



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2023

Thursday 16th February 2023

WE BREAK UP FOR HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS TOMORROW

We break up for February half-term holidays after school tomorrow and we return to school on **Monday 27th February**. We wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful half-term break.

NEU STRIKE ACTION SOON AFTER HALF-TERM

The National Education Union has announced that members will be taking industrial action in England on Tuesday 28th February 2023, our second day back after the holidays. Children will be bringing a letter home tomorrow to let parents know whether this means St Richard's will have to close, will be able to stay fully open or may have to restrict attendance to certain classes of pupils on these dates.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

On Thursday 2nd March, we celebrate World Book Day 2023. Partly in recognition of the current cost of living pressures affecting so many families, we have decided that this will **not** be a dressing up day at St Richard's this year. However, children will still celebrate books and their love of reading in a range of alternative exciting and engaging activities on the day. We would also like children to bring their favourite book from home to school on Thursday 2nd March, for World Book day. Please also see the separate letter about this.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY 2023

The season of Lent will begin during the half-term break with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 22nd February. Lent lasts for forty days. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving.



CARITAS ST JOSEPH'S PENNY APPEAL LENT 2023

We will be supporting 'St Joseph's Penny' during Lent as part of our Alms-giving (efforts to help the poor). This year, for the first time since COVID-19, Caritas have given us St Joseph's Penny coin boxes for children to take home and fill. All the money raised by St Joseph's Penny is used to support Caritas in the Diocese of Salford. Caritas is a Catholic charity which responds to poverty and social injustice in our local area. Please keep hold of the boxes until straight after the Easter holidays (17th April 2023). We will send out a reminder nearer the time. Many thanks in advance for all your fund-raising efforts.

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RELIEF

Many thanks for everyone's contributions to help those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Our combined total of **£530.64** will be sent to The British Red Cross who are working closely with the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) to provide emergency first aid and to evacuate people to safety.

FRANCIS HOUSE CRÈME EGG UPDATE

The children managed to collect **1171** eggs last week, taking the total to **1754** eggs collected. Well done everyone!

AMANDA MORROW VISITS TO CLASSES

Last week, Amanda Morrow came into our Y4 classes to help the children complete their Design Technology project on Electrical Systems. This work with Amanda links to Y4's Science topic of Electricity, so the children were able to use their prior knowledge to help them create simple circuits. All the children designed, made and evaluated a 'steady hand' game. Arham in C7 said, *'It was a good day because I enjoyed making circuits and making the game. I loved using the energy stick to show how electricity flows. I think my steady hand game will be tricky to complete'*. It was also lovely having Amanda in Year 1 last week. The children learnt about different types of structures in a playground and built their own structures with Mrs Morrow. Lots of the children gave positive feedback, they all really enjoyed it. Ubaid in C1 exclaimed, *"It was so much fun!"* with a huge smile on his face.

A PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER

We are sending out this paper copy of the newsletter as we break up for half-term as a reminder to all our parents to make sure you always read the newsletter in order to be aware of all the news and important events going on at St Richard's. We can't send a paper copy out every week unfortunately. The newsletter is viewable on the school website every Thursday afternoon but, if you email us with your email address and permission, we can have the newsletter emailed directly to you every week.

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

This week's edition of the Wednesday Word is still the holiday booklet version which will last for the next two Wednesdays – including our half-term holidays. It is available by visiting <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-card?pid=MTA101634&p=8&v=84.7> and this week's Wednesday Word is **LOVE**.

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

MCRactive are offering thousands of free places for children to access a variety of activities as well as a free meal over February half term in Manchester for those on benefit-related free school meals. To book your child's space please sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcractive.com/> Once signed up, log into your account – Find Activities – Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity'. Use code **79112** when asked, in order to book free eligible activities.

YEAR 6 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 9th February, Miss McKnight and Mrs Prunty took six Y6 children to a hockey competition at Cedar Mount High School. The competition was challenging. However, the St Richard's squad demonstrated exceptional team work and resilience throughout. They played 3 games in which they won two and lost one. They made it to the final in their group and...they won! It was a nail-biting finish to a fantastic tournament. We have made it to the Hockey City Wide Finals on 9th March where we will play the finalists from several schools in Greater Manchester. Well done to St Richard's Hockey Team, we are all very proud of you!

FREE OR DISCOUNTED RATES FOR CHILDREN OVER HALF-TERM

You may be interested to know that ASDA is offering a free warm breakfast across the February half term holidays. Children will be able to get a free bowl of Quaker porridge from 8am to 12pm every day in 205 Asda cafes across February half term, on top of the existing £1 kids main meal deal. The partnership is expected to enable over 50,000 bowls of porridge to be served to children across the country. Please click on the following link to find other **restaurants and cafes** offering free or discounted rates for children during this time.

CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES 2023

Below are details of which class assemblies are coming up after the half-term break. They all begin at 9am in the main school hall. Parents are very welcome to attend their child(ren)'s class assembly. Details of other class assemblies will follow soon after half-term break.

Date	Class assembly for:
Thursday 23 rd March	Class 3
Thursday 30 th March	Class 7

ONLINE SAFETY PARENT WORKSHOP

Manchester City Council (MCC) have commissioned a project for parents to help support their children to stay safe and well in their online lives. MCC would like parents to join their Online Safety Parent Workshop with child safety specialist Katherine Howard on Monday 27th February from 6.00-7.00pm. Katherine will also introduce parents to free online resources and MCC's parental control app. Click the link below in order to register for the webinar https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ivfMbhX9TO-dFgF6y4LPnA

With many thanks for your continuing support and enjoy the half-term break,

Mrs J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School