



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2026



Thursday 26th March 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.



Holy Week

NEXT WEEK IS HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, this coming Sunday, 29th March. During Holy Week in school next week, we will be recalling the events leading up to Jesus' death whilst also looking

forward to His Resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday, 5th April. At St Richard's, we break up for Easter on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April. There will be a newsletter next Thursday. We return to school on **Monday 13th April 2026**.

EASTER VIGIL MASS

The Easter Vigil Mass (the first mass of Easter) will be celebrated at St Richard's RC Church on Saturday 6th April, starting at 6pm. Please come along as a family if you can. At this Mass, all children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

WEDNESDAY WORD ONLINE

Please continue to read and discuss the Wednesday Word every week as a family by visiting: <https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/lent-easter-special?pid=MTA101634&p=7&v=206.9> The Wednesday Word is a particularly wonderful resource for parents and children on the Sacramental Programme to use. This week the Wednesday Word is in holiday format which lasts until Wednesday 15th April, our first Wednesday back in school after the Easter break.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On the morning of Friday 20th March 2026, sixteen children received the Sacrament of Forgiveness at St Richard's Church for the first time. We celebrated a sacramental programme Certificate Mass in St Richard's Church on Saturday 21st March. Many thanks to all the parents, Father Kris, Miss Broadbent, Mrs Bentley, Miss McKnight and all the other staff from school who take on the vital work of preparing the children for their sacramental journey. Well done boys and girls for being wonderful candidates for the sacraments.

BOOK GIFTING: THE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Before we break up for Easter, every child at St Richard's will be able to choose two more books to bring home and keep. This is called 'Book Gifting' and is due to our continuing involvement with the Children's 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 the Summer term.

SUMMER UNIFORM RULES AFTER EASTER

From Monday 13th April 2026, when we return to school, and as an alternative to winter uniform, pupils may wear summer uniform. Summer uniform may be worn until the October half-term holidays. For girls, summer uniform consists of blue and white gingham dress. Girls may also wear white tights or black, white or grey socks as part of summer uniform. Boys' summer uniform consists of dark grey trousers or shorts, light blue polo shirt and plain navy school sweatshirt (preferably with the school logo and no other logo allowed). No earrings are allowed in school – even when covered by plasters.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS OVER EASTER HOLIDAYS

Manchester City Council has approved funding for free school meals (FSM) vouchers for children eligible for benefits-led free school meals. As in previous holidays, school will issue vouchers to parents. Even though we only have a week and a day off at Easter, two weeks' vouchers will still be issued. This means that if MCC agrees to fund vouchers going forward (i.e. May half term), eligible families at St Richard's will only receive vouchers for one week at May half-term.

YEAR 6 SATS DATES 2026

The Year 6 KS2 SATs will take place every day between **Monday 11th May 2026 and Thursday 14th May 2026**. During KS2 SATs week, pupils will sit different tests and it is vitally important that they are in school for all of these tests and are ready to do their very best.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD BY AN HOUR THIS COMING WEEKEND

In the United Kingdom, the clocks go forward on Sunday 29th March at 1am. Please make sure that you adjust the time at home (most mobile phones do this automatically) so that your child arrives at the correct time for school on Monday 30th March 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 27 th March	R2 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm
Friday 17 th April	C1 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm

END OF SPRING TERM AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

Parents are also very welcome to attend their child(ren)'s end of Spring Term Awards Assembly. The first of these is tomorrow morning. Details of these are below:

Friday 27 th March	Nursery and Reception end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Monday 30 th March	Year 1 and Year 2 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Tuesday 31 st March	Year 3 and Year 4 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Thursday 2 nd April	Year 5 and Year 6 end of term awards assembly in main school hall at 9am (parents welcome to attend)
Thursday 2 nd April	Pupils break up for Easter
Saturday 4 th April	Easter Vigil Mass at St Richard's RC Church at 6pm
Monday 13 th April	Pupils return to school

RESPONDING TO THE NEWSLETTER

We are always happy to receive comments, observations or suggestions about the newsletter or any other aspect of school life. Any comments that we receive will be read and considered. These should 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