



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2021

Thursday 25th November 2021

SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO PUPILS TOMORROW AND MONDAY

This is a reminder that school will be closed to all pupils tomorrow Friday 26th November (staff training day) and on Monday 29th November (an extra holiday to celebrate the upcoming Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II). Please enjoy the break.

ADVENT BEGINS THIS COMING SUNDAY

The first Sunday of Advent is on Sunday 28th November 2021. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world at Christmas. Christians are asked to use this special season to remember the real meaning of Christmas and to concentrate on preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation. Even though the media and the shops would have us all believe that Christmas is here already, it is not. In school we will be placing a special focus on Advent and on prayerful preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas.



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/advent?pid=MTA101634&v=45.9> This week's Wednesday Word is, very appropriately, **ADVENT**.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Y5 children from both Class 9 and Class 10 received the Sacrament of Forgiveness for the first time today at St Richard's Church. We are delighted that this means that we are now up to date with pupils (and their parents) who have waited so patiently to receive these sacraments which were delayed as a result of the pandemic. Many thanks and well done to all involved.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS ARE STILL ON ... SO FAR

At the time of writing, Christmas Concerts will be going ahead as follows:

All of Nursery's Nativity – 9.30am and 2.00pm (a repeat performance) on Wednesday 8th December in the school hall.

All of Reception's Nativity – 9.30am and 2.00pm (a repeat performance) on Thursday 9th December in the school hall.

All of Year 1's Christmas Carol Concert - 2.30pm on Wednesday 8th December in St Richard's Church.

All of Year 2's Christmas Carol Concert - 2.30pm on Thursday 9th December in St Richard's Church.

For each event there will be a maximum of two adults per child allowed to attend. Only adults with a ticket will be admitted. Tickets must be ordered in advance (separate letter to come home with your child soon) and, whilst there is no payment required, a recommended donation of £1 per ticket will be invited on the day of the performance. The donations will go to Francis House in Didsbury.

Parents will be strongly encouraged to wear a face mask at the performances. Parents must be mindful that because no one is certain of the trajectory that COVID-19 might take this winter that parental attendance at these concerts may have to be limited or even not allowed at all. This may be at short notice. If this were to be the case, the children would still put their performances on and we would make every effort for parents to be able to see a video-recorded version of the concerts.

COMPUTER SECURITY DAY

It's **Computer Security Day** on 30th November. With children spending more time than ever online, it's never been so important for us all to be educated about online safety. Information for pupils and parents about online safety is available on our school website at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/parents/online-safety/> and at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/home-learning/>

PARENT SURVEY AND A CHANCE TO WIN A £10 GIFT VOUCHER

We hope that you had a positive experience of Parents Evening last week and - as an important follow-up to your appointment - we would like all our parents to complete our Autumn Term 2021 Parents' Survey. The survey is an online Google Form which you can access by clicking the correct hyperlinked year group below:

[Nursery](#) [Reception](#) [Year One](#) [Year Two](#)
[Year Three](#) [Year Four](#) [Year Five](#) [Year Six](#)

It should only take a few minutes to complete. There is a £10 gift voucher for one randomly selected completed questionnaire **per year group** (so if you complete a questionnaire for each child that you have at St Richard's then you stand a chance of winning more than once).

Your email address will be requested when you complete and return the survey but this information will be used **only** to notify you if you win the £10 gift voucher in the random prize draw. You do not have to give your email address to complete and return the survey.

To qualify for the draw, you must have returned your survey(s) before the closing date of **4pm on Friday 10th December**. There is a limit of one response per child. Good luck and many thanks in advance.

WINTER UNIFORM MUST NOW BE WORN

Our winter uniform must be worn from October half-term until the Easter break). For **girls** this is: Dark grey skirt or pinafore dress, blue blouse, school tie, school sweatshirt or cardigan (plain navy, preferably with the school logo. No other logo allowed). Girls are allowed to wear grey or black tights. Girls may wear dark grey school trousers.

For **boys** winter uniform is: Dark grey school trousers, blue shirt, school tie, school sweatshirt (plain navy, preferably with the school logo. No other logo allowed). A school tie **must** be worn smartly and at all times as part of St Richard's winter uniform. All pupils must wear sensible black school shoes.

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>

SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS UPDATE

Manchester City Council has approved the use of the Household Support Grant to fund supermarket vouchers over the December 2021 (two weeks) and February 2022 (one week) half term holidays, for children eligible for free school meals (FSM). 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.

NON-UNIFORM DAYS TO SUPPORT PARISH FUNDS

In order to boost much needed parish funds, we are holding non-uniform days on:

- Today (Thursday 25th November)
- Friday 3rd December
- Friday 10th December
- Tuesday 14th December (Christmas dinner day)

On each of these occasions we would like your child(ren) to bring in £1 in return for wearing non-uniform. All proceeds will go to St Richard's RC Parish funds. Many thanks in advance.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray
Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School