



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you and your families remain well and that you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas. Thank you so much for your generous gifts and cards. Your kind messages have touched us all and are very much appreciated. The best gift is all is that our school family remains well and healthy.

We are really pleased to welcome Mrs Duffy back to school from her maternity leave and I know that she is looking forward to seeing you in person soon.

The start to the year has been unexpected but we are confident that we have a strong remote learning plan and we will continue to review this to be certain that we are providing the best possible education whilst doing all we can to help to keep everyone safe.

Last term it was an absolute joy to welcome your children back to school. We have tried, as always, to share some of the learning and achievements of the pupils on the school website news posts. Particular highlights from last month are the fabulous Christmas Celebrations, which I hope you all enjoyed watching.

In this newsletter we will continue with the positivity and share some important messages from our pupil representative groups, who have all been working so hard to maintain our traditional good work, albeit in very different circumstances.

This is undoubtedly a difficult and worrying time for us all. Please be assured that you are not alone and do reach out if there is any way that we can be of support. It is important that we take care of ourselves and each other.

Wishing you all the best for 2021,
Miss Coleman

COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS

We appreciate that it is not as easy to communicate with the classteachers at the moment. However we do value the communication between home and school so if you have any queries please contact the school office on office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk and we will respond by email or make an appointment for you and the classteacher. This will be a telephone call or a virtual meeting depending on the issue to be discussed.

COMMON GOOD AND SHARING JOY

During Advent we always try to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Traditionally we sing at Westmead Residential and also at St. Christopher's Place, the latter to raise money for St. Mungo's. This year we supported those in care homes in different ways-firstly Year 5 & 6 made and sent lovely Christmas cards to the Westmead Residents and secondly Year 2 created beautiful stained glass windows for Leonara House Care Home. We hope that everyone enjoyed these Christmas gifts. On the last day of term we had a fun Christmas jumper day with donations to St. Mungo's. We raised an impressive £405. Well done everyone.

Thank you again to the St. Vincent's Parents' Association who brought so much joy to our school during Advent with a fabulous range of wonderful Christmas activities-beautiful homemade Advent calendars, an amazing Christmas Fair, special gifts and even organising a visit from Santa himself!



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PUPIL CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Our wonderful Pupil Chaplaincy Team have adapted so well to our new way of spreading the Word through technology! They recorded a video telling us all about the Rosary and leading us in praying the Rosary in October. They have also created videos leading all classes into meditation every day. The Pupil Chaplaincy Team have been thinking of ways to look after others and learning about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to help us to do this. During Advent, they expressed their concerns about people in care homes so we have sent home-made Christmas cards to the residents and carers of Westmead Residential Care Home.



SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Last term, the Sports Ambassadors were very busy keeping everyone active! They have organised and led a variety of activities on the roof including: HIIT workouts (inspired by PE with Joe!), Obstacle courses, and Football tricks. After reviewing the current lunchtime equipment, the Head and Deputy Head Sports Ambassadors ordered new equipment that they thought would benefit the children and encourage them to keep active. This included pompoms for KS1, stopwatches to support the HIIT workouts, two new football goals with built in targets and basketballs printed with graphics to help you to position your hands correctly.

GREEN TEAM Last term Green Team meetings were virtual. We have had a lot of fun during our meetings, although we are eagerly awaiting the day when we can be together and work in a more 'hands on' fashion. Good news: our crocus bulbs have begun to sprout. We are hoping for a show of colour in the spring. The next few weeks are going to be very busy for us as we will be re-applying for our well-earned Green Flag. Green Team wish you all a Happy New Year!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Every other Tuesday we have been meeting with the school council representatives from every class and we have made loads of progress. We celebrated Parliament Week and followed up the pupils votes to choose their favourite equipment for the playground. We were very lucky to meet with the lunch company, Harrison, and had a meeting with their manager to decide our favourite dishes at lunch time. We are very pleased to tell you about your selected choices that will begin after the Christmas holidays. We are planning to meet with Westminster's M.P on zoom. We will let you know when we get more information on that.

Our school council representatives are looking forward to hearing new suggestions. We wish you a happy new year. Stay safe!



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