



St. Richard's RC Primary Advent Newsletter 2025



Thursday 11th December 2025

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 (14th 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!



THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent

Children's Book Project

Book Project, a charity which aims to promote attainment and engagement with reading through book ownership. The aim is that all children will also receive two more books each in Spring Term AND in Summer term!

CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Before we break up for Christmas, every child at St Richard's will be able to choose two books to bring home to keep. This is due to our involvement, in the National Year of Reading 2026, with the Children's

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

The Wednesday Word is now in its bumper holiday edition which will last until we return to school in January 2026. Especially over Christmas, please try to read and discuss the Wednesday Word every week as a family by visiting: <https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=194.4>

APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 and they are due to start primary school in September 2026 and you live in Manchester then please follow this link to make an online application: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary_school_admissions/7264/apply_for_a_reception_class_place_for_september_2018 If you live outside Manchester and want a place at a Manchester school, you need to apply through your current local council. The application round for Reception 2026 school places is currently open and the deadline for submitting an on-time application is **Thursday 15th January 2026**. Our school office staff can help parents who may be experiencing difficulties with submitting their applications online.

PLEASE PARK AND STRIDE

There must be no 'drive-by' drop-offs or pick-ups at St Richard's. Instead, parents who drive to school must park safely and considerately and present themselves on foot to drop off and pick up their child. The plastic figures outside school and the yellow zigzag lines should be a reminder to all drivers that extreme caution must be exercised when driving anywhere near our school. We invite traffic enforcement officers to school on a regular basis to help keep all our pupils safe.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

There will be a Parish Carol Concert starting at 6pm tonight, Thursday 11th December, at St Mary's RC Church Levenshulme. The choir from St Richard's will be one of a number of parish groups performing and all our families are welcome to attend (all children must be accompanied by a parent/carer).

FAMILY RESOURCES FOR EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Below is a link to resources that may be useful for our families:

<https://bit.ly/family-resources-for-early-development>

NON-UNIFORM/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Tuesday 16th December (next week) it will be Children's Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day (suggested £1 donation to Save the Children). On Tuesday 16th 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, Wednesday 24th December, starting at 5pm. We would like as many children to attend as possible – but only if they are accompanied by a parent/carer. Children do not have to wear school uniform at this mass.

CHRISTMAS DATES 2025

Date, time and location:	Event:
Thursday 11 th December at 6pm in Mary's RC Church Levenshulme	Parish Christmas Carol Concert
Monday 15 th December at 9am in the main school hall	Nursery and Reception end of term awards assembly
Tuesday 16 th December at 9am in the main school hall	Year One and Year Two end of term awards assembly
Tuesday 16 th December	Pupils' Christmas lunch (non-uniform/Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children) Lunchbox decorating competition today for children on packed lunches
Thursday 18 th December at 9am in the main school hall	Year Three and Year Four end of term awards assembly
Thursday 18 th December at 2pm in St Richard's Church	Choir performance of Hosanna Rock for KS2
Friday 19 th December at 9am in the main school hall	Year Five and Year Six end of term awards assembly
Wednesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Richard's Church at 5pm

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 18th 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

With many thanks for your continuing support,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School