



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2022

Thursday 8th December 2022

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE SUNDAY

This coming Sunday (11th 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!



LOOKING OUT FOR 'STREP A' and iGAS SYMPTOMS

The Manchester Public Health Team have issued the following advice to parents and carers: *Group A Streptococcus bacteria can cause illnesses like scarlet fever. Scarlet fever is an infectious illness that normally affects young children (2-8 years old). It causes flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands (lump on side of neck). It spreads when people cough. After 12-48 hours it causes small, raised bumps that feel rough like sandpaper on the chest and tummy area. On white skin the rash looks pink or red. It can be harder to see on brown or black skin, but you can still feel it. These pictures will help you:*

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>
<https://dftbskindeep.com/all-diagnoses/scarlet-fever/>

If you notice any of these symptoms, please keep your child at home and speak to your GP to see if treatment is needed. For most children this is not a serious condition and they will be able to go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. In very rare cases it can cause more serious illness. If your child gets worse after having scarlet fever, please don't wait, talk to a health professional or ring 111 for help. In the meantime, please encourage your child to wash their hands, cough into a tissue and put the tissue in a bin.

PLEASE ALSO SEE THE INFORMATION ON THE NEXT 2 PAGES

PUPIL DATA FORMS

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

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

If you have not already done so, please complete our Parent Survey 2022. Many thanks to everyone who has already submitted a response, it is greatly appreciated. The survey is an online Google Form which you can easily 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). The closing date is **TOMORROW**, Friday 9th December, at 4pm.

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Tuesday 13th December (our school Christmas Dinner Day for pupils) we will be taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. The suggested donation for this fundraiser is £1. However, we know times are tough, so please remember that donations are optional and any amount you can spare will be greatly appreciated. There's absolutely no need to buy your child a new jumper. It's Christmas Dinner Day on Tuesday 13th December (pupils on packed lunches are encouraged to decorate their sandwich boxes on this day) and pupils can wear any sensible non-uniform of your choice.

FRESHWATER THEATRE VISITS TO Y2 AND Y3

Last week, Year 2 had a visit from Fresh Water Theatre Company in order to support their learning in their Geography Learning Journey, 'Let's Locate the UK'. Liyana in Class 4 loved the visit. She was pleased to be chosen as the pilot and got to visit many places in the UK. Demmy said she was surprised to learn that Northern Ireland had a different flag. Nisa said, "It was the best day!". Year 3 also had a Fresh Water Theatre visit last week in order to support their learning in their Geography Learning Journey, 'Extreme Earth'. Hillary in Class 5 writes, 'The Freshwater Theatre teacher Alison taught year 3 all about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. We acted out lots of scenes such as when a volcano is active, dormant or extinct and how to help each other during an earthquake. Everyone enjoyed it, especially the part where we pretended to be a tsunami!'

SPORT STAR GYMNASTS

Our Year 2 pupils enjoyed some Gymnastic taster sessions in PE last Friday. Azaana in Class 3 writes, "It was great because we got the chance to do lots of fun activities and practise important gymnastic skills". Mirra writes, "My favourite part was rolling backwards and balancing the beanbag between my feet. It was so much fun!"

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 will be sent out to parents on 14th December.

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

This week's edition of the Wednesday Word is available by visiting <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/christ?pid=MTA101634&v=78.10> and this week's Wednesday Word is **CHRIST**.

PLEASE CONSIDER OUR NEIGHBOURS WHEN PARKING

We received a complaint from a neighbour late last week about inconsiderate parking at home time which caused her drive to be blocked. Please always set a good example and to be respectful and safe in your parking around school.

CHRISTMAS DATES 2022

Many thanks so far with everyone's hard work and support of our Christmas programme of events. We had a wonderful Nursery Nativity, Year One Carol Concert and Reception Nativity all take place this week. Whilst we are not charging for admission, we will be having a collection for Francis House Children's Hospice at all our Christmas concerts. Next week we have:

Monday 12th December – Year Two Carol Concert in St Richard's Church at 2pm (parents welcome to attend)

Tuesday 13th December – Children's Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper/non-uniform Day

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Richard's RC Church at 6pm

Wednesday 4th January – Pupils return to school

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 24th 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.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER MEETING

Greater Manchester Police are encouraging local residents to come and discuss key issues within the community. This meeting will take place at Gorton Hub, Garrett Way (Peter Pan Room) tonight (Thursday 8th December) between 6pm and 8pm.

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School



Important health news for parents and carers



Scarlet Fever is on the rise in Manchester.
Protect children. Look out for the signs.

You may have heard on the news about Strep A
or Group A Streptococcus.

It is a bacteria that can cause illnesses such as
Scarlet Fever in young children, often between
2 and 8 years old.



It spreads very easily when people cough.
Get your children to cough into a tissue,
put the tissue in a bin and wash their hands

Scarlet Fever is usually not serious.



It can be treated with antibiotics and children
can normally go back to school in 24 hours.



But some children can get it worse.
If this happens you must tell a health professional
Or ring 111 for help

On the next page are the signs to look out for →

Signs of Scarlet Fever



- Sore throat.
- Swollen neck glands – a lump on the side of the neck.



- High temperature.
- After 12 to 48 hours it causes small bumps that feel rough like sandpaper on the tummy and chest.

- On white skin the rash looks red. On brown or black skin this can be hard to see, but you can still feel it.



If your child has any of these signs keep them off school.

Talk to your GP who will tell you if any treatment is needed.

