



St. Richard's RC Primary

ADVENT Newsletter

2021



Thursday 2nd December 2021

A REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On the second Sunday of Advent (this coming Sunday, 5th December) we hear about the prophet John the Baptist – a voice crying in the wilderness, completely focused on his mission to prepare a way for the Lord. John tells us to 'repent'.

As we continue on our Advent journey, let us think about what we should be sorry for. Which aspects of our lives do we know to be not quite right? What habits and behaviours do we need to change? How can we improve in order to serve our neighbours, rather than just ourselves?

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

This week's (yesterday's) edition of the Wednesday Word is available by visiting <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/preparation?pid=MTA101634&v=46.10>
This week's Wednesday Word is **PREPARATION**.

THE OMICRON VARIANT OF COVID-19

On Saturday 27th November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The Prime Minister explained that these new measures are being introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while the government gathers more information.

Clearly, this is a fast-moving situation. At St Richard's it remains 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.

WILL OUR NATIVITY PLAYS AND CAROL CONCERTS STILL BE GOING AHEAD AT ST RICHARD'S THIS YEAR?

The short answer is 'yes' – the children will be performing as planned on the dates already communicated. **Whether parents will be able to attend in person is not yet certain.** Ticket letters have been sent home this week to parents of pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please fill the slip in and return it to school as soon as possible. If we do end up with a live audience, all parents and carers will be strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test on the day of the performance that they attend and will be asked to wear a face mask at the performances.

The decision as to whether parents can attend will be based on what we believe to be safest and, whilst it would be a disappointment to not have live audiences at our Christmas productions this year, it may be that this protects all of us (pupils, parents and staff) from the spread of a new strain of COVID-19 as well as reducing the risk of anyone having to self-isolate over the Christmas period. **We will let you know the final decision via ParentMail as soon as possible and no later than 4pm on Tuesday 7th December.**

If we cannot have a live audience at this year's performances, we will make every effort for parents to be able to see a video-recorded version of their child's nativity or carol concert.

EMERGENCY CONTACT SHEETS

All parents will soon receive an emergency contact sheet which we would like you to update and return to school as soon as possible and before Friday 10th December 2021. You must provide two separate emergency contacts on the sheet. If you only provide one, then office staff from school will be in touch to request a second one. Please help us to avoid having to make this call.

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

Many thanks to all our parents who have already completed 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](#)

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. To qualify for the draw, you must have returned your survey(s) before the closing date of **4pm on Friday 10th December**. Good luck - the survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Many thanks in advance.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WITH MCR Active

MCRactive are offering FREE places over the Christmas period for children eligible for free school meals. There will be a variety of activities and a FREE meal during the day. To access the booking system, you will need to use the password **MCRxmas21**. For more info & to book your child's place, please [CLICK HERE](#) or visit www.mcractive.com/activity/free-school-holiday-activities-in-manchester

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:

- Friday 3rd December (tomorrow)
- 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