



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2023

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

## **THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

The readings of the fifth Sunday of Lent (this coming Sunday) invite us to reflect on the themes of life, death, and resurrection. The Gospel reading tells the story of the raising – by Jesus – of Lazarus from the dead. During Lent, this is a powerful and timely reminder of the hope and promise of resurrection that is at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus' raising of Lazarus anticipates his own resurrection, which we will celebrate in just a few weeks, on Easter Sunday. It also reminds us that, no matter how difficult or painful our lives may be at times, there is always hope for new life and transformation through Jesus.

## **EASTER VIGIL MASS**

The Easter Vigil Mass (the first mass of Easter) will be celebrated at St Richard's RC Church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023, starting at 6.30pm. We would be delighted if you could make every effort to attend this mass with your child(ren). All children must be accompanied at this mass by a parent or carer. If you have a child in Key Stage 2 and would like them to do a reading at this mass (and they will definitely be attending), please email [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk) with your child's first and last name, their class and year group as soon as possible. Readings will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.

Information about all the masses and special services over the Easter period at St Richard's Longsight and St Mary's Levenshulme (the two churches in our parish of St Robert of Newminster) as available at [www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/about-us/st-richards-parish-church/](http://www.st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/about-us/st-richards-parish-church/)

## **SPRING TERM PARENTS EVENINGS**

Many thanks to everyone who attended parents evenings this week. We hope that you found the meeting to be very useful. It was lovely to see everyone. We thank you for the ongoing support that you provide to your child(ren) in all aspects of their learning.

## **SACRAMENT OF FIRST FORGIVENESS**

The next Sacramental Programme meeting is this evening, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, in school at 6pm. This meeting is final preparation for the children before they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) tomorrow in St Richard's Church. Please remember all these families in your prayers at this special time.

## **RAMADAN MUBARAK**

We wish all our Muslim families a holy and successful Ramadan as it commences this week. We respectfully suggest that no child below Year 6 fasts. Even with Year 6 pupils, we want parents to be aware that this year, Ramadan falls during very important weeks of the school year and that the absence of fluids in particular could have a negative effect on your child's performance and concentration in school. If you do decide that your child at St Richard's is fasting this Ramadan, please send a letter to your child's classteacher to say so or please phone the school office as soon as possible. Many thanks in advance.

## **YEAR 6 SATS DATES 2023**

This year the Year 6 KS2 SATs will take place between **Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Friday 12th May 2023**. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May is an extra bank holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III. During KS2 SATs Week, pupils will sit 6 different tests and it is vitally important that they are in school for all of these tests and are ready to do their very best.

## **CLASS ASSEMBLIES 2023**

Congratulations to Class Three for their wonderful assembly earlier today – many thanks to all our mums, dads and other carers who were able to make it too. Class 7 will be holding their class assembly at 9am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March. As always, parents and carers are warmly welcome to attend. Details of other class assemblies will follow as soon as possible.

## **MCR ACTIVE EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

A message from MCRactive and Manchester City Council: *We are offering thousands of free places on Easter holiday activities for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Activities will range from sport and physical activities, arts and crafts and much more. In addition to the activities, each booked place will include a FREE meal during the day.*

*For more information and to book your child's place, you will need to sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcractive.com/> (sign in) to book free half term activities. Once signed up, log into your account – Find Activities – Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' – use code **62449** to book free eligible activities.*

*Please only book your child onto a holiday camp if they will be attending. Spaces at each camp are limited. If you book a space and your child can no longer attend, please cancel your space as far in advance as possible, to allow the opportunity for another child to take their space at the activity and free meal. Kind Regards, MCRactive.*

## **DO NOT GO THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK**

Despite regular requests and warnings not to, parents and pupils are still cutting through the staff car park next to St Richard's Church. You should **never** attempt to squeeze past or go under the car park barriers because this is potentially very dangerous. Parents must not attempt to open the green pedestrian gate that leads into this car park. Many thanks in advance for your complete cooperation.

## **WAKE UP WEDNESDAY**

National Online Safety (NOS) have created free online safety guides for schools to share with parents and carers. This campaign is called '#WakeUp Wednesday'. At St Richard's we provide a weekly link to a different topical e-safety issue so that parents and children are better informed and able to make better choices about their internet use. This week's guide is all about **safe and healthy habits online** and can be viewed [here](#)

## **WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE**

The Wednesday Word is available to read by visiting <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/compassion?pid=MTA101634&v=88.1> and this week's Wednesday Word is **COMPASSION**

## **RESPONDING TO THE NEWSLETTER**

We are always happy to receive comments, observations or suggestions about the newsletter or any other aspect of school life. Any comments that we receive will be read and considered. These should be emailed to: [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

## **FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER EASTER**

Manchester City Council has approved funding for free school meal (FSM) vouchers for children eligible for benefits-led free school meals. As in previous holidays, school will issue the vouchers to parents. Even though we only have a week and a day off at Easter, two weeks' vouchers will still be issued. This means that if MCC agrees to fund vouchers going forward (i.e. May half term), eligible families at St Richard's will only receive vouchers for one week at May half-term.

With many thanks for your continuing support

Mr J Murray

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School