

DATES

Please check the school website calendar for regular updates. You can also choose to synch the calendar to your own electronic devices for the whole school or for relevant classes.

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER 2018

3rd Year 4 visiting Verulamium Museum, St. Alban's- thank you to the SVPA for funding
3rd Year 3 attending Lord's MCC Community Spirit of Cricket Cup Day
4th Religious Education Open Morning-all welcome
4th p.m. Year 6 attending MCC Christmas Carol Services
5th 9:00-10:30 Christmas Face Painting workshop for parents
5th Year 3 attending Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral
5th 14:00 Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception) Open Afternoon-all welcome
5th 15:30 Key Stage 2 singing at Paddington Street Gardens Christmas Tree Switch On-please join us
6th 15:30 Key Stage 2 singing at St. Christopher's Place for St. Mungo's-please support
7th 10:30 Foundation Stage Christmas Assembly—all welcome
7th 14:00 Year 4 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
7th No after school clubs. Sorry for any inconvenience
10th Nasal Flu Vaccination for Reception, Years 1,2,3, 4 and 5
10th 14:00 Year 2 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
11th 9:30 Year 5 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
12th 9:00 SVPA Meeting -all welcome
12th a.m. Year 5 attending Science 'Forces' workshop at St. Marylebone
12th a.m. Year 6 attending Science 'Electricity' workshop at Queen's
12th 14:00 Year 3 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
13th 9:15 Year 1 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
13th 14:00 Key Stage 2 Christmas Celebration, St. James's- all welcome
14th Reception visiting London Zoo Nativity Trail
14th p.m. Chamber Choir performing at Westmead Residential Centre
14th 15:15 SVPA Christmas Fair
18th 9:15 Year 6 End of Project Celebration
19th School Christmas Lunch
20th 14:00 Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity, school hall- all welcome
20th No after school club. Sorry for any inconvenience
21st Own Clothes Day -£1 donation for St. Mungo's please
21st Pinocchio pantomime for children
21st 14:00 School breaks up for the Christmas holidays. No after school clubs



IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY 2019

8th Children return to school
9th a.m. Year 6 attending Junior Citizenship session at London Transport Museum
9th 15:00 SVPA Uniform Sale
10th Year 5 attending 'Forces' Science workshop at St. Marylebone
11th 9:15 Mass to celebrate the New Year /Epiphany
14th Table Tennis starts for Year 6
15th Closing date for Foundation Stage Applications
15th Swimming starts for Year 4
16th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
16th Reception visiting National Gallery
18th 10:35 Year 5 Assembly-all welcome
21st Year 4 visiting QPR Loftus Road Stadium
23rd Year 6 attending 'Electricity' Science workshop at St. Georges
25th 10:35 Year 6 Assembly-all welcome
30th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN

Dear parents and carers,

This is a wonderful time to work in a school and we are very excited that Christmas is coming! We are feeling very festive at St. Vincent's and would like to thank all the parents who have helped to decorate the school-it looks beautiful! This is a joyous and hopeful time as we prepare for the coming of Christ and we do hope you are able to join us at some of our many Christmas celebrations. Please check the website calendar for the most up to date information www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk

Our Advent preparations started with a visit from Bishop Nicholas Hudson who spent time in every class, talking to the children about their faith and leading us in prayer. We were delighted to receive a lovely, personal letter after the visit which stated, '...I was touched at their [the pupils] readiness in every class to pray. Their ready and keen engagement with questions about faith or science showed me how used they are to being stimulated by learning. All of this confirmed the marvellous impressions I had gained already from reading your glowing Inspection Report of 2016. It is deeply encouraging to see the Catholic Life of the school and its Religious Education so alive and manifest.' As ever, this visit and feedback made me very proud of our fabulous school.

I hope the weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas are truly blessed for you all,

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Yours faithfully,
Miss Coleman

MARYLEBONE LIGHTS SWITCH ON



Well done to all the children who supported the Marylebone Lights Switch On. The pupils of St. Vincent's had an important role in the celebrations and their performance of singing 'We Need a Little Christmas' was beautiful. Thank you to all the children who entered the Christmas Card Competition. Congratulations to the following children who were judged as winners from the St. Vincent's entrants and were awarded prizes at a special assembly:

10 years +

1st Hannah
2ND Nika

6-9 years old

1st Regan
2nd Mathilde

5 years old and under

1st Penelope
2nd Clemence

Thanks are given to the Howard de Walden Estate for involving us in this community celebration.

KEY STAGE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Below is a list of all the important dates in December. Each Key Stage will be presenting a different Christmas celebration to which all parents are warmly invited.

On Friday 7th December at 10:30a.m. the Nursery and Reception classes will come together to present a Foundation Stage Christmas Assembly.

On Thursday 13th December at 2:00p.m. Key Stage 2 will perform a concert at St. James Church with songs, orchestra pieces and prayers.

On Thursday 20th December at 2:00p.m. Key Stage 1 will present a Nativity Assembly.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and celebrating together.

There will also be a range of other special Christmas activities for the children only. These include Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 19th December and a Pinocchio pantomime on Friday 21st December for the children to watch. Children may wear their own clothes on the last day of term. Please send in a £1 voluntary contribution which will be given to St. Mungo's charity.

