 75 laptops so far. In the first instance, these laptops are intended to enable the school to support disadvantaged children from Year 6 to Year 3 who do not already have access to a device. We are currently also working on ways to get laptops to Key Stage One and Early Years pupils. Please keep using CGP books and afternoon enrichment projects if you have no access to a device or the internet at the moment. Please visit the offline learning page of our website for more details.

With every best wish and hoping that you all stay safe and well,

Mr J Murray
Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School