



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **NEXT WEEK IS HOLY WEEK**

Holy Week is the most solemn week of the Christian year. It is the week leading up to Easter, and is the week during which Christians particularly remember the last week of Jesus's life on earth, prior to his glorious resurrection. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (which is this coming Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March). Next week in school we will be learning about, praying about and reflecting upon these important events as part of our final Lenten preparations in Holy Week.



## **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](http://www.wednesdayword.org), clicking "Schools please enter here for the Primary School version" and then following the link. From Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March until Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, the Wednesday Word will be in its Lent and Easter Booklet version. Please make good use of this fantastic resource throughout Holy Week and the Easter break.

## **IF A PUPIL DISPLAYS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

It is important to remember that parents and carers **must** keep children at home (or come to school immediately and collect them) if they display ANY of the symptoms of COVID-19. The household must then self-isolate and arrange for a PCR test. The child may return to school if the test result is negative.

## **TESTING PARENTS OF PRIMARY AGED PUPILS**

The Government has announced that children of nursery and primary school age or younger will **not** be asked to undertake lateral flow testing at this time. Here are the [different ways](#) for parents and other household members to get tests to take at home, twice-weekly.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Please do not ask school for these test kits. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing (especially at the school gates), rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## **PCR AND LFD TESTING DURING RAMADAN**

The British Islamic Medical Association's view is that taking polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lateral flow device (LFD) tests during Ramadan does not invalidate the fast. People may feel more comfortable doing the tests when they are not fasting. In this case, with the move to home-testing, tests can be carried out at any time.

## **NOTIFYING SCHOOL OF POSITIVE TEST RESULTS FOR COVID-19 OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS**

Until 3.30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> April. During this period, school staff will not be on-call at all times. After 3.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April, **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 (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021).

## **LUNCHTIME ORGANISER VACANCY**

We have a vacancy for a lunch time organiser at St Richard's, starting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Please phone the school office as soon as possible on 0161 224 5552 if you would like to be sent the application pack. The closing date for applications is noon on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## **RETURNING SCHOOL LAPTOPS**

We want pupils to return laptops which were loaned to them during lockdown as soon as possible. If for any reason your child will not be able to return their laptop by tomorrow, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, then it is very important that you get in touch with us immediately. Letters will be sent out next week to any households who have still not returned this loaned equipment. Many thanks in advance for your full co-operation.

## **RETURNED CGP BOOKS AND ENRICHMENT WORK**

Many thanks and well done to all our pupils who have returned CGP Books as well as enrichment projects to their teacher in class this week. We have been very impressed by some superb efforts during Lockdown. Well done boys and girls! A big thank-you to mums, dads and other family members who supported and supervised this work so well over lockdown. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

## **NO MORE BIRTHDAY SWEETS IN SCHOOL**

We have decided that - and until further notice - no sweets, chocolates or other gifts can be brought into school on the occasion of a child's birthday. This is another way to help limit the transmission of COVID-19.

## **ONE MINUTE SILENCE FOR ANNIVERSARY OF LOCKDOWN**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at noon the whole school observed, impeccably, one minute's silence and prayers in order to remember the events of this last year and how these events have affected so many people. Thank you everyone.

## **SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER EASTER**

The government 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

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