

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 2019

2nd Year 3 visiting the Wallace Collection for 'Choose Your Words' creative writing workshop
2nd Year 6 visiting the Wallace Collection for 'Choose Your Words' creative writing workshop
2nd 15:30 Irish Dancing Performance for parents, school hall
3rd Year 1 visiting the Wallace Collection for 'Getting Ready For Writing' workshop
3rd Year 2 visiting the Wallace Collection for 'Getting Ready For Writing' workshop
3rd Final swimming session for Year 5
3rd Year 6 attending Lord's Christmas Carol Concert
4th 9:15 face Painting workshop for parents
4th Year 5 attending Lord's Spirit of Christmas Day
4th Year 3 attending Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral
5th 8:15 Book Look-all welcome
5th 14:00 Year 1 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
5th 15:30 Key Stage 2 singing at St. Christopher's Place for St. Mungo's-please support
6th 10:30 Foundation Stage Christmas Assembly –all welcome
6th 14:00 Year 3 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
6th No after school club. Sorry for any inconvenience
9th Reception visiting London Zoo Nativity Trail
9th 14:00 Year 4 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
10th Flu vaccine for Reception, Years 1,2 ,3, 4,5 and 6
10th p.m. Year 4 attending Sound workshop at Queen's College
10th 14:00 Year 2 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
11th SVPA Token sales, school office
11th 9:00-10:00 Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception) Open Morning-all welcome
11th 9:00 SVPA Meeting -all welcome
11th Year 5 visiting the Wallace Collection for 'Choose Your Words' creative writing workshop
11th 14:00 Year 6 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
12th **SCHOOL CLOSED-POLLING DAY**
13th 14:00 Key Stage 2 Christmas Celebration, St. James's- all welcome
13th 15:15 SVPA Christmas Fair-please join us
16th 9:15 Year 5 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
16th p.m. Chamber Choir performing at Westmead Residential Centre
17th 14:00 Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity, school hall- all welcome
18th 9:15 End of Term Mass/ celebration of Mrs Robinson-all welcome
18th Christmas lunch for pupils
18th No after school club. Sorry for any inconvenience
19th Own Clothes Day -£1 donation for St. Mungo's please
19th Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime for children-thank you to the SVPA for funding
19th 14:00 School breaks up for the Christmas holidays



IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY 2020

7th Children return to school
8th a.m. Year 6 attending Junior Citizenship session at London Transport Museum
10th 9:15 Mass to celebrate the New Year /Epiphany
14th Year 6 visiting Museum of London
14th Swimming starts for Year 4
14th 15:00 SVPA Uniform Sale
15th Closing date for Foundation Stage Applications
15th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
16th Year 2 out at Shakespeare Story telling session
17th 10:35 Year 2 Assembly-all welcome
20th Year visiting October Gallery
21st Air Quality Audit
22nd 8:30 International Evening ticket sales
22nd 9:15 Mathematics Open Morning
23rd p.m. Year 5 attending 'Forces' Science workshop at Queen's
24th 10:35 Year 6 Assembly-all welcome
27th -31st Sikhism Week
28th Years 1 & 2 visiting Central Gurdwara Temple
29th Coffee Morning: Early Help introduction
29th Years 3 & 4 visiting Central Gurdwara Temple
30th Years 5 & 6 visiting Central Gurdwara Temple
31st 9:15 Candlemas, school hall. All welcome



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN

Dear parents and carers,

As you will see from our beautifully decorated school (thank you to the S.V.P.A.), we are joyfully preparing for Christmas. This is a wonderful time to work in a school and we are very excited that Christmas is coming! This is a happy 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

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,
Marina Coleman



STAFFING NEWS



After seventeen years of service to the school we are very sad to bid farewell to Mrs Robinson as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement. Mrs Robinson has been a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, with a particular passion for Science and has maximised every minute of learning for the many pupils she has taught. She will be greatly missed but thoroughly deserves her retirement and a good rest (and travels during term time) after so many years of hard work

We send our very best wishes to Mrs Duffy who is starting her maternity leave-we look forward to meeting the new arrival to the St. Vincent's family!

We look forward to welcoming a new teacher, Miss Disco, who will be joining the school team from January until the end of the academic year. She will be here full time until the end of the academic year, covering Mrs Robinson's teaching duties, as well as covering some of Mrs Duffy's teaching commitments as she embarks on her maternity leave. We are really pleased to welcome Miss Disco as part of our school family.



