



St. Richard's RC Primary ADVENT Newsletter 2021



Thursday 9th December 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE SUNDAY

This coming Sunday (12th December) is the third Sunday of Advent and is known as Gaudete Sunday. This is a day of joyous celebration (Gaudete is Latin for 'rejoice'). Although it takes place during the serious season of Advent, Gaudete Sunday is a mid-point break and a chance to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus' return. Rejoice and be happy everyone!

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=47.2> This week's Wednesday Word is the booklet version with gospel readings and reflections for the next three weeks.

CARITAS DIOCESE OF SALFORD

#LOVED CAMPAIGN

This Advent, the charity Caritas Diocese of Salford is running a #Loved campaign for children and families in our diocese.

Please support the appeal in any way that you can by donating online if you are able at:

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/advent-appeal-2021/>



OUR NATIVITY PLAYS AND CAROL CONCERTS

Due to the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK and the current lack of certainty about the level of danger that it poses, we took the difficult decision to **not** admit parents and carers to performances of our Nursery and Reception Nativity plays as well as our Year 1 and Year 2 carol concerts this year. Even though it was disappointing to not have a live audience at this year's performances, the children have still performed wonderfully and – as ever – have been a credit to their parents, teachers and staff in school. We will make video-recorded versions of all the nativity plays and carol concerts available as soon as possible. Details about how to view the videos will be on next week's newsletter and we hope that you will be able to view the performances before we break up for Christmas on 17th December.

CONSULTATION ON THE REVISION OF ST RICHARD'S ADMISSION POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

A consultation period on revisions to our current admissions policy will begin on Friday 10th December 2021 and any comments or objections must be received by 4pm on Monday 24th January 2022.

Please find below the link to the proposed St Richard's Admission Policy 2023:

[Proposed St Richard's Admission Policy 2023](#)

The same information is available on the school website at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/admissions/>

Following approval from the Governing Body of St Richard's, the proposed changes will bring our school into alignment with the current model admissions policy from the Diocese of Salford.

Should you wish to make any comments or objections, please forward them to comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk no later than 4pm on Monday 24th January 2022. All comments or objections will be considered and the final admission arrangements will be determined by 28th February 2022.

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 TOMORROW Friday 10th December**. Good luck - the survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Many thanks in advance.

NO CHRISTMAS CARDS PLEASE

We have decided not to allow pupils to bring Christmas cards in to school this year. This is to minimise movement and cut down on contact at a time when we are still not certain about the impact of the new variant of COVID-19, Omicron. Instead, please encourage your child(ren) to use 'one kind (Christmas) word' to deliver a verbal message to their friends.

CHILDREN ARRIVING LATE

There has been an increasing number of children arriving late to school in the mornings recently. Lateness causes lost learning opportunities for children – who are often also upset when they arrive late to school. Please establish good habits for your children by making every effort to get them to school before 9am each day. Many thanks in advance.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY

Christmas lunch day at St Richard's will be on Tuesday 14th December. This will be a non-uniform day and Christmas jumpers may be worn. The decorated packed lunch box competition will also take place on this day. Children will not be able to have a school dinner if they normally bring a packed lunch due to the kitchen order already having been made.

EMERGENCY CONTACT SHEETS

By now you should have received an emergency contact sheet which we would like you to update and return to school as soon as possible and before **TOMORROW 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.

WELCOME TO MRS WARD

Mrs Varley will be starting her maternity leave when we break up for Christmas on Friday 17th December and we wish her all the very best. After Christmas, Class 5 will be taught by Mrs Ward. Mrs Ward is already in school, preparing to take over after Christmas. We wish Mrs Ward all the best and offer her a very warm welcome to St Richard's.

NON-UNIFORM DAYS TO SUPPORT PARISH FUNDS

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

- **Friday 10th December (tomorrow)**
- 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