

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 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 9:15-10:15 Year 6 Creativity Morning-all welcome
10th 8:30 Year 5 attending 'Forces' Science workshop at St. Marylebone
11th 9:15 Mass to celebrate the New Year /Epiphany –all welcome
14th Table Tennis starts for Year 6
15th Closing date for Foundation Stage Applications
15th 13:45 Year 2 Creativity Afternoon-all welcome
15th Swimming starts for Year 4
16th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
16th Launch of NSPCC campaign
16th Reception visiting National Gallery
17th Year 2 attending A Midsummer Night's Dream story telling session at St. Peter's Eaton Square
17th 14:00-15:00 Year 3 Creativity Afternoon-all welcome
18th 9:15-10:15 Year 4 Creativity Morning-all welcome
18th 10:35 Year 6 Assembly-all welcome
18th p.m. Year 3 & 4 Sportshall Athletics (back at later time of 16:30)
18th 14:00-15:00 Year 1 Creativity Afternoon-all welcome
21st Year 4 visiting QPR Loftus Road Stadium
22nd 9:30-11:30 Year 5 Creativity Morning-all welcome
23rd 8:30 International Evening ticket sales
23rd 9:00-10:00 Foundation Stage Open Morning-all welcome
23rd Year 6 attending 'Electricity' Science workshop at St. Georges
25th 10:35 Year 5 Assembly-all welcome
28th Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Team Tournament
30th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
31st 8:15 –8:50 Book Look-all welcome
31st Year 1 visiting Science Museum 'Space'
31st 15:30 Friendly Football Match against Southbank International School

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY 2019

1st 9:15 Candlemas led by Year 5
1st Year 6 visiting Queen's College for Science workshop 'Animals Including Humans'
1st SVPA International Evening –Please come and have a fun evening!
4th -8th Other Faiths:Judaism Week
4th Years 1 & 2 visiting Jewish Museum
5th Years 3 & 4 visiting Jewish Museum
6th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
6th Years 5 & 6 visiting Jewish Museum
7th Reception visiting Docklands Museum
8th 10:35 Year 4 Assembly-all welcome
11th World Week
12th 9:15-10:30 English Open Morning-all welcome
13th WE workshops
15th 9:30 Cultural Assembly-all welcome 10:35 Year 4 Assembly-all welcome
18th-22nd Half Term
25th Children back to school
27th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
28th Year 4,5 & 6 Swimming Gala (selected team)

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a peaceful and holy holiday and wish you a very happy new year. A special thank you to everyone who sent cards and gave gifts to myself and the staff. Your generosity and thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

As you are aware the building works surrounding the school have commenced. I liaise regularly with the different contractors to try and minimise the disruption to the school and will endeavour to keep you fully updated about the progress. Please check the school website Community Developments page which is regularly updated. <https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/school-info/community-developments/> If you have any concerns, please do come and speak to me and I will follow these up.

The school website is also intended to be the main source of information about the school. Please synch your mobile phone to the calendar so you don't miss out on any key school events. The website is fantastic for immediate sharing of the range of wonderful learning that takes place at a school on a daily basis. We truly value your comments so please let us know if you have any feedback about the website or the school. If there is a matter you would like to discuss more fully please make an appointment-you will always be warmly welcomed! Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes for the year ahead, Miss Coleman

CAROL SINGING 2018

Thank you to all the children and parents who supported our carol singing in St. Christopher's Place. This was supplemented by the contributions for Own Clothes Day at the end of term. The money raised was given to St. Mungo's Charity to help the homeless. Supporting charities in different ways is an important part of our school life, continuing the mission of St. Vincent de Paul and demonstrating to the children how important it is to help those less fortunate than ourselves.



NURSERY AND RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The closing date for Nursery and Reception applications is 15th January 2018. 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) and return this directly to Westminster Admissions department or complete the CAF for their home borough. Applicants will be notified of the outcomes of their applications on Monday 16th April 2018.

Please see Mrs Lynch if you have any questions about this process. We are happy to help.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Please can you ensure that the school holds up to date contact details for all parents and that your mobile is not set to bar withheld numbers? In the case of an emergency such as your child becoming unwell at school it is imperative that we are able to contact a parent / carer. As well as up-to-date mobile and home numbers we need to have work telephone numbers and an alternative emergency contact person such as a relative or close friend. It is also important that we you inform us if you change address. Thank you for your support.

