



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.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On behalf of all the staff at St Richard's I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back to school. Many thanks for everyone's kind words and gifts just before the Christmas holidays – they were all greatly appreciated. We wish all our pupils, families, staff and the whole school community a very happy and successful 2026.



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



Our Y6, Y5 and Y4 children celebrated the start of the new calendar year and the Feast of the Epiphany by attending Mass together yesterday morning. Below is a prayer for us all, to help mark the Feast of the Epiphany:

Loving Father, in the Epiphany your love was revealed to us in the form of a child. As we kneel before the holy infant with the wise men and adore, we offer the gold of our hearts – what is best in us. We offer the frankincense of our prayers – for ourselves and each other. We offer the oil of myrrh – a sign of our commitment to you. Bless all those in our school community who came from near and from afar in order to join our community. Bless their families. May we all be at home in the presence of the child Jesus. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

The link below is to this week's edition of the Wednesday Word (which is now back to its usual weekly format, following the Christmas holiday edition). The Wednesday Word contains the Good News of the Gospel for Sunday 11th January 2026. Please continue to read and discuss the Wednesday Word every week as a family by visiting:

<https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/new-start?pid=MTA101634&v=196.5>

This Wednesday's Words are, very appropriately, **NEW START**

SCHOOL CHOIR THANKS

Many thanks to all the children from the school choir who led the carol singing at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass so beautifully. Well done and thank you to the readers who were all so clear and confident. Many thanks to all the parents and to staff from school for helping to prepare and for supporting the children on such a lovely occasion.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS POORLY

At St Richard's, we fully support 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 must stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Thursday 8th January 2026

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 but the deadline for submitting an on-time application is only a week away - **Thursday 15th January 2026**. Our school office staff can help parents who may be experiencing difficulties with submitting their applications online.

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/>

FUNDRAISING THANKS

We had two fundraising drives just before Christmas. As a result of non-uniform/Christmas Jumper day, we raised **£248.67** for Save the Children. As a result of generous contributions from parents and friends who attended school nativity plays and carol concerts, we raised a further **£100.26** for Francis House. Many thanks and well done to everyone who contributed.

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

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st 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/calendar/>

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 13th February 2026** and we return to school on **Monday 23rd February 2026**.

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 a happy and successful 2026 and with many thanks for your continuing support

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School