KEEPING SAFE ONLINE AT CHRISTMAS

Many of your children will be spending time online this Christmas, and some will be fortunate enough to receive gifts of new devices or games. We encourage the positive use of technology and understand its role in fun and learning – at school and at home-but there are risks to all online activity. If you need general online safety help and support over the holidays:

- Call the NSPCC / O2 parent online-safety helpline on 0808 800 5002 for general advice or help with parental control settings for your home internet or devices
- There is an excellent tablet app from Internet Matters built to help parents have a conversation about online safety with their children. Just search Internet Matters on the app store
- Search NSPCC NetAware for an excellent guide to apps your children may ask for

Please also remember before buying Christmas presents that games have age ratings linked to their content, not their difficulty (games are rated 18 for the same reasons as films - inappropriate language, sex and violence). You can always check on <https://www.commonssensemedia.org/>

There are plenty of great reasons to make technology part of your Christmas, so remember to talk about positives with your child – one great way to find out what they do online and also have fun together is to ask them to show you what they do and to teach you to play their games.

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/>

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 an absence 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 19th 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.

PARENT PAY TRIPS PERMISSION

Parent Pay is the school online payment system that lets you make secure online payments by credit and debit card. You can also pay in cash at local PayPoint stores. It can be used to make cashless payments in schools for dinner money, activities such as clubs and music lessons, and voluntary contributions towards school trips. As you are aware, for some time, we have been trying to be 'green' and go paperless as much as possible. The latest step has been to try and obtain permission for trips online. However, you need to check your account regularly or set up your account to receive alerts. If you need any assistance, please visit Mrs Lynch or Mrs Cooper in the school office who are very happy to help.

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. Please speak to Mrs Lynch or Miss Coleman if you need any support.

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 13th 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 11th December at 9:05 a.m.- please come along, make new friends and support the school.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There will be no After School Activity club on Friday 6th, Wednesday 18th or Thursday 19th December. It will resume again on Tuesday 7th January. Breakfast Club will run every day. All other after school clubs will stop for this term from Wednesday 4th 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 13th January 2020.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK 2019 CHANGE STARTS WITH US'

Anti-Bullying Week was a very successful week that provided all children with the confidence and tools to shine a spotlight on bullying. We delivered a broad range of activities including assemblies, key stage workshops, online safety and PSHE lessons for every class. Odd Socks Day was also thoroughly enjoyed by all and allowed children to celebrate their personalities and individuality.

Throughout the week we asked all children for their feedback about how else we could further prevent bullying. The children provided us with wonderful suggestions which we have taken on board such as having a permanent Kindness Jar to acknowledge and celebrate acts of kindness throughout the year.

We are committed to continuing to spread awareness throughout the year by working with children and parents to further prevent bullying.



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



MESSAGE FROM THE PUPIL CHAPLAINCY TEAM

We have really been enjoying fulfilling our playground duties and are enjoying the start of The Year of the Word. The focus this term is 'Celebrating God's Word' and we will aim to begin our daily meditations with a short reading from the Scriptures. Advent is the perfect time to reflect on the Old Testament and the ways God revealed Himself to His people before Jesus was born. We are looking forward to celebrating the Word of God as we watch the EYFS & KS1 Nativities and perform our annual Christmas Celebration!

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

School council have been very busy so far and were very lucky to visit The Houses of Parliament where we got to have a tour around Parliament. We learnt that there are two houses, The House of Lords and The House of Commons. Following a workshop about law and debating in the Education Centre. We really enjoyed the trip.

What have we been discussing? As we meet every Monday, at 12:30pm, we discuss the suggestions from our classes yet we also discussed about sugary drinks. We were surprised when we found out that drinks we thought were healthy, for e.g. Capri-Sun or Ribena, actually contain lots of sugar in each serving-around five full tablespoons of sugar, which was shocking! We are trying to promote drinking more water than these sugary drinks. The Houses of Parliament also are trying to reduce sugary drinks by putting extra tax on unhealthy drinks, which may help people to stay healthy and fit.

By Antonia and Alfie. Y6. (If you want to learn more about our trip to Parliament have a look on the website or ask us.)

MESSAGE FROM THE SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Our Sports Ambassadors have had a busy term keeping everyone active with a wide range of fun games and sporting activities during lunchtime! The current activities on offer are: circle games, running games, cheerleading and mixed athletics. They have been working closely with Coach Harry from Lord's Cricket Ground to develop their skills of leadership whilst upholding and respecting children's right to be healthy and play. In addition, Year 6 have been taking part in the 'Junior Leadership' programme with the coaches from Lord's Cricket Ground. They have received training from our two Head Sports Ambassadors, Timothy and Jeanne, along with Coach Harry and now each week two different children are given the opportunity to plan and deliver their own PE lessons. We are very pleased to be involved in this dynamic development programme and we are excited to see how it will evolve.

