



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 7th
October 2021

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/happiness?pid=MTA101634&v=40.3>
This Wednesday's Word is **HAPPINESS**.

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

COVID-19 'WARN AND INFORM' LETTERS

Whenever we have a PCR confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in a class at St Richard's, we will send home 'Warn and Inform' letters so that all parents are aware and will be able to monitor even more closely possible symptoms of COVID-19 in their own child(ren).

REMOTE EDUCATION PROVISION 2021-22

We have updated our Remote Learning procedures for this academic year and this information is now available on the school website at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/home-learning/> This policy is now in effect.

PURCHASING A BLUE BOOK BAG/PE BAG OR TIE

We have now received a delivery of book bags. If you wish to purchase book bags, ties or PE bags, as we are a cashless school, these are all now available to purchase under the uniform tab on PAY360 - our online payments portal. If you need to register, please phone school and we will issue you a code.

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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

Black History Month takes place throughout October. At St Richard's, the focus of our activity will be on singer-songwriters and composers. This special work will be undertaken in the week commencing Monday 18th October and we are sure all the children will really enjoy it and will learn a great deal more about the contribution made to music by black musicians.

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>

EXTRA HOLIDAY & UPDATED HOLIDAY PATTERN 2021-22

In June 2022, the whole country will be granted two additional holidays in order to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These holidays fall on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June 2022 – dates when St Richard's is already on holiday for Whitsuntide half-term. Therefore, following DfE and local authority guidelines (and with Governor approval) we are notifying all parents and carers that we have identified an extra day's holiday from school at another time. At St Richard's, this extra day's holiday will be **Monday 29th November 2021**. Please also note that Friday 26th November is a staff INSET Day and that school will be closed to all pupils on that day too.

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