



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 10th June 2021

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back to school everyone. We hope that everyone had a very restful Whitsun break and that one and all are looking forward to a successful final half-term in school. We ask God our Father to send His Holy Spirit to be with us all and to grant us all the gifts of the Spirit that we will need on our journey.

BUBBLE CLOSURE AT ST RICHARD'S

On Tuesday 8th June our C13 Bubble was sent home as a result of a member of class testing positive for COVID-19. This means that C13 will have to self-isolate and learn from home using Google Classroom until Monday 21st June. Many thanks in for your understanding and cooperation.

DELTA VARIANT CONCERNS

You may have seen in the news on Tuesday that it was **announced** that Greater Manchester has moved to an **Enhanced Response Area** due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in the region. In Manchester, the COVID-19 infection rates are rapidly increasing and in the past week, rates have practically doubled. We are now entering a crucial few weeks, as the country aims to emerge from lockdown. As a result, it is very important that we all stick carefully to all the measures in place locally - including at our school - which are designed to reduce COVID-19 transmission, including parents maintaining social distance and wearing masks at drop-off and pick-up times.

IF YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT OF SOMEONE WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

David Regan (Director of Public Health for Manchester) has asked that all pupils who are identified as a contact of a positive Covid-19 case access PCR testing where this is age-appropriate. By using PCR testing, positive results can be sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping Public Health England (PHE) to identify variant of concern cases and their spread. It is therefore very important for everyone who has been identified as a contact to take a PCR test and stop any onward spread. Even if your PCR test result is negative, you must still self-isolate for the full ten days.

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.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GUIDANCE

The DfE has asked schools to remind parents that people should not travel to 'amber' and 'red' countries, and that strict rules on testing and quarantine remain in place to protect public health and the vaccination programme. Further information can be found in the [guidance on red, amber and green list rules for entering England](#).

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO READ DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

This year's theme for the Summer Reading Challenge is Wild World Heroes. The Challenge to read six books will launch in Manchester on 5 July and run until 18 September. Children can join the Challenge at a local library from this date. Evidence shows that the Challenge is an effective Covid recovery tool, encouraging reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, building reading skills and confidence, and helping to prevent the 'dip' in reading skills while children are out of school. Resources will soon be made available to promote the Challenge to pupils and families so please watch this space.

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 Words are **GOD'S KINGDOM**.

UNITED NATIONS DAY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY THANKS

On the day that we broke up for our half-term break we enjoyed a fantastic celebration of UN Cultural Diversity Day. It was lovely to see our pupils in such a vast array of different styles of dress and we wanted to say a big thank-you to everyone – pupils, staff and parents – who all helped to make it such a worthwhile occasion.

FEAST DAY OF SAINT RICHARD

Next Wednesday, 16th June, is the feast day of our school's patron saint, St Richard of Chichester. Here is our patron's prayer:

*Thanks be to Thee, my Lord
Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou
hast given me,
For the pains and insults
Which Thou has borne for
me.
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
May I know Thee more
clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly
Day by Day.*



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:

(Please note that some of the dates below are provisional and subject to change, depending on COVID-19 guidelines in place at the time)

Wednesday 16 th June	St Richard's Feast Day
Tuesday 22 nd June	Class Photos
Friday 25 th June	Y5 Partner Primary Day at St Peter's RC High School
Friday 9 th July	Annual Pupil Reports issued to parents today
Tuesday 20 th July	Y6 Leavers' Awards Assembly at 9.15am (more details and guidance will follow)
Wednesday 21 st July	Pupils break up for Summer holidays today
Wednesday 8 th September	Reception – Y6 return to school

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School