



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year 2022!

I hope that you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas with your loved ones. 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 of all is that our school family remains well and healthy.

I am so happy that, despite some uncertainty at the end of last term, schools remain open. However we do have a contingency plan in place (as published on the school website with our risk assessment and Covid advice) and remote learning could still be used in the future if the government directs us to this or if we need to deal with an outbreak in school, including staff shortages. At the moment we continue to have a number of staff who are poorly and we send them our best wishes. There is also a shortage of supply cover so we are currently covering the absences internally and appreciate your understanding during this challenging period. Thank you to everyone who continues to follow the government guidance to help to reduce the spread of the virus –this is the best way to help us to keep the school running smoothly and to keep our school family safe.

During the school holiday we have kept busy and we are in the process of updating our school website www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk. This remains the main source of up to date information and is also the best way to share and celebrate some of the learning and achievements of the pupils. Particular highlights from last month are the fabulous Christmas Celebrations, which I hope you all enjoyed watching. Please do leave a comment- we all love reading your feedback!

We appreciate that it is not simple 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.

The ongoing uncertainty about the pandemic continues to be a 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

MIND WELLBEING WORKSHOPS AND SUPPORT

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 session for parents last month was helpful and look forward to seeing more parents at future workshops on different topics. We will send details of these as soon as the dates are confirmed. Please do let us know if there are any topics you feel would be beneficial for families and if you would like more individual support please speak to a member of SLT and we will help to make a referral for your family.



Please remember that we are always here to listen and will always try our best to help our school family.

Together through Christ we grow and learn



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WESTMINSTER DIOCESE CHRISTMAS CARD ART COMPETITION

Last month the Diocese held a Christmas card completion across all the school within the Diocese. The theme was family (as this is The Year of the Family as well as The Year of St Joseph) and schools were encouraged to discuss welcome, journey, migrants, diversity. These pieces of artwork reflect a journey, both physical and spiritual. As you look at the pieces of artwork produced by the pupils, reflect on how they show Joseph as protector of the family and point us towards Jesus, our Saviour. Consider how they promote racial equality and diversity in our Church and promote the Christmas message of love, joy and peace. We are thrilled that, from a great range of outstanding entries the overall winner was a St. Vincent's pupil-Clare, Year 6. Well done Clare, your art work is absolutely beautiful.



NURSERY AND RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The closing date for Nursery and Reception applications is 15th January 2022. 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 Tuesday 19th April 2022.

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

We include the dates for the month ahead to try and be helpful. However this list is not definitive-new trips/events may be arranged after the newsletter has been published and all dates are subject to change, especially as the coronavirus situation continues to evolve and changing guidance means we must constantly review our plans. Please check the website for the most up to date information. We will also send emails just before any key events to confirm the arrangements.

- Wednesday 5th Children back to school
- Monday 10th Clubs start again
- Monday 10th 11:30 Junior Citizenship workshop for Year 6 pupils
- Saturday 15th Closing date for Nursery and Reception applications for September 2022 entry
- Thursday 20th Pizza Party Lunch-all pupils invited to join in for school dinner on this date
- Friday 21st Year 6 Assembly –details to be confirmed
- Thursday 27th Candlemas Mass –details to be confirmed
- Friday 28th Year 3 Assembly –details to be confirmed

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IMPORTANT CORONAVIRUS REMINDERS

As we continue through the pandemic and new variants of coronavirus develop, it is important that we all follow the latest guidance and work together to try to reduce the spread of the virus.

Thank you to everyone who supports the school as this really is a shared effort. Please find below some important reminders of how we can continue to work together to keep our St. Vincent's family healthy and safe.

- Please be vigilant to the symptoms of coronavirus and book a PCR test immediately if your child displays any of these symptoms.
- If your child has been identified as a possible close contact of a positive case, particularly the Omicron variant, please complete daily lateral flow tests to ensure your child is not carrying the infection into school, as they may be asymptomatic.
- Please keep the school fully updated. We would much prefer that parents were honest about contacts, symptoms and test results, and then follow the government guidance, even if this means some absence. The school will also communicate with you about any confirmed cases within your child's class.

As a reminder, the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

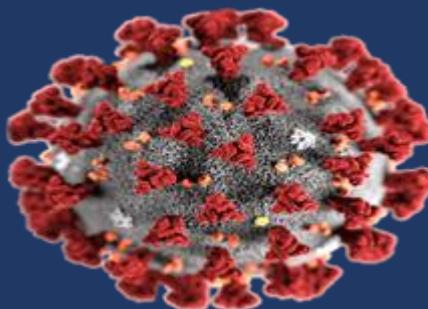
- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

However the symptoms of the newer variants present as a common cold so schools have been advised to have a low threshold of suspicion for cases. Some key symptoms include:

- headache
- sore throat
- runny nose

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the school with the above. This is greatly appreciated.

If you have any queries about the above information or there is any support we could provide you, please do make an appointment and we will do all we can to help.



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