ABSENCE PROCEDURE

We would like to remind all families of the procedures if your child is absent. Please telephone the school on the first day of absence to inform the office of the absence, the expected duration and the reason for this. When your child returns to school please write to the headteacher to confirm the reason for this absence.

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. Unfortunately, a number of children were missing for the end of the Autumn Term / start of the Spring Term and had told the school that they were going on holiday. These absences will only be authorised if we see the flight booking 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 and you may be fined by the local authority.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2018 Well done to our pupils and staff for the fabulous school Christmas celebrations. Each Key Stage produced a fantastic performance, supported by a great attendance from their families. We hope you enjoyed them!



MASS TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR/ EPIPHANY

This Friday 11th January there will be a special Mass at 9:15 in the school hall to celebrate the new school year and a belated celebration of the Epiphany, which this year was during the school holiday. Please do join us. The story of the Wise Men focuses on their difficult journey to find the infant Jesus. We are all on a journey to find Jesus – we desire to know, love and serve Him in a world that needs Him so much. As we are on a journey, so are our students and we are looking forward to the year ahead.

BOOK LOOK Thursday 31st January 2019 Parents are invited to come and look at their children's books, with their children, before school from 8:15-8:55 a.m. on Thursday 31st January. We try to hold these events termly to provide parents and carers the opportunity to see their child's books and find out more about what they have been learning in school, in addition to the termly Parents' Evenings. We look forward to seeing you there.

ENGLISH OPEN MORNING Tuesday 12th February 2019 On Tuesday 12th February we will be holding an English Open Morning to which all parents and carers are warmly invited. The morning will begin with a presentation by the English Leaders, Miss Jones, followed by the opportunity to see English being taught in every class across the school. More details will be shared nearer the time but we thought you would appreciate advance notice of the date. We do hope you will be able to join us.

ONLINE SAFETY MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

As you are aware, we are trying very hard to support parents' understanding of online safety. This is an important issue for our pupils as they are growing up in a technologically advanced world. The online safety page on the school website has links to a number of useful websites, resources and guides, including how to install parental controls. We will provide regular updates by email or in this newsletter to address any issues that have been raised in school. YouTube is currently a concern for some families,

GOOGLE AND YOU TUBE

To sign in to YouTube, you must have a Google Account that meets the minimum age requirements in this country that is **thirteen years old**. This means that none of our pupils should have YouTube or Google accounts, having one means that they have not been honest when entering their date of birth.

Parent Resources:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802272?hl=en-GB>

Family Link-This enables parents to supervise what your child is doing on Google:

<https://support.google.com/families/answer/9055704>

If you become aware that your child has set up an account or posted a video that you would like deleted, please follow the guidance on the link below:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/55770?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en-GB>

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION 2019

We kindly ask parents to adhere to the school uniform policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, representing the school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

Our policy is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- identifies the children with the school;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty and responsibility to send their children to school correctly dressed in the correct uniform, that it is clean and in good repair and they have all they need for their day.

Many uniform items can be purchased from most department stores but the uniform containing the school logo can only be purchased using the school uniform provider Stitch Design. Good quality second hand uniform can also be purchased at our regular SVPA Uniform sales which are held in the school hall. The next sale will be on Wednesday 9th January at 15:00 in the school hall.

Thank you in advance for your support.

ST.VINCENT'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS (SVPA)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the St. Vincent's Parents' Association fundraising events last term whether by suggesting ideas, contributing items and donations, helping at or attending the events. The fabulous Christmas Fair raised an amazing £2,500 which will be used towards supplementing a more expensive trip for each class. The money raised by the SVPA events was also used to fund the pantomime for the whole school. The production of Pinocchio was great fun and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to the SVPA for their generosity.

The SVPA work incredibly hard and we hope to involve some new parents in organising future events. If you could devote some time or ideas please come to the next meeting. As well as making new friends you will be helping to support the school. Huge thanks are given to the joint chairs and all the parents who belong to the S.V.P.A. for their fantastic efforts.

The next event is the fabulous **INTERNATIONAL EVENING** on Friday 1st February. This fun, social occasion is an opportunity for us to celebrate the cultural diversity of our community and to find out about the different traditions of the many home countries from which we originate. Please sign up on the notice-board in the covered walkway. We look forward to seeing you there!