

IMPORTANT DATES We include the dates for the coming months to try and be helpful. However this list is not definitive-new trips/events may be arranged after the newsletter has been published and some dates are subject to change so please check the website and the noticeboard at the front of the school for the most up to date information.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH 2019

1st Secondary Transfer Outcomes Day (from 17:00)-Good luck Year 6
1st 10:35 Year 3 Assembly-all welcome
4th Year 6 visiting Mayhew Animal Home
5th 15:15 SVPA Pancake Sale, school hall
6th 9:15 Coffee Morning-please come and meet the school nurse. Eating issues focus
6th WE Day UK- Years 4/5/6 Green Team & School Council attending celebration at Wembley Arena
6th Launch of Catholic Children's Society Lenten Appeal
6th 14:00 Ash Wednesday Service, St. James's Church-all welcome
7th World Book Day –children to dress up as book characters
7th 14:45 World Book Day family Reading session- parents and carers welcome to come and read in school
7th 15:15 Book Fair, school hall please come and support (and spend your Book Day voucher!)
8th 10:35 Year 2 Assembly-all welcome
11th-15th Science Week
12th Year 5 visiting Photographers Gallery for Camera Obscura workshop
13th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
14th 15 x Year 6 attending St. George's Scrap heap Challenge
15th Duggie Dug Dug Crazy Science Praise Party!
18th World Recycling Day-Green Team working with W1 Shopping Centre
19th Year 3 visiting Museum of London for Stone Age Day
20th Class Photographs
22nd 10:35 Reception Assembly-all welcome
22nd Year 4 visiting St. Clement Dane's School for Shakespeare story telling session
25th Year 3 watching Young Curators presentation at the Wallace Collection
25th Create Photography Exhibition
26th Year 2 visiting Hyde Park Lookout
26th p.m. Year 6 visiting St. Marylebone for Science workshop 'Magnificent Magnifiers'
26th Last day of swimming for Year 4
27th Year 6 Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Christopher
27th 4 x Year 5 pupils participating ion Maths Challenge at Christ's Hospital
27th Parents Evening (not Year 5)
28th Parents Evening
29th 10:35 Year 1 Assembly-all welcome
29th Parents Evening (Year 5 only)

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL 2019

1st Spirituality Day
2nd 11:00 Year 5 End of Project Celebration, Wallace Collection-all welcome
2nd 14:00 Year 2 Shakespeare Performance / End of Project Celebration-venue tbc
3rd Year 5 Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Christopher
3rd 9:00 SVPA Meeting, Easter Fair-all welcome
3rd 9:15 Year 6 End of Project Celebration -all welcome
3rd 14:00 Year 3 End of Project Celebration -all welcome
4th 13:45 Year 1 End of Project Celebration -all welcome
5th 10:35 Nursery Assembly-all welcome
5th 14:00. Year 4 End of Project celebration, Creativity Room-all welcome
5th 3:00 Easter Fair
10th Year 4 Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Christopher
10th 9:00 EYFS Open Morning-all Nursery & Reception welcome
11th 14:00 Easter Celebration at St. James'-all welcome
12th Own Clothes day-£1 donation for Catholic Children's Society
12th School breaks up at 14:00 for the Easter Holidays

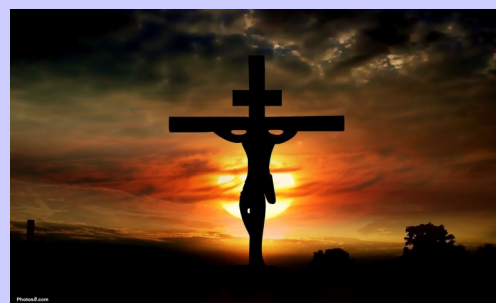
15th -26th April Easter Holiday

29th Children return to school

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY 2019

6th School closed for Bank Holiday
13th-17th SATS Week

Date for your diary
2nd July Sports Day 2019



St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN.



Dear parents/carers,

I hope you enjoyed a relaxing half term and made the most of the unusually warm weather. During this period the enabling works to the car park continued but it seems the main works continue to be delayed and will not start until the end of the month.

Although we have only been back at school for one week, it has already been very productive and I must congratulate the Green Team and School Council for their united fundraising campaign for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The pyjama Danceathon on Wednesday was great fun and raised an incredible £2,300 for this wonderful charity! Well done everyone for your spectacular efforts.

This week Lent will commence, and we start our preparations for Easter. As this is such a special celebration for Catholics, our school holiday is different to community schools so please check the dates carefully when booking your holidays.

We continue to have many exciting learning opportunities ahead this term and hope this newsletter, combined with the information on our school website, includes all the information that you need.

If at any point during the term you have any concerns or queries, please do come and speak to me. My door is always open for parents and carers and it's important we work together for the benefit of the children. Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Coleman, Headteacher

**Catholic
Children's
Society**
(Westminster)
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LENT 2019

On Ash Wednesday the whole school will receive ashes at St. James's Church. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for this service at which Father Christopher will also bless our Lenten promises.

