



# St. Richard's RC Primary Advent Newsletter 2025



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Pupils break up for the Christmas holidays after school tomorrow, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, so this is the last newsletter of the term and of the calendar year. **We return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** Many thanks for all your support in 2025. 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 2026.

## Children's Book Project

### CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

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

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

### THE WEDNESDAY WORD

The Wednesday Word is still 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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\\_2026](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary_school_admissions/7264/apply_for_a_reception_class_place_for_september_2026) 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Our school office staff can help parents who may be experiencing difficulties with submitting their applications online.

### 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 **170** primary schools who make up the table for Manchester local authority, St Richard's was:

- 2nd** for the average score in **Maths**.
- 3rd** for the average score in **Reading**.
- 6th** for the percentage of pupils attaining the higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- 9th** 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.

### PARISH CAROL CONCERT THANKS

Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend the Parish Carol Concert last Thursday evening at St Mary's RC Church Levenshulme. The St Richard's school choir performed brilliantly, and it was a really lovely community celebration and great preparation for Christmas.

### CONSULTATION: SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY CHANGE

We are currently consulting with a wide range of stakeholders about proposed changes to our Admissions Policy for the 2027-2028 academic year. Full details of the consultation are available at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/admissions/>

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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

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 presence and support is always greatly appreciated at these prayerful reminders of the joys that wait for us just around the corner, at Christmas. Thank you to our amazing school staff for all their hard work and dedication in preparing so many wonderful performances and events.

Date, time and location:	Event:
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December at 9am in the main school hall	Year Five and Year Six end of term awards assembly
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St Richard's Church at 5pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	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 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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.

### 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