



# St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2026



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.

## POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2026

Pope Leo's prayer intention for January 2026 is for prayer with the Word of God. He states, 'Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church'.



## WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The link below is to this week's edition of the Wednesday Word. Please continue to read and discuss the Wednesday Word every week as a family by visiting:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/joy?pid=MTA101634&v=160.3>

This Wednesday's Word is **WITNESS**

## PICKING UP AFTER SCHOOL AND FROM CLUBS

It is vitally important that parents and carers pick up their children on time at the end of each school day. It is equally important that children are always picked up from after-school clubs promptly and on time each week. We have only just started the new school term and we have already had too many children being picked up late. All of our after-school activities end at **4.15pm**. Where a parent or carer is repeatedly late picking up their child from any of our after-school clubs then we will consider withdrawing the privilege of your child attending that after school activity and future after-school activities.

## FUNDRAISING DAY FOR CAFOD

On Friday 23rd January, the whole school will be taking part in a special fundraising day to raise money for CAFOD World Gifts. CAFOD World Gifts is a range of virtual charity gifts that help transform the lives of families and communities living in poverty around the world. Each class at St Richard's will be holding their own fundraising activities, and a letter and/or sponsorship form will be sent home with more details about how each class will be involved. We kindly ask for your support if you are able, as this meaningful cause lies at the heart of our Catholic values and helps our children live out the spirit of compassion, generosity and care for others.

## 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\\_2018](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 but the deadline for submitting an on-time application is today - **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

## SISTER EDITH RIP

We received sad news just before the Christmas break that Sister Edith had passed away. Sister Edith dedicated many years of service to our school and to the families of St Richard's before moving on to work at St Peter's RC High School. Please remember Sister Edith and her family in your prayers.

## CONSULTATION: SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 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/>

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

## ONLINE SAFETY & MANAGING CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIVES

The Children's Commissioner for England and Wales, Dame Rachel De Souza, has published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#). Dame Rachel writes, 'Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play'. Please click on the hyperlink above to read the guide.

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR CHILD TO START NURSERY IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

If you have a child who was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 and you would like them to attend full time in the Nursery at St Richard's RC Primary School from September 2026, then please contact the school office as soon as possible for an admission form. Your child will be added to the waiting list for admission to our Nursery class in September 2026. Places are in high demand and offers are starting to be sent out soon.

## ST RICHARD'S HOLIDAY DATES

The school holiday dates (both for the current as well as next academic year) are available at:

<https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/key-information/calender/> Please ensure that your child is on time and in school every day that school is open to them. We break up for February half-term holidays on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026** and we return to school on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**.

## ASSEMBLIES AND 'STAY & PRAY' THIS HALF-TERM

Please come along and share in the prayers, achievements and celebrations of our children at our class assemblies in the hall and Stay and Pray sessions in our Prayer Room.

Date:	Event:
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	C10 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	C1 Assembly in main school hall at 9am
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	C11 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	C3 Assembly in main school hall at 9am
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	C12 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Many thanks for your wonderful efforts in sending your child(ren) to school in such smart uniform at the start of 2026. May I remind parents that no earrings (or any other jewellery) can be worn by pupils. No make-up or nail varnish is allowed. Smart black school shoes are the only footwear allowed – no trainers please.

With many thanks for your continuing support

*Mr J Murray*

Headteacher  
St Richard's RC Primary School