



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 24th June 2021

FURTHER BUBBLE CLOSURE AT ST RICHARD'S

On Friday 18th June our C8 Bubble was sent home as a result of a member of class unfortunately testing positive for COVID-19. This means that C8 have to self-isolate and learn from home using Google Classroom until their return to school on **Monday 28th June**. Many thanks to C8 staff, pupils and parents for your understanding and cooperation. This was our third bubble closure in under a fortnight and demonstrates how important it is that we continue to exercise caution and abide by all COVID-19 safety measures.

FACE TO FACE TRANSITION FOR Y6 PUPILS CANCELLED

As a result of the additional risks to schools that traditional face-to-face transition activities would create due to the number of children mixing (as well as because of the current Enhanced Response Area status of Greater Manchester and increasing transmission of variants of concern across Manchester), Manchester City Council has made the decision that **face to face transition events for Year 6 pupils will not be going ahead this half-term**. Instead, transition activities will be delivered using creative/non-traditional methods instead. Schools will be working together to make arrangements and communicate these decisions to parents including any individual arrangements for children with additional needs. Whatever arrangements are agreed for our pupils, we must all ensure that relevant government guidance and the COVID safety advice provided by the DfE is adhered to.

Year 5's Partner Primary Day at St Peter's RC High School which had been planned for this Friday (25th June) will now be an online, virtual event which our pupils will be able to experience in class, without travelling to St Peter's.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO REMAIN IN PLACE

Please note that, following the Prime Minister's announcement that there would be a 4-week delay before proceeding with Step 4 of the road map out of COVID-19 restrictions, at St Richard's we are keeping all of our current protective measures in place. This will help in reducing the transmission of the virus.

Greater Manchester remains an **Enhanced Response Area** due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in the region. 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. You are also urged and encouraged to take up the offer of vaccination and to continue with regular lateral flow testing, where relevant and appropriate.

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.

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

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.

CLASS BUBBLE SPORTS DAYS

This week in school we have been running School Sports Days for each separate Key Stage One class bubble. Next week, Key Stage Two will have a similar experience. Medals and certificates will be awarded in separate ceremonies later this half-term. Many thanks to our dedicated and enthusiastic PE staff for organising and running these events – and to our children for responding so energetically.

NURSERY INDUCTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

As an unfortunate consequence of Covid restrictions continuing, we cannot invite our new Nursery parents into school before the end of this academic year. Therefore, we will be sending out envelopes to all new Nursery parents with full Nursery induction materials. Please read these instructions carefully and fully and please follow the links for online induction materials.

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](#).

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 **FAITH**

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)

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 to Year 6 pupils return to school today

With every best wish,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School