Once again during Lent we will be supporting the Catholic Children's Society. The theme of the 2019 Lenten Appeal is 'Shine Your Light.' Pupils will think about how they can use their talents to make the world a brighter place. Following a special assembly led by the Catholic Children's Society to explain the importance of their work, each pupil will be given a collection box and a Shine Your Light activity sheet. In the orange box pupils can write their talents. The white boxes form a 40 day Lent calendar in the shape of a candle. Every day during Lent pupils will complete a box, reflecting on one thing they have done to make someone's day brighter.

During Lent we will try to become even closer to God with additional prayer sessions and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Years 4, 5 and 6.

To further strengthen home, school, Parish links, we would like to involve parents to participate in family prayer times using our new Lent Prayer Boxes. To help us remember the Last Supper we would like to invite children to share our special Lent box with their family at home. As a family, use the prayer box and take time to stop and think about how special the Last Supper was and the self-giving of Jesus. A photo can be taken which we will a special book.

At school we will also be hosting a Spirituality Day. The weeks ahead are going to be very reflective and prayerful and we will try to shine our light at all times.

STAFFING NEWS

We regret to inform you that, for personal reasons, Mrs Goodall has left St. Vincent's. Mrs Goodall worked at the school for over fifteen years and is a much loved member of our school family. We wish her well for the future. If you have any messages for Mrs Goodall please see Miss Coleman and we will ensure that these are passed on to her.

Thank you to our Midday Supervisors Mrs Rekkas and Mrs Iuzic who have been covering during Mrs Goodall's absence. We will now advertise for a permanent replacement.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPORTS AMBASSADORS

We are pleased to announce that we now have customised St Vincent's swimming caps. Pupils from Year 4, 5 and 6 took great pride wearing the new caps at the Westminster Swimming Gala. We came third overall - well done to everyone who took part!



This term, our Rights Respecting Sports Ambassadors are trialling and leading a new Cheerleading Club during lunchtimes. The club welcomes boys and girls who want to learn routines, stunts and jumps. Those participating will begin by learning the basics of cheerleading and then move on to develop a complete cheer routine. If successful, our aim is to create a cheerleading squad who will perform at key sporting events.

BLANDFORD STREET ZEBRA CROSSING

We are very pleased that the safety of our pupils whilst on their journey to school is being improved further by the installation of a zebra crossing on Blandford Street, which parents have been requesting for many years. This is in addition to the zebra crossing that is already on Aybrook Street and the one planned across Marylebone High Street. Thank you to Councillor Scarborough for supporting this campaign.

Westminster City Council is proposing public realm improvements at the junction of Blandford Street and Manchester Street by introducing a raised zebra crossing facility to improve accessibility for vulnerable road users.

The scope of works includes:

- *Building out the southern footway of Blandford Street to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians;
- *Installation of a new raised zebra crossing facility and associated control markings to assist pedestrians and curtail traffic speeds;
- *Repaving of both the northern and southern footways of Blandford Street to improve the streetscape;
- *New granite kerbs installed both sides of the zebra crossing facility;
- *Removal of redundant street furniture; and
- *Changes to existing kerbside parking arrangements.

The zebra crossing facility will improve pedestrian safety, especially for vulnerable road users such as school children and reduce traffic speeds. The length of these zig zag control markings necessary to ensure adequate sightlines have been reduced to minimise the impact on kerbside parking and loading activities. Providing that there are no major objections to the scheme, it is likely that the zebra crossing will be implemented in June / July 2019.



ONLINE SAFETY MESSAGE

Our pupils are going up in a technologically advanced world and the internet is a wonderful resource and source of communication. However we need to ensure that they are taught how to manage this safely and responsibly. There is lots of advice and guidance on our school website Online Safety page or please see Miss Coleman if you have any questions. Managing screen time can be challenging so we hope these tips are useful.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As the teachers are busy meeting parents on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March there will not be any teacher led after school clubs on those days. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but as all teachers have parents evening on the same dates there is no way for us to arrange cover.

Please note after school clubs will stop for this term from Monday 1st April. Please check with the Club Leaders as to the date of the final session of any clubs your child attends. Clubs will resume again on Tuesday 7th May but please remember that the clubs will change and different children will have the opportunity to participate. Look out for the Summer Term Extra-Curricular Activities newsletter which will contain all the details. There will be no After School Activity club on Friday 12th April, when school closes at 2:00p.m. but it will continue to run on all other dates. Breakfast Club will run every day.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. To commemorate this event and to encourage the joy of reading we will be holding our annual book character dress up day and ask that all children come to school dressed as a book character. During the day pupils will participate in a carousel of reading related activities. All children will also receive a £1 book token to spend at a local book shop or the Book Fair, which will be held that evening after school, in the school hall. We look forward to seeing an array of costumes and reading the books that inspired them!

Parents are invited to come to school at 2:45 p.m. and read with their child/ren in class. Feel free to dress up as a book character or simply come as you are!



SCIENCE WEEK 2019

It's nearly time for St Vincent's Science Week again! From March 11th-15th we will once again be holding our very popular Science Week to coincide with British Science Week. Our aim is to encourage children to become inspired and excited by Science, to be curious and to nurture a desire to have a greater understanding of the world around them. During this week the children will participate in a range of exciting Science activities in school including a return visit from Duggie Dug Dug & his Crazy Science Praise Party (a huge success last year)! Thank you to the SVPA for funding this visit and to Mrs Robinson for organising this fun, informative week!

