



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 20th May 2021

PENTECOST IS CLOSE!

The Feast of Pentecost takes place this coming Sunday, 23rd May. Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church and is the start of the Church's mission to the world. Pentecost is a happy festival. The first Pentecost came when people from many different nations were in Jerusalem, celebrating the Jewish festival of Shavuot. The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. It arrived as a strong wind and it settled as tongues of fire. The apostles soon found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. People passing by at first thought that they must be drunk, but Peter told the crowd that the apostles had been filled with the Holy Spirit.



UNITED NATIONS DAY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Given that the first Pentecost was a multi-national event, as well as a celebration, it seems very appropriate that - the day that we break up for our Whitsuntide (another word for Pentecost) holiday (Friday 21st May) - is also the UN Day of Cultural Diversity. We will be celebrating this day - and our own amazing diversity - by encouraging all our pupils (and staff) to come to school on Friday 21st May either in their national costume/dress, or in national colours. All clothing and shoes must be sensible and appropriate for a day at school. There is no cost for this non-uniform celebration.

WE BREAK UP FOR TWO WEEKS HOLIDAY TOMORROW

We break up for Summer half-term holidays tomorrow, Friday 21st May. We return to school on Monday 7th June. We wish all our staff, pupils and families a very safe and happy break.

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 week's Wednesday Word is **PEACE**.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils and all the usual rules on school attendance apply. This includes parents' duty to ensure their child regularly attends school, and schools' and local authorities' ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, for poor attendance. The DfE - and the Governing Body of St Richard's - expects us to apply these rules. As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. **Please do not do this**. Instead, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday as this will be unauthorised and may lead to a penalty notice/fine.

A MESSAGE TO YEAR 6 PARENTS ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

A message from Father Michael Deas, our Deanery Coordinator for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

'The Diocese of Salford has changed the age at which children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to when they are in Y8. So your child is due to be Confirmed in Easter 2023. Confirmation is the next sacramental milestone after First Holy Communion, when a person 'confirms' their faith and is strengthened by the Holy Spirit. All the preparation for this Sacrament will be organised on a local deanery level, or in your local parish. At this time, we are just contacting you to make you aware and so that you can register your interest. So, if you and your child are interested in taking part in the preparation and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please fill out and submit the attached Google Form and your parish priest will contact you with more information in the future.'

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5V-Fk5l15fc7DnxY9v5XyjU5KWjEsVqNDSGtHxrZh232rCg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628>

COVID 19 VARIANT OF CONCERN

Given the increased risk of transmitting COVID-19 where the new variant is spreading fastest, everyone is advised to take particular caution when meeting anyone outside your household or support bubble. This will keep yourself and others safe. In particular, wherever possible, you should try to:

- Meet outside rather than inside where possible
- Try to keep 2 metres apart from people that you don't live with (unless you have formed a [support bubble](#) with them), This includes friends and family you don't live with.
- Get tested twice a week and isolate if you are positive.
- [Get vaccinated](#) when you are offered it, and encourage others to do so as well

SPRING HALF-TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CAMP - BELLE VUE

Over the Half-Term school holidays MCRactive are running FREE multi-sport sessions for children aged 6-11 years who are eligible for benefits related free school meals or have no recourse to public funds. All sessions will be delivered by qualified coaches and will follow Covid-19 guidelines. The sessions will run over four dates; Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th June, 12.00-3.00pm. A pack lunch will be provided to all young people. The closest session to our school is Belle Vue Leisure Centre. More information and the booking link (which is now live) are available at bit.ly/5ugin

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

RESPONDING TO THE NEWSLETTER

We are always happy to receive comments, observations or suggestions about the newsletter or any aspect of school life in general. Any such comments will be read and considered. These can be emailed to:

comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 21 st May	UN Day of Cultural Diversity - traditional or national costume/national colours/non-uniform day
Friday 21 st May	Break up for 2 week Whitsuntide holidays
Sunday 23 rd May	Pentecost Sunday
Monday 7 th June	School reopens at 8.30am

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

Mr J Murray
Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School