



# St. Richard's RC Primary Advent Newsletter 2024



Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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 (15<sup>th</sup> 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!



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2025-26

Please find attached the approved holiday pattern for next academic year (2025-2026). 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 (fine).

## WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The link below is to the special Christmas holiday edition of the Wednesday Word. This contains the Good News of the Gospel from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please continue to read and discuss the Wednesday Word over the Christmas holidays as a family by visiting:  
<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=158.3>



Save the Children  
CHRISTMAS  
JUMPER DAY

## NON-UNIFORM/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (next week) it will be Children's Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper/non-uniform Day (suggested £1 donation to Save the Children). On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December we will be judging the best Christmas decorated lunchbox and lunch bag competition too – with a prize for the best ones in each class.

## 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, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## WHEN YOUR CHILD IS POORLY

At St Richard's, we are in full agreement with current NHS advice that it is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. However, if they have a high temperature, please keep them off school until it goes down. Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

## APPLICATIONS FOR A RECEPTION CLASS PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Manchester City Council's online application portal is now open. The deadline for submitting an on-time application is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Our school office staff can help parents who may be experiencing difficulties with submitting their applications online. Please phone school to make an appointment if you require this. Please follow this link to make an online application: [Apply for a Reception class place for September 2025](#)

## CHRISTMAS DATES 2024

Many thanks to all our parents and friends for your attendance at our fantastic Nursery and Reception Nativity plays and our beautiful Year 1 and Year 2 Carol Concerts this week. Your support was greatly appreciated at these prayerful reminders of the joys that wait for us just around the corner, at Christmas.

| Date:                               | Event:  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December    | Nursery and Reception end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)  |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December   | Year 1 and Year 2 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)      |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December   | Children's Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper/non-uniform Day (suggested £1 donation to Save the Children) |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December  | Year 3 and Year 4 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)      |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December    | Year 5 and Year 6 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)      |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December    | Pupils break up for Christmas   |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December   | Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Richard's RC Church at 5.00pm  |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 | Pupils return to school   |

## FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER CHRISTMAS

Manchester City Council will fund Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers over the school holiday periods this Christmas. Payments of £15.00 per week for every Free School Meal eligible pupil will be sent out to parents on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## RESPONDING TO THE NEWSLETTER

We are always happy to receive comments, observations or suggestions about the newsletter or any aspect of school life in general. Any such comments will be read and considered. These can be emailed to: [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk)

With many thanks for your continuing support

Mr J Murray

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School



**ST RICHARD'S R C PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY LIST FOR 2025/2026**



| <b>Autumn Term 2025</b>           |                     |                           |           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Staff In-Service Day              | Monday              | 1 <sup>st</sup> September | 9am – 4pm |
| Staff In-Service Day              | Tuesday             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | 9am – 4pm |
| Pupils start                      | Wednesday           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> September | 8.58 am   |
| Nursery pupils phased intake days | Dates to be advised |                           | 8.50 am   |
| Mid-Term School closes            | Friday              | 24 <sup>th</sup> October  | 3.30 pm   |
| Pupils re-start                   | Monday              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November  | 8.58 am   |
| Staff In-Service Day              | Friday              | 21 <sup>st</sup> November | 9am – 4pm |
| Term Ends                         | Friday              | 19 <sup>th</sup> December | 3.30pm    |

| <b>Spring Term 2026</b> |          |                           |          |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Pupils re-start         | Monday   | 5 <sup>th</sup> January   | 8.58 am  |
| Mid-Term School closes  | Friday   | 13 <sup>th</sup> February | 3.30 pm  |
| Pupils re-start         | Monday   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> February | 8.58am   |
| Term Ends               | Thursday | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April     | 3.30 pm  |
| Easter Vigil Mass       | Saturday | 4 <sup>th</sup> April     | Time tbc |

| <b>Summer Term 2026</b> |   |                        |               |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------|
| Pupils re-start         | Monday  | 13 <sup>th</sup> April | 8.58am        |
| Bank Holiday            | Monday  | 4 <sup>th</sup> May    | School closed |
| SATs (Year 6)           | Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 |                        |               |
| Mid-Term School closes  | Friday  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> May   | 3.30 pm       |
| Pupils re-start         | Monday  | 8 <sup>th</sup> June   | 8.58 am       |
| Term Ends               | Friday  | 17 <sup>th</sup> July  | 3.30 pm       |
| Staff In-Service Day    | Monday  | 20 <sup>th</sup> July  | 9 am – 4 pm   |
| Staff In-Service Day    | Tuesday   | 21 <sup>st</sup> July  | 9 am – 4 pm   |

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