



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 15th July 2021

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAY

Next week, our children break up for the summer holidays, on Wednesday 21st July. This is therefore the final newsletter of the academic year. We wish everyone a happy, peaceful and safe summer break and we look forward to our return to school on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 8.58am (school gates will be open from 8.30am). The academic year 2021-22 will still present challenges to all schools but there will be much to really look forward to next year!

NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS TO END ON 19th JULY

On 12th July, the Prime Minister announced that the final easing of COVID-19 restrictions will proceed from Monday 19th July. Our pupils break up for the Summer holidays on Wednesday 21st July and so it makes little sense to change any of our systems of control so close to the end of the school year.

At St Richard's, all current protective measures will therefore remain in place at least until we break up for the Summer holidays.

Many of the systems that we put in place due to COVID-19 have had a positive impact at our school in other areas (such as behaviour and safeguarding) and so most of these will remain in place at the start of next academic year.

Information to parents about St Richard's school organisation and procedures for the start of next academic year will be placed on the home page of the school website by 4pm on Tuesday 20th July so that parents have this information before we break up for the Summer holidays. Please make sure that you read all this information carefully.

Perhaps most significantly, from the start of next academic year, pupils at St Richard's will no longer have to self-isolate if they have been in contact with a positive COVID-19 case (but they will have to self-isolate if they test positive themselves). We hope that – from the start of the Autumn term 2021 onwards - this change in government policy will significantly reduce the disruption and loss of learning that all pupils, parents and staff have experienced since the start of the pandemic.

SIMS PAY IS CHANGING ITS NAME

From 26th July SIMS Pay will be known as 'Pay360 Education Payments'. The way you make payments will be the same but the link to log in will be changed to pay360educationpayments.com. When you make a payment the details on your card statement will show as 'Pay360*StRichards'. We recommend that you add the new email address noreply@pay360educationpayments.com to your contacts so the emails are not marked as spam.

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 Word is in its holiday version from this week. This will last over the summer break. Appropriately, this week's Wednesday Word is **HOLIDAYS**.

NO END OF YEAR GIFTS PLEASE

As an unfortunate consequence of the current Covid restrictions, staff in school are unable to accept any end of year gifts from pupils or parents this year. We hope that you understand. The most enduring gift that you have given us – and the one that we are all truly appreciative of in school – is your amazing cooperation, patience and perseverance during testing times and another very challenging academic year. Thank you very much everyone.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY NEXT TUESDAY

The Year 6 Leavers' Assembly is an important milestone in the lives of our oldest pupils. This year, this assembly is likely to take place on Tuesday 20th July from 9.15am. There are three possibilities – two of which (Plan A and Plan B) involve parents being invited on to the school site. For Plan A and Plan B, it is vital that we have a full list of attending parents. This is for planning and safety reasons. **No Year 6 parent will be admitted on to the school site for the Y6 Leavers' Assembly unless they have completed and returned the reply slip by tomorrow.** This slip was included in the letter that went home on Tuesday 13th July. This slip must be returned to your child's Y6 teacher by Friday 16th July.

MILK ORDER DEADLINE IS TOMORROW

The deadline for ordering milk for the Autumn term is tomorrow, Friday 16th July. If you would like your child to receive milk from September 21, please pay on SIMS Pay and return your slip by Friday. If your child receives free milk, you must still return your permission slip.

WILD WORLD HEROES - SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2021

A message from Manchester Libraries:

This year's reading challenge theme is Wild World Heroes and is focussed on the environment and nature and you're invited to join our free [Summer Reading Challenge](#) from Manchester Libraries. Join at your local library to receive your free joining pack, and start reading books to earn your medal and certificate. Once you've read 6 books you will have completed the Challenge, but why stop there?

With this year's theme we've bought loads of new books on a nature and environmental theme. You don't have to just read these though - you can read whatever books you like, as long as they're from a library. We have other activities too; why not check out our digital activities on Manchester Libraries Facebook? We've also got Steve Smallman doing a 'Draw along' each week, Story Hunts at home and authors setting challenges! To keep up with our free activities in libraries this summer - look out for them on the [Loads To Do site](#). We have earth and animal arts and crafts, recycling sessions, live animals and a robotic dog coming into our libraries to celebrate the summer!

There are lots of prizes to be won this summer: write a fantastic book review and you might win a Kindle Fire and a brand new bundle of books! We are also giving away 22 goody bags to lucky runners-up, and every child that completes the Summer Reading Challenge will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 voucher! You can [download and complete a book review here](#) or pick one up from your library. For more information [download and read our leaflet](#).

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The Government has confirmed that the COVID grant to cover supermarket vouchers for children eligible for free school meals has been extended to cover the summer holidays. As previously, at St Richard's these vouchers will be provided electronically to families from our setting. The vouchers will be issued on Monday 19th July.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 20 th July	Y6 Leavers' Awards Assembly at 9.15am (a letter went home to Y6 parents on 13 th July)
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 many thanks for your continuing support and wishing you all a safe, peaceful and restful summer break,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School