



St. Richard's RC Primary Christmas Newsletter 2024



Thursday 19th 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.



HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Pupils break up for the Christmas holidays after school tomorrow, Friday 20th December, so this is the last newsletter of the term and of the calendar year. **We return to school on Monday 6th January 2025.** Many thanks for all your support in 2024. 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 2025.

KEY STAGE TWO LEAGUE TABLE SUCCESS

Last week, the government published Key Stage 2 performance tables for all schools for last academic year. We are delighted to announce that, of the 166 schools who make up the table for Manchester local authority, St Richard's was:

- FIRST** for the average score in Maths.
- SECOND** for the average score in Reading.
- SEVENTH** for the percentage of pupils attaining the higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- EIGHTH** for the percentage of pupils attaining the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.

This is a **FANTASTIC** achievement and one which we are all very proud of. This has all been made possible by our hard-working and dedicated teachers and TAs. Mr Keyworth, Mrs Toal and our Year 6 teachers are especially pleased with the achievements of our pupils last year, and we also thank our parents for their continued support in their children's success.

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 15th December 2024 until Sunday 5th 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>

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 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 lead 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.

WE WILL BE ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER) IN 2025

As you will have seen from the letter which came home on Monday, St Richard's will be launching an X (formerly Twitter) account in January 2025. Parents are encouraged to follow the whole school X account in order to receive the information the school is posting to X. Please remember to follow us and keep in touch with us on X **@St_Richards_RC**

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 15th 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 Nativity plays, carol concerts, musical concerts and end of term assemblies over the past fortnight. Your support is always greatly appreciated at these prayerful reminders of the joys that wait for us just around the corner, at Christmas.

Date:	Event:
Friday 20 th December	Year 5 and Year 6 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Friday 20 th December	Pupils break up for Christmas
Tuesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Richard's RC Church at 5.00pm
Monday 6 th 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 today, Thursday 19th 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

Wishing you all the peace and joy of Christmas, a prosperous New Year and with many thanks for your continuing support

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School