



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021



**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021**

## **EDUCATION SUNDAY & NATIONAL TA DAY**

Last Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, was Education Sunday and today is National Teaching Assistants' Day. Both of these special occasions help us to reflect upon how fortunate we have been to receive help and support throughout our own and our children's education. On behalf of the whole community of St Richard's, and at the start of a new school year, I would like to thank all our staff for the tremendous dedication and energy that they continue to show to the children whom they teach and support.

## **WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE**

The Wednesday Word team continue to support families with free online editions of the Wednesday Word. This week's (yesterday's) edition is available by visiting <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/serving?pid=MTA101634&v=37.18>  
This Wednesday's Word is **SERVING**.

## **YEAR 6 SATS WEEK MAY 2022**

The Key Stage 2 SATS tests (which the DfE has confirmed Year 6 pupils will sit this academic year) are timetabled from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It is vitally important that all our Year 6 pupils are in school for the whole of this week. Please make a note now in your diary or calendar.

## **COVID 19 UPDATE**

Under the current national arrangements, if your child is a close contact of a positive case of COVID-19 and they are not displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, they will not have to self-isolate. We hope this means that we will have very few (if any) 'bubble closures' like we did last year.

However, in order to protect everyone in school (and at home) it is still vitally important that parents do not send their child to school if their child has any symptoms of COVID-19, however mild. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature.
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child demonstrates any of the above symptoms whilst they are in school, you will be contacted and asked to come for them immediately and keep them off school at least until your child has had the result of a PCR test. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

## **SAFE DROP-OFF AND PICK UP OF CHILDREN**

It is not safe or acceptable (in fact, it is dangerous) for parents who drive their children to school to stop their car in the middle of the road and expect children to step into the road in order to get to school. Please give yourself enough time to park up (preferably a bit further away from school in order to avoid congestion) and then calmly walk the rest of the way to school. This will have a positive impact on everyone and is much safer for your child. Many thanks in advance for your full cooperation.

## **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](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

## **APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR 2022**

Parents of pupils who are currently in Year 6 must apply for a secondary school place by the closing date of **5pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**. The application portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at:

[https://ealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://ealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

The open evening for St Peter's RC High School takes place this evening (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September) from 5.30pm to 8pm.

## **APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION FOR 2022**

The closing date for applying for a Reception place for your child for a September 2022 start is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Manchester City Council will send offers of places to those who applied on-time on National Offer Day, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Please remember a place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception. Applying late means you have less chance of getting your preferred school. Please apply online and on time at:

<https://parentportal.manchester.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

## **IMPROVEMENTS TO HOMEWORK 2021-22**

You should notice some changes to the format and activities of your child's homework from this week onwards. At St Richard's, these changes have been made to ensure that homework will:

- Be meaningful for pupils and will link directly to what they are learning in school.
- Be helpful to pupils in retaining knowledge through 'low stakes' quizzes at the end of each week.
- Make good use of available technology.
- Be environmentally friendly and as 'paperless' as possible.

We hope that you like the changes and, as ever, we are appreciative of the very important support that you give to your child(ren) in ensuring that they complete all homework tasks fully and to the best of their ability. Many thanks in advance.

## **THE RETURN OF BLUE BOOK BAGS**

Blue book bags (which children use to bring reading books and homework between home and school) will be reintroduced soon but we ask that you remain patient whilst we make final arrangements to ensure that every child has (or can have) a St Richard's book bag. Please watch this space for further information.

## **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021-22**

We are close to finalising the details of our Sacramental Programme for 2021 – 22. We ask that parents remain patient and we assure you that – as soon as we have all the dates and organisation fixed – we will ensure that parents of pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 have all the information that they need. Many thanks for your patience.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

*Mr J Murray*

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School