



St. Richard's RC Primary School Newsletter 2026



Thursday 22nd October

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

WE BREAK UP FOR HALF-TERM TOMORROW

We break up for our half-term holidays after school tomorrow, Friday 23rd October. We wish you all a safe and restful half-term break. Please be particularly careful as some Halloween events are likely to take place during the break and it will also be the start of bonfire season - and fireworks. See below for some safety guidance about this. School reopens at 8.30am on Monday 2nd November 2026. Please note that school will also be closed to all pupils on Friday 20th November 2026 because it is a staff INSET Day.

REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER

November is traditionally a month for remembering. The day before we return to school (Sunday 1st November) we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, when we remember all the triumphant saints in heaven. The first day back in school, Monday 2nd November, is the Feast of All Souls.

On this day we are asked to remember and pray for all who have died. November is also the month of Remembrance Sunday, when we remember all those who sacrificed so much in the two world wars, as well as in conflicts between and since then.



'BANG OUT OF ORDER' FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's bonfire safety campaign is aimed at protecting against - and preventing - harm occurring during the Halloween and Bonfire period. More details and resources are available at <https://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/your-safety/campaigns/bangoutoforder/>

HARVEST DONATIONS FOR CORNERSTONES DAY CENTRE

We are tremendously grateful for all the donations that children brought to school to help people in our local area during our harvest collection. All of these items will help homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. Well done to Miss Smith and our Caritas Ambassadors who coordinated the appeal and who will be helping to deliver all our donations to Cornerstones tomorrow.

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

Please try to read and discuss the Wednesday Word every week as a family by visiting: <https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/half-term-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&p=7&v=224.9>

This week, next week and the week after, the Wednesday Word is in its holiday format.

THANK YOU MRS HANLEY!

Mrs Hanley will be leaving St Richard's on Friday 23rd October, when we break up for the Autumn half-term holidays. We thank Mrs Hanley for all her hard work, and we wish her all the very best for the future. On Monday 2nd November 2026, Mrs Edelman will be returning to work at St Richard's (following her maternity leave) and will be taking over as our Class 7 teacher. Welcome back and all the best Mrs Edelman.

NO DRIVE-BY DROP-OFFS OR PICK-UPS

It is essential that, if you must drive your child to school, you drive and park safely - as far away from school as possible. Drivers must always drive extremely safely and park considerately. There should be no drive-by drop-offs or pick-ups because these are both dangerous and inconsiderate. It is illegal to park on yellow zig-zag lines outside our school. We will be inviting traffic enforcement officers to school on a frequent basis this year and we are thankful in advance for everyone's full cooperation in safe driving and parking, to keep everyone safe.

PLEASE DO NOT GIVE BIRTHDAY FOOD OUT

We know that celebrating birthdays is a special occasion for our children; however, partly due to the increasing number of pupils with food allergies and medical dietary requirements, we do not allow pupils to distribute sweets or other edible treats in school. In line with current allergy awareness guidance and our commitment to keeping all children safe, we also ask parents and carers not to hand out sweets or treats at the school gate before or after the school day. These measures help us reduce the risk of accidental allergic reactions and ensure that all children can be included safely. We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

APPLICATIONS FOR A YEAR 7 PLACES CLOSE SOON!

Manchester City Council's online application portal is still open. We can help parents who may be experiencing difficulties with submitting their applications online. Please phone school to make an appointment if you require this. Please follow this link to make an online application: <https://parentportal.manchester.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions> The deadline for on-time applications is **Saturday 31st October 2026**.

APPLICATIONS FOR A RECEPTION CLASS PLACE FOR 2027

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 and they are due to start primary school in September 2027 and you live in Manchester, then please follow this link to make an application: <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/school-admissions/primary-school-admissions/how-to-apply>

If you live outside Manchester and want a place at a Manchester school, you need to apply through your current local council. The online portal for Reception 2027 school place applications is currently open and the deadline for submitting an on-time application is **Friday 15th January 2027**. Our school office staff can help parents who may be experiencing difficulties with submitting their applications online.

RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION CONSULTATION

In line with new DfE statutory guidance, we are consulting with parents about proposed updated content in our Relationships Education programme, to be delivered from January 2027 onwards at St Richard's. Please take a look at the updated draft Relationships Education Policy as well as our current plans and proposed updated plans - all available at <https://st-richards.manchester.sch.uk/key-information/curriculum/> Once you have taken a look, please respond with any thoughts, comments or questions to comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk before the closing date of **Friday 4th December 2026**. Many thanks in advance.

CLOCKS GO BACK DURING THE HALF-TERM BREAK

In the United Kingdom, the clocks go back 1 hour at 2am on the last Sunday in October (this year, that is **Sunday 25th October 2026**). Please make sure that you adjust the time at home (most mobile phones do this automatically).



FREE MORRISONS BREAKFAST OVER AUTUMN HALF-TERM

Throughout the October half term holidays, families can access free Kellogg's breakfasts in all Morrisons Cafes every day. Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the October half term holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part is that it's not just for kids; adults get to eat completely free too. Children and adults can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana. The October holiday offer will be available from 12th October to 1st November across all Morrisons Cafes nationwide.

FSM VOUCHERS FOR AUTUMN HALF-TERM

The council has agreed to fund free school meal vouchers over the Autumn 2026 half term holidays (which start when we break up after school tomorrow, Friday 23rd October) for children eligible for free school meals (FSM). We have been advised of some technical problems but you will be issued with a £12 voucher per eligible child as soon as possible.

ASSEMBLIES AND 'STAY & PRAY'

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. It is always lovely to see so many parents here for these occasions.

Date:	Event:
Thursday 19 th November	C5 Assembly at 9am in the Main Hall
Thursday 26 th November	C7 Assembly at 9am in the Main Hall
Thursday 3 rd December (revised from original date)	C8 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm
Friday 4 th December	C9 Stay and Pray in the Prayer Room at 3pm

With many thanks for your continuing support and wishing you all a safe and happy half-term break,

Mr J Murray

Headteacher
St Richard's RC Primary School