BE INTERNET AWESOME

As you are aware, we are constantly trying to help children to be safe online. As well as the focus during Anti-Bullying Week when we encouraged children to 'Stop, Speak, Support' we have been using some Google guidance. It focusses on five key aspects:

- Being SMART (sharing carefully)
- Being ALERT (not falling for fake sites/scams)
- Being STRONG (having secure passwords)
- Being KIND (remembering to be kind on the internet, as well as in real life)
- Being BRAVE (if anything happens, stand up and talk about it).

It would be helpful to review these aspects with your children at home. If you need any further support, there is a wealth of information for parents on our website page

<https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/school-info/online-safety/>



ST. VINCENT'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION (S.V.P.A.)

The next school SVPA event will be the Christmas Fair which is being held on Friday 14th December. There will be a visit from Santa as well as an array of fun Christmas activities for the children to participate in. The funds from this event are being used to supplement a school trip for each class and to fund a pantomime for the children- a lovely end of term treat and a fun experience! The next SVPA meeting is Wednesday 12th December at 9:05 a.m.- please come along, make new friends and support the school.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The closing date for Nursery and Reception applications is 15th January 2019. A place in the Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception and even if your child has a current place in the Nursery you must apply separately for a place in Reception. Reception applicants who live in Westminster must also complete a Westminster Common Application Form (CAF) available on the Westminster website Admissions page and return this directly to Westminster Admissions department or complete the CAF for their home borough.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There will be no After School Activity club on Friday 7th, Thursday 20th or Friday 21st December. It will resume again on Tuesday 8th January. Breakfast Club will run every day.

All other after school clubs will stop for this term from Thursday 6th December. Please check with the Club leaders as to the date of the final session of any clubs your child attends. These will resume again on Monday 14th January 2018.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Please remember that you must give two weeks written notice to the school office if you wish your child to change from school dinner to packed lunch or vice versa. Unfortunately parents have not been informing us and are unhappy when they are still being charged or the school is being charged for these meals. Thank you. Please see the school office team if you have any questions.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

It is essential that we are able to contact parents in an emergency. If you change address, telephone number or email address, please can you inform the office immediately? Thank you. Please be aware that we are unable to modify information on Parent Pay as this is your account and so you will need to update the details there separately. Please come and see Mrs Lynch or Mrs Copper if you have any queries-we are happy to help in any way we can.

ATTENDANCE

As there are thirteen weeks of school holiday per year it is expected that family holidays are taken during this period or, in an exceptional circumstance, permission is sought in advance from the headteacher for a holiday during term time. We have tried really hard to plan our term dates to ensure a sufficient holiday period for families, hence us breaking up on 21st December this term. Unfortunately, a number of families are still wanting to break up earlier and children have told us that they will be missing the end of term as they are going on holiday. Any absences at the end of the Autumn Term or start of the Spring Term will only be authorised if we see the flight booking or tickets to confirm that the holidays were taken during the school holidays and not during term time. If these documents are not produced the absence will be recorded as unauthorised

Our pupil groups have had another busy term, including a special meeting with Bishop Nicholas Hudson. Here are some updates:

MESSAGE FROM THE PUPIL CHAPLAINS

We have been busy taking care of the Prayer Gardens and encouraging children to come inside and take part in our activities. Our highlight for this term has been meeting Bishop Nicholas. He asked us questions about our role and he agreed that our role was important because we help with the religious life of the school. It was a privilege to meet him! We are really enjoying being Pupil Chaplains because we can calm the children and stop conflict in the playground. We do this by talking to them and saying prayers with them. AW, Pupil Chaplain (Y5).



MESSAGE FROM GREEN TEAM:

MR, "This term we have been learning about plastic in the world. We are trying to reduce it in school."

RA, "We are going to speak to the people that give the Nursery their milk and ask them to get rid of the straws."

TH, "We have spoken to Miss Coleman about recycling and plastic use in the school."

PK, "We have spoken to the teachers and children about wasting paper. Please remember to always recycle at any time."

MR, "We also need you to switch off the computers and lights at school and at home."

All, "We are excited about organising our charity event next term."

JD, "Mr Normunds is getting us a flag pole so we can show other people around the school and in the street that we have the Green Flag."

All, "We are very proud to have it."

MM & FP, "We are St Vincent's new Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs). We went to Star City at The Oval and we collected an award that was a gold star for our good work! We completed activities about pollution that were fun AND we had juice. We got to speak to other schools about how they are reducing pollution and took some of their ideas. It was lots of fun."

We wish everybody a very merry and Green Christmas!

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

After we were selected as school council representatives our motto was to, "Keep calm and help others." Our meeting day is every Monday at 12:30. We always pay attention to the good suggestions from each class to make school a better place. We are going to kindly ask Miss Coleman if we could have pyjama day to raise money for charity. We went to each class to deliver our special message with our chairperson and vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer and vice treasurer.

Christmas is not about receiving, it is about giving to others and making their Christmas happy and fun. Giving doesn't always mean presents it can be giving up time and love for others. Let's promise and this time that we help each other and make the less fortunate people happy every Christmas. We try to follow God's way and give the gift of love.

Merry Christmas!