



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 4th February 2021

THIS WEEK IS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week is an annual week-long campaign run by children's mental health charity [Place2Be](#). It is running all week, until Sunday 7 February. This year's theme is "Express Yourself" with the focus on children finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. Mentally Healthy Schools have created a [toolkit of resources](#) for children, staff and parents to use during Children's Mental Health Week (and beyond of course).

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 **PRAYER**.

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.

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

For parents of those children currently attending school, please note that we will break up for half-term holidays on Friday 12th February and return to school on Tuesday 23rd February. 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.

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).

VOUCHERS FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS-RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

At St Richard's, we are continuing to provide the £15 per week free school meals vouchers until further notice. If you are entitled to benefits-related free school meals and you are not currently receiving these vouchers, then please phone the school office on 0161 224 5552. Thankfully, it has been confirmed that the voucher scheme will be funded (and will therefore continue) over the February half-term break.

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.

NO HOUSEHOLD MIXING PLEASE

It is vitally important that during this time of national lockdown - with new variants of Coronavirus, high daily death rates and significant pressure on front line NHS services - that we all stick to the rules about households not mixing, other than what the current guidance allows for. This helps to limit the spread of the virus and therefore protects us all.

THANK YOU AND GOODBYE MRS WEIR

Mrs Weir, one of our Nursery teachers, will be leaving us at the end of this half term. Congratulations to Mrs Weir for gaining a full time post elsewhere. I am certain that you would want to join me in thanking Mrs Weir for her dedication and commitment to St Richard's, as well as in wishing her all the best for the future.

HOME LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

We would like children in Nursery and Reception to undertake 2 hours of home learning per day. Children in Key Stage One are expected to undertake 3 hours of home learning per day and pupils in Key Stage 2 are expected to undertake 4 hours of home learning per day. Please visit the offline and online home learning pages of our school website for the most up to date information.

HOME LEARNING – ONLINE

St Richard's online home learning is provided via Google Classroom. We are aware that many of our pupils do not have access to an effective online device (desktop PC, laptop or tablet) for the times indicated above. Even when they do, we are aware that many families have more than one child and that devices have to be shared over the course of a school day. For this reason, we have made the decision not to have any live online teaching for the time being as we feel that it would disadvantage too many of our pupils in any one class.

LAPTOP UPDATE

We are currently striving to overcome barriers to digital access for our pupils by loaning out school-owned laptops. We have lent out 48 laptops and we will be loaning out even more devices this week. 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.

HOME LEARNING – OFFLINE

Every child at St Richard's (Nursery to Year 6) who is not currently attending school has been sent CGP books which closely mirror the curriculum that your child would follow if they were in school. These CGP books come with instructions on how they must be used but it is difficult to be too prescriptive as everyone's home circumstances (and access to online learning) are different. It would be appreciated if parents can try to match up the CGP pages with our online content where this is possible and available.

There are answers at the back of most CGP books, as well as a comments sheet at the front. Parents should use both in order to monitor their child(ren)'s efforts. Children must write their full name and class on the top right hand side of each CGP book. All CGP books must be returned to school with children after lockdown so that teachers can see how well they have done. House points and other prizes will be awarded for effort and neat work.

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

Mr J Murray
Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School