



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 14th
October 2021

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is much more than a list of prayers. It is a rich spiritual exercise designed to bring us closer to Mary and to her son, Jesus. This month is a wonderful time to pray the Rosary at home as a family.



WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

We are very grateful that 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/holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&p=3&v=41.5> and it is the holiday booklet version covering Wednesday 13th to Wednesday 27th October.

COVID-19 UPDATE

It is still really important that we all continue to encourage take up of the Covid-19 vaccine and that we get vaccinated as soon as possible. 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) whole-class 'bubble closures' like we did last academic 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.

Manchester Health Authority have also identified some common wider symptoms which parents should also be mindful of for both themselves and their children and which may lead you to taking a Lateral Flow Device or a PCR test. These symptoms are:

- Headache that lasts a long time
- Feeling tired and unwell
- Muscle or full body aches
- Sore throat
- Blocked nose or runny nose
- Diarrhoea, feeling sick or vomiting

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 1st November 2021**. The application portal opened on 1st July 2021 at:

https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

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 17th January 2022**.

Manchester City Council will send offers of places to those who applied on-time on National Offer Day, 19th 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>

FREE ACTIVITIES OVER OCTOBER HALF-TERM AT BELLE VUE

Over the October school holidays MCRactive, in partnership with GLL, are providing FREE sports spaces for 5 -13 year olds. All sessions will be delivered by qualified coaches and will follow Covid-19 guidelines. The sessions will run over the following dates; Thursday 28th October – Friday 29th October 10:00am – 4:00pm. The closest session to our school is Belle Vue. The bookings link is now live.

1 day of gymnastics (5-7 year olds) @ Belle

Vue: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gllmcractive-gymnastics-belle-vue-5-to-7-tickets-179868119387>

2 days of basketball (6-11 year olds) @ Belle

Vue: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gllmcractive-basketball-camp-belle-vue-tickets-175425210527?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

1 day of gymnastics (8-12 years olds) @ Belle

Vue: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gllmcractive-gymnastics-belle-vue-8-to-12-tickets-179879543557> Please Note: This is a targeted project aimed at pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals. If you have any questions, please contact the organiser Matthew Youngson on m.youngson@mcractive.com

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

We break up for the October half-term holidays on Friday 22nd October. Manchester City Council has approved funding for supermarket vouchers for children eligible for free school meals (FSM) over the October half term. This is in response to the reduction in Universal Credit and expected fuel increases and the financial pressure that this will place on many of our families. The vouchers will be sent to you by email in the week prior to the half term, and will be for the value of £15.00 per child.

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

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School