



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

After a difficult year, it is uplifting to enter the season of Advent and to start feeling hopeful again. The children have been an absolute joy since we have returned to school and are very excited about the many Christmas activities planned for the weeks ahead. We have tried to continue with all of our usual traditions, albeit in a slightly different way to accommodate the current restrictions and safety guidance.

Thank you to the wonderful St. Vincent's Parents Association who have already made the school look very festive and have planned some creative Christmas activities demonstrating how they are supporting the school to focus on the wellbeing of the children. We are also grateful to the Farmers Market who have donated this year's Christmas tree.

The staff team has been busy preparing a Christmas Celebration for each key stage. Sadly we cannot yet welcome visitors into school to watch a live performance but by making special filmed versions, we hope you will enjoy watching these wonderful events from the comfort of your own home and sharing with friends and family-wherever you may be in the world.

We are blessed that so far we have not had a positive case of coronavirus amongst the staff or pupils. Thank you to everyone who is following the government guidance supporting our measures to keep our school family safe. Sadly some of our family members are currently poorly-we are remembering you in our prayers and hope you feel better soon.

We are aware that some families may be struggling at the moment and many of us may be feeling anxious. We hope that the wellbeing sessions for parents were helpful and look forward to seeing more parents at future workshops on different topics. Please remember that we are always here to support. Although we cannot meet in person we are still here to listen and will try our best to help our school family. Please do let the school office know and we will make an appointment for a telephone call or virtual meeting. Please also do say if there is anything causing concerns about the school or if you have any suggestions for how we could improve. We are all trying our best in this unprecedented situation and even more than ever it is important that home and school work together. We really value your feedback and hope that we can share open communication for the benefit of the pupils.

I hope to see you all at the school gate before the end of term but, in case I do not have the opportunity to say it in person, I hope you all enjoy a peaceful, very merry Christmas and wish you all the best health and happiness for the new year.

Kindest regards, Miss Coleman, Headteacher



CHRISTMAS TREE

The Farmers Market has kindly donated a real Christmas tree to the school, which is looking beautiful in the school hall. We would be delighted if every family could contribute one small decoration for the tree. We have kept those donated in previous years and would like to invite any new families to please bring a decoration into school so our tree can include a special contribution from every member of our school family. Thank you!

POST BOX

You will have seen that our school Christmas Post Box is now positioned in the school entrance. This is for you to use to post any Christmas cards for members of our school family. All cards must be delivered by Friday 11th December and they will all be delivered on Monday 14th December by the Pupil Chaplaincy Team.



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ONLINE SAFETY

Ollee is a helpful digital friend who can give advice on lots of different things. Aimed for KS2 children and parents of children of all ages, Ollee is there to help children reflect on their feelings and to process their experiences with the support and help from their families. Ollee offers lots of advice and support on some difficult topics. You just pick from a range of areas, say how you are feeling and then Ollee will give you some advice to help you feel more happy about the situation again. <https://app.ollee.org.uk/#/welcome>

As we get closer to the holidays, children may be playing or talking about new games or asking for new games for Christmas. Common Sense Media is a helpful website where you can look up games or films and read reviews about them. These reviews are written by parents and children and explain what age restriction they should have and also points out why they have been given the age rating they have. It's a helpful way to understand the content of different games and films, ensuring children are playing age appropriate games and helps you to have a conversation with your children about what they are doing online. <https://www.common sense media.org/>

THANK YOU TO THE FABULOUS ST.VINCENT'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We have always been very blessed with a proactive Parents Association but the efforts this term to support the wellbeing of the pupils have been remarkable. A summary of some of the activities planned is below:

- Christmas tea towels featuring the beautiful face of every pupil in the school
- Festive decorations outside the school
- A beautiful handmade Advent calendar for every class
- A Christmas decoration competition resulting in gorgeous decorations for each class
- Class Christmas Family Sacks to be raffled
- A Bubble Christmas Fair with creative, fun activities
- A special visitor who may come bearing gifts...

Thank you to everyone who has supported this great work. You have really brought so much joy to the school!

CHRISTMAS SHOWS GDPR

We are currently busy filming our Christmas Celebrations. As is tradition in St. Vincent's we will have a special celebration for each key stage but this year they will be different as they will not be live and instead will be pre-recorded and shared on our school website. We have consent from all parents for this purpose but please remember that if you ever change your mind you just need to write and let us know. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we have enjoyed making them! The release dates are below and please remember to show your appreciation with a comment to the children.

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

- 1st Year 2 Phonics Check this week
- 2nd Nasal Flu Program for Reception –Year 6 pupils
- 9th Closing date for return of Christmas sack gifts and class decorations (competition entries)
- 10th Relationship Education Meeting for parents (especially Year 5 & 6 parents)
- 11th Closing date for posting Christmas cards in the school Christmas Post Box
- 11th 9:10 EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Christmas Assembly-see website
- 14th SVPA Christmas Fair Day
- 16th 9:10 KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Christmas Assembly-see website
- 16th Christmas Lunch
- 17th 9:10 KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) Christmas Celebration-see website
- 18th Own Clothes / Christmas Jumper Day-please donate at least £1 to St. Mungo's
- 18th Sleeping Beauty Pantomime –Thank you to the SVPA for funding this
- 18th 14:00 School breaks up for the Christmas holidays. Please check website calendar for exact timings
- 21st -4th January Christmas Holidays. Enjoy a well-deserved rest and lots of fun!
- 5th January Children return to school

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