



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

We have all made it through the first month of 2021 and it has been a great team effort. I am so impressed by the endeavours of the children and I appreciate the tremendous support from parents. Well done to you all! Thank you also to our fabulous staff team who have coped valiantly with the move to remote learning, whilst also continuing to teach children in school. We have all developed technological skills that we never thought we would be needing!

One of the reasons for the success of our remote learning provision is that we were well prepared with a wealth of resources ready including Chrome books. This was a direct result of your support with the COVID Fund and meant that we could switch to remote learning with confidence, knowing that every child in our school had access to a device. Thank you so much for your generosity! The class texts were also funded through the support of parents-using the commission from our Books Fairs-so thank you to everyone who has purchased a book at these events. As much as we value technology, we really love reading!

It has been really helpful to receive your feedback on the parent questionnaires and during the wellbeing chats with teachers. We have reviewed our practice with regard to the views of parents, pupils and staff-and now have reached a point where we think everyone is as happy as can be expected in these circumstances. We know how challenging life is at the moment so please just do your best, and as always, please let us know if there is any way we can offer further support.

We will continue to maintain routine for the children, with the daily timetable but also the usual schedule of schools events. This newsletter includes details of some of these. As always the main source of information remains on our school website, which we are still updating almost daily. Please do keep checking in –and please leave a comment to let us know your thoughts. If there is any further information you would find helpful, please do let us know.

I still have no information about the potential re-opening of schools from March 8th but, as soon as I do I will share this with you. We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. This possibility, combined with the introduction of the vaccine and longer, brighter days is making us all feel more hopeful.

Together through Christ we grow and learn.

I wish you all a very relaxing half term. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Warm regards,

Miss Coleman

COMMON GOOD: DONATING TO FOOD BANKS

Following on from our successful harvest collection some parents have been in touch to request that another collection is organised for the Westminster Food Bank. This is a worthy cause and we really want to help but, at the moment, we are unable to safely organise a collection at school. Instead, please look at the Trussell Trust website for how to donate directly or many local supermarkets have a collection point where donations can be dropped off.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate-food/>

Message from the Trussell Trust: *Over 90% of the food distributed by food banks in the Trussell Trust network is donated by the public-that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food. Without your goodwill our food banks would struggle to operate.*



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CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

From 1st – 7th February we are taking part in Children's Mental Health Week and encouraging all children (and adults) to explore the different ways we can express ourselves, and the creative ways that we can share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas. Please see the school website for useful tools and strategies that you can apply at home.



WORLD WEEK: 8th-12 February

During World Week we will be celebrating the rich diversity of languages, countries and cultures of all of our St Vincent's family. Through class-based activities, the children can share aspects of their language, country or culture with the rest of the class and explore their uniqueness as well as celebrating differences and similarities between themselves and others. We aim for children to develop an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in order to further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions. We will also be focussing on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 30: "Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live". All children have also been invited to create a photo to share on a special video to celebrate World Week.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February 2021. The theme for this year is 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, as well as the potential to inform, connect and inspire us but how do we separate fact from fiction? Children will be exploring how to decide what they should trust online. We know that the issues of misinformation and 'fake news' do not solely affect young people, but that these issues do have a great impact on how young people feel about their time online. The aim of this year's Safer Internet Day is to help equip young people with the skills they need to spot inaccurate content, which can sometimes be a complex task. Once young people feel more comfortable separating fact from fiction it is important that we then help them to take the next steps in helping to create an internet full of trustworthy and reliable information.

Click here for some Top Tips for Parents: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/safer-internet-day-2021-top-tips/safer-internet-day-2>



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