



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2022

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

We break up for the Christmas holidays tomorrow, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. **We return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.** Many thanks for all your support in 2022. We wish all our pupils, staff, parents and the whole community of St Richard's a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday and a very successful start to 2023.



## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES THANKS

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas performances this week and last week. It was lovely to see our community back together at Christmas for the first time in a while. Many thanks to all the staff in school who helped prepare the children. Well done to all the children who took part – each of your performances were truly wonderful. Also, thank you for your very kind donations for Francis House Children's Hospice – we raised a wonderful **£317.10**.

## CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS AT ST RICHARD'S CHURCH

This year's first Mass of Christmas (the Christmas Vigil Mass) will be celebrated at St Richard's Church on Christmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 6pm. We would like as many children to attend with a parent/carer as possible. Children from the school choir will be leading the singing but all children are very welcome to attend – but only if they are accompanied by a parent/carer. Children may wear non-uniform for the First Mass of Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FOR 'SAVE THE CHILDREN' CHARITY

Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards our fundraising for 'Save the Children'. We raised a total of **£291.73**.

## LOOKING OUT FOR 'STREP A' and iGAS SYMPTOMS

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include: sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours a red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should still be present. Children typically have flushed cheeks and paleness around the mouth.

Regionally and nationally, there are currently higher rates of scarlet fever than would be expected for this time of year. It is the same with cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) - particularly in children under 10 years. iGAS is far less common but is caused by the same bacteria as scarlet fever and can lead to more serious illness.

The UK Health Security Agency advises: "Anyone with high fever, severe muscle aches, pain in one area of the body and unexplained vomiting or diarrhoea should call NHS 111 and seek medical help immediately". Should your child develop any of these symptoms whilst they are at school, we will notify you immediately and expect you to come for your child straight away.

## PUPIL DATA FORMS

Please check, sign, date and return your child's Pupil data collection forms as soon as possible and by tomorrow, **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at the latest. We always need to have the most up to date contact information for your child(ren).

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PATTERN 2023-24

Please find on the second page of this newsletter the approved holiday pattern for next academic year (2023-2024). Please remember that holidays and requests for extended leave in term time will not be authorised and are likely to lead to a penalty notice and fine.

## FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER CHRISTMAS

I am pleased to be able to remind parents that Manchester City Council has agreed to fund provision of Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers over the school holiday periods this academic year – including this Christmas. Payments of £15.00 per week for every Free School Meal eligible pupil were sent out to parents yesterday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## MCR ACTIVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

MCRActive are offering thousands of free places for children to access a variety of activities and a free meal over the Christmas holiday in Manchester for those on benefit-related free school meals. To book your child's space, sign up for an MCRActive Go account at <https://www.mcractive.com> Once signed up, log into your account, then 'Find Activities' – 'Search by Category' - 'MCR Holiday Activity'. Use code **26584** when asked, in order to book free eligible activities.

## EVERY LIBRARY IN MANCHESTER IS A 'WARM SPACE'

Given the recent cold weather warnings, it might be helpful to know that every library in Manchester is a 'warm space' - a free, safe place where residents can come in and stay warm all day in a welcoming, inclusive environment. MCC libraries are packed full of resources and support for all ages:

- Free, self-service hot drinks
- Comfortable seating and welcoming spaces
- Free Internet
- Free Wi-Fi
- Newspapers
- Information and advice
- Staff who can signpost to other support agencies
- Digital drop-ins one day a week
- Under 5s story times once a week at 11am

Find your local library and read about their library services

## PLEASE DO NOT GO THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK

Parents and carers must not cut through the staff car park next to St Richard's Church and must not enter the code on the pedestrian gate entrance to the car park. Ducking under the barrier is potentially very dangerous too. Many thanks in advance for your complete cooperation.

## PARENT SURVEY THANKS

Many thanks to all the parents who completed the Parents' Survey last week or the week before. The responses provide school with very useful information (as well as overwhelmingly positive feedback) about how parents view St Richard's. The winners of the £10 voucher from each year group will be informed by email this week.

## APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION FOR 2023

The closing date for applying for a Reception place for your child for a September 2023 start is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – very soon after Christmas. Please note: a place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception. It is **vital** that you get your application in on time. Please visit:

[https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary\\_school\\_admissions/7264/apply\\_for\\_a\\_reception\\_class\\_place\\_for\\_september\\_2023/4](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary_school_admissions/7264/apply_for_a_reception_class_place_for_september_2023/4)

## WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

This week's edition of the Wednesday Word is the holiday version. It is available at <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=79.2> and it lasts until our first week back in January 2023.

## PLEASE CONSIDER OUR NEIGHBOURS WHEN PARKING

Please make sure that – if you have to drive to school to drop off and/or pick up your child(ren) – that you park considerately and never cause residents' cars to be blocked in. Please always set a good example and be respectful and safe in your parking around school. Many thanks.

Wishing you all the joy and peace of the Christmas season,

*Mr J Murray*  
Headteacher

St Richard's RC Primary School



**ST RICHARD'S R C PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY LIST FOR 2023/2024**



<b>Autumn Term 2023</b>			
Staff In-Service Day	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	9am – 4pm
Staff In-Service Day	Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> September	9am – 4pm
Pupils start	Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> September	8.58 am
Nursery pupils phased intake days		6 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> September	8.50 am
Mid-Term School closes	Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30 pm
Pupils re-start	Monday	30 <sup>th</sup> October	8.58 am
Staff In-Service Day	Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> November	9am – 4pm
Term Ends	Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	3.30pm
Staff In-Service Day	Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	9am – 4pm

<b>Spring Term 2024</b>			
Pupils re-start	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	8.58 am
Mid-Term School closes	Friday	16 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30 pm
Pupils re-start	Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	8.58am
Term Ends	Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30 pm
Easter Vigil Mass	Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 pm



<b>Summer Term 2024</b>			
Pupils re-start	Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> April	8.58am
Bank Holiday	Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed
SATs (Year 2)		Throughout May	
SATs (Year 6)	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024		
Mid-Term School closes	Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30 pm
Pupils re-start	Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> June	8.58 am
Term Ends	Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> July	3.30 pm
Staff In-Service Day	Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> July	9 am – 4 pm

**HOLIDAYS & REQUESTS FOR EXTENDED LEAVE IN TERM TIME WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED**