



St. Richard's RC Primary Advent Newsletter 2023



Thursday 14th December 2023

The mission of St Richard's is that we know, love and follow Christ by looking after each other and trying our best every day.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE SUNDAY

This coming Sunday (17th 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. This is when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. Rejoice and be happy everyone!



HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Pupils break up for the Christmas holidays next Wednesday, 20th December so this is the last newsletter of the term. **We return to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.** Many thanks for all your support in 2023. 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 2024.

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, Sunday 24th December, starting at 5pm. We would like as many children to attend with a parent/carer as possible. Children from the school choir will be leading the singing and reading but all children are very welcome to attend – but only if they are accompanied by a parent/carer. Children do not have to wear school uniform at this mass.

MCR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITY INFORMATION

MCRactive and Manchester City Council are offering thousands of FREE places for children to access a variety of activities and a FREE meal over the Christmas holidays in Manchester for those on benefits-related free school meals. To book your child's space: Sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcractive.com/>

Once signed up, log into your account – Find Activities – Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' - Use code when asked: 99765 to book free eligible activities. Please also visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities and other opportunities taking place across the city.

APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION FOR 2024

The closing date for applying for a Reception place for your child for a September 2024 start is Monday 15th January 2024. Please visit:

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 Christmas Holiday Special and is available by visiting <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=114.2> Please find some time to connect with the Good News of the Gospel by reading the Wednesday Word over the Christmas period.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER CHRISTMAS

Manchester City Council has again 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 Monday 18th December.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PATTERN 2024-25

Please find on the second page of this newsletter the approved holiday pattern for next academic year (2024-2025). Please keep this somewhere safe and refer to it before booking any holidays. 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.

WELL DONE GIFT TEAM AND CARITAS AMBASSADORS!

Many thanks again for everyone's generous contributions to the chocolate tombola stall at last Saturday's Parish Christmas fair. Many thanks to all those who turned up to support the fair. Very well done to our GIFT Team and Caritas Ambassadors who did a brilliant job as face painters and tombola operatives. They raised £217.43 and the fair overall raised £2765.69. Thanks for a great effort everyone!

CHRISTMAS DATES 2023

Please make a note of the remaining dates for Christmas 2023.

Date:	Event:
Friday 15 th December	Nursery and Reception end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Monday 18 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Wednesday 20 th December	Year 5 and Year 6 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Wednesday 20 th December	Pupils break up for Christmas
Sunday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Richard's RC Church at 5pm
Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Pupils return to school

RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS

We are making some small changes to the order in which we teach three of the units of our Relationships Education Programme. Full details of the changes and instructions for how parents can respond with comments are available by visiting the Policies page of our school website and clicking on 'Parental Consultation over changes to Relationships Education' (which is directly beneath our current Relationships Education Policy). The closing date for comments is 4pm on Friday 19th January 2024.

With many thanks for your support this term and wishing you all the peace and joy of Christmas,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School



ST RICHARD'S R C PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOLIDAY LIST FOR 2024/2025



Autumn Term 2024			
Staff In-Service Day	Monday	2 nd September	9am – 4pm
Staff In-Service Day	Tuesday	3 rd September	9am – 4pm
Pupils start	Wednesday	4 th September	8.58 am
Nursery pupils phased intake days		4 th 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd September	8.50 am
Mid-Term School closes	Friday	18 th October	3.30 pm
Pupils re-start	Monday	28 th October	8.58 am
Staff In-Service Day	Friday	22 nd November	9am – 4pm
Term Ends	Friday	20 th December	3.30pm

Spring Term 2025			
Pupils re-start	Monday	6 th January	8.58 am
Mid-Term School closes	Friday	14 th February	3.30 pm
Pupils re-start	Monday	24 th February	8.58am
Term Ends	Friday	11 th April	3.30 pm
Easter Vigil Mass	Saturday	19 th April	Time tbc

Summer Term 2025			
Pupils re-start	Tuesday	22 nd April	8.58am
Bank Holiday	Monday	5 th May	School closed
SATs (Year 6)	Monday 12 th May to Thursday 15 th May 2025		
Mid-Term School closes	Friday	23 rd May	3.30 pm
Pupils re-start	Monday	9 th June	8.58 am
Term Ends	Friday	18 th July	3.30 pm
Staff In-Service Day	Monday	21 st July	9 am – 4 pm
Staff In-Service Day	Tuesday	22 nd July	9 am – 4 pm

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