



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 18th March 2021

IF A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER DISPLAYS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

It is important to remember that parents and carers **must** keep children at home when a child (or the parent/carer/household member) displays ANY of the symptoms of COVID-19. This must be until a test result is received.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK AT THE SCHOOL GATES

Now that all children have returned to school, it is vital that we keep transmission rates of COVID-19 as low as possible in our own school community. For this reason, we want all parents and carers to wear a mask or other face covering every time they drop off and pick their child(ren) up. The risk of transmission at the school gates remains higher than elsewhere in school due to the challenges of social distancing amongst parents, especially at home time. Mask wearing is therefore a way to protect everyone - parents, children and our staff. By wearing a mask at the school gate you are helping to prevent possible future bubble closures – including those of your own child(ren). Many thanks for your full cooperation.

THERE WILL BE NO PARENTS EVENING NEXT WEEK

Before the most recent lockdown it had been our plan to hold an on-site Parents' Evening next week. Clearly, this will not go ahead as originally planned. We are currently exploring the best and safest option that will allow parents to discuss their child(ren)'s progress with their class teacher later in the academic year. More details will follow.

NO DRIVE-BY PICK UPS OR DROP-OFFS

No matter how insistent parents are, staff at St Richard's will not dismiss pupils towards cars of parents driving by school at the end of the day. This applies to Wilpshire Avenue, Sutcliffe Avenue and to Norton Avenue. Parents should park safely and considerately and in good time to receive their children in person and on foot or to wait for them in their parked up vehicle if parents deem that their child is old enough. The Highway Code states that yellow zig-zag lines outside schools indicate the length of road where parking, stopping or waiting is **strictly prohibited**. In addition, please do NOT park across the barriers of the staff car park. Many thanks in advance.

EASTER HOLIDAY MULTI-SPORTS SESSIONS

Throughout the upcoming Easter holidays, MCRactive are running free multi-sport sessions for children aged 6-11 years. This is a targeted project aimed at pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and those with no recourse to public funds. All sessions will be delivered by qualified coaches and will follow Covid-19 guidelines. At each venue the sessions will run over four dates. There will be two sessions per day and a packed lunch will be provided. Parents must only book on ONE session per day. Each session will be the same and MCRactive want to engage as many children as possible. The closest session centre to our school is Belle Vue Leisure Centre.

The booking link is now live at bit.ly/3rBiRTA

If you have any questions, please contact the organiser Daniel Robinson on d.robinson@mcractive.com or 07703 528 806.

RETURNING SCHOOL LAPTOPS

Next week (week commencing Monday 22nd March) we would like pupils to return to the school office any laptops which were loaned to them during lockdown. If for any reason your child will not be able to return the laptop by Friday 26th March, then it is very important that you get in touch with us as soon as possible.

RETURNING CGP BOOKS AND ENRICHMENT WORK

Next week (week commencing Monday 22nd March) we would like pupils to return CGP Books as well as any enrichment projects to their teacher in class so that teachers can have a look at the work which was completed during lockdown as well as to award house points where these are warranted.

CHANGES TO MEAL TYPES

It is essential that you let the school office know in advance if you wish to change your child(ren)'s meal type from a packed lunch to a school meal or vice versa. Letting us know will ensure that the kitchen produces enough school meals every day and that payment records are up to date. Please allow one week's notice. Please note that if you change your child to a packed lunch and do not inform the office, you will be charged for any meals ordered but not taken.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN SCHOOLS

Now that pupils have returned to face-to-face teaching, all children at St Richard's have access to a nutritious meal at school. These meals are free to those who are eligible for benefits based free school meals. When pupils who are eligible for benefits based free school meals are required to stay at home as a result of having to self-isolate, school will continue to provide a good quality lunch parcel on a daily basis. You will need to let the school office know in advance if you wish to collect a lunch parcel and you must collect it at 11am each day.

SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER EASTER

The government also has a scheme in place to support individuals, families and children with food and other essentials outside of term-time through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme, which will operate through the upcoming Easter holidays. This scheme, run by local authorities, operated successfully in the Christmas and February half-term holidays and ensures that families and children who require it, including those eligible for free school meals, can receive the support they need. For those who are eligible, we will be sending your vouchers from Wonde for the Easter break on Thursday 1st April 2021.

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. The Wednesday's Word this week is **FOLLOW**.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PATTERN 2021-22

St Richard's approved holiday pattern for next academic year (2021-2022) is now on the school website at www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/key-information/calendar/. Please view, download and print it off, keep it somewhere safe and refer to it. Please remember that holidays and requests for extended leave in term time will not be authorised and are likely to lead to a penalty notice and fine.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 28 th March	Palm Sunday
Sunday 28 th March	British Summer Time begins (clocks move forward by 1 hour at 1am on 28/03/21)
Thursday 1 st April (Maundy Thursday)	School breaks up for Easter Holidays
Friday 2 nd April	Good Friday
Sunday 4 th April	Easter Sunday
Monday 5 th April	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
Monday 12 th April	School reopens following Easter holidays
Monday 12 th April	Ramadan begins

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

Mr J Murray
Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School