

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 2020

2nd Secondary Transfer Outcomes Day-good luck Year 6
3rd Nursery visiting the London Aquarium
3rd & 4th All About Paper workshops for pupils Year 1-5
4th 9:00 Coffee Morning-All About Paper workshop-all welcome
4th WE Day UK- Yrs 5/6 Green Team & School Council attending celebration at Wembley Arena
5th World Book Day –children to dress up as book characters please
5th 14:45 World Book Day family Reading session- parents and carers welcome to come and read in school
5th 15:15 Book Fair, school hall please come and support
6th 10:35 Year 4 Assembly-all welcome
9th-13th Science Week
10th STEM workshop for Year 2
10th Parents Evening for Year 5 only
11th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
11th 9:15 Year 4 Hakkasan workshop
11th Year 5 attending Scrapheap Challenge at St. George's
11th Parents Evening No Clubs
12th Parents Evening (not Year 5) No Clubs
13th Year 3 visiting Museum of London-Ancient Britain
13th 10:35 Nursery Assembly-all welcome
17th 9:00 SVPA Face-painting and Bracelet making workshop
18th Class Photographs
19th Year 4 visiting Queen's College for Science workshop 'States of Matter'
20th 9:15 Year 5 End of Project celebration-all welcome
20th 10:35 Year 1 Assembly-all welcome
24th 9:00 EYFS Open Morning-all Nursery & Reception welcome
24th p.m. Year 4 visiting St. Clement Dane's School for Shakespeare story telling session
25th 9:00 SVPA Meeting-all welcome
25th Four Year 5 pupils participating in Maths Challenge at Christ's Hospital
25th Nursery watching The Paper Dolls puppet show
25th 14:00 Year 1 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
26th 14:00 Year 6 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
27th 9:15 Year 4 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
27th 10:35 Year 5 Assembly-all welcome
27th 15:15 SVPA Easter Fair
31st Final Swimming session for Year 4

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL 2020

1st 14:00 Year 2 Shakespeare Performance / End of Project Celebration
1st 14:00 Year 3 End of Project Celebration-all welcome
2nd 14:00 Easter Celebration at St. James'-all welcome
3rd Own Clothes day-£1 donation for Catholic Children's Society
3rd School breaks up at 14:00 for the Easter Holidays

6th -17th April Easter Holiday

20th Children return to school

SPORTS DAY 2020-Save the date!

This year's Sports Day will take place on **Tuesday 30th June 2020** at the **Paddington Recreation Ground** running track. More detailed information will follow. We hope this advance notice allows parents sufficient notice to arrange to be present with us on the day.



St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN.



Dear parents/carers,

I hope you enjoyed a relaxing half term despite this having been an exceptionally wet February! The highlight for us was welcoming a new addition to the St. Vincent's family when Mrs Duffy gave birth to her gorgeous daughter. We send our warmest congratulations to Mrs Duffy and her husband.

This term is busy with lots of exciting events and learning opportunities. We hope this newsletter, combined with the information on our school website, includes all the information that you need. As well as our preparations for Easter we are looking forward to World Book day this week, shortly followed by Science Week. We also have a range of trips and workshops. We are blessed with the support from our local community and are pleased to be developing a new partnership with Hakkasan restaurant.

Thanks are due to all the parents who support the St. Vincent's Parents Association for the wonderful fundraising social activities they organise for the school including the recent amazing International Evening and Pancake Sale. The money raised support the curriculum with exciting trips and activities such as the artist mosaic workshop-look out for the final piece which will be proudly displayed in the school hall. At the moment we are preparing for the Easter Fair and our annual auction. Please do help in any way you can.

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

Yours sincerely,
Miss Coleman, Headteacher

CORONAVIRUS

As you are all aware there has been extensive media coverage of the recent Coronavirus outbreak. We are not surprised that some parents and children have expressed worries about the situation. We would like to reassure you that we are not aware of any outbreak of the Coronavirus within the school at this time.

We are aware that a number of families were skiing during the half term and have contacted those families directly for details of their exact location. Please rest assured that those families have confirmed that they were not staying in the specific lockdown areas and thus do not need to self-isolate. In accordance with the Public Health guidance we are monitoring those children carefully and should they display any symptoms, they will then be required to self-isolate and we will agree the appropriate measures in accordance with the most up to date advice.

The school get daily updates from the Department for Education on the current situation and guidance from the NHS on what we should do.

The DfE has launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

There are general principles that everyone should follow to help prevent the spread of the virus, including:

- Washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport.
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Face masks for the general public, including children, are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use. They are also very frightening for little children.

The school has taken a number of steps to reduce the risk of infection:

- ⇒ Good hygiene is the most important defence and we have extra stocks of tissues, soap and wipes.
- ⇒ We have delivered lessons to all children on how to wash their hands and what to do when they cough or sneeze
- ⇒ Our daily cleaners are focusing more on all hard surfaces such as door handles and bannisters.

Please be assured that if the situation changes and we know of anything that causes concern, we promise to inform you straight away. The safety of the children and staff our priority. It is very important that we do not overreact to the current outbreak. In these times, the children need the adults around them to be calm and reassuring. Thank you for your continued support.



WALLACE COLLECTION YOUNG CURATORS

Saturday 1st February- Young Curator Discovery Stations
Between 1 and 2pm, the Young Curators were on hand to engage the children and adult visitors with fun facts and handling materials, all about six of the Wallace Collection's wonders. The museum that day was extremely busy, and the Young Curator spoke to lots of visitors, who were all very impressed by their knowledge of the collection! Here is what visitors had to say: *So lovely to see the next generation talk so vividly about historic artworks!* *'Thank you for all the information which makes the visit mean so much more. We will remember all you told us, much better than reading about the item ourselves.'* *'The most professional and at the same time the cutest performance I've ever seen! Super entertainment!'*

On Monday 10th February, the Young Curators got a special tour with Alexander Collins, who is currently doing research at the Wallace Collection on French furniture from the 18th Century. Alexander showed the Young Curators several pieces of very cleverly designed furniture.

"We saw a table which opens up as a writing table, with a leather writing pad and a small inkwell to dip your quill in. It also had lots of little drawers to keep your paperwork. Alex showed us how the writing desk flips open to reveal a secret mirror which you could use to get ready in the morning. We also saw a table which has a secret compartment at the top, which would open if you pressed one of the decorative flowers on the side of the table... We were very lucky to see these wonderful works of art up close, and to hear from expert Alexander Collins."

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 5th 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!



British Science Week 2020



SCIENCE WEEK 2020 Our Diverse Planet

It's nearly time for St Vincent's Science Week again! From March 9th-13th we will once again be holding our very popular Science Week to coincide with British Science Week. The theme this year is Our Diverse Planet. 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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As the teachers are busy meeting parents on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March there will not be any 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 and access is needed across the school there is no way for us to arrange cover or additional rooms to be used.

Please note after school clubs will stop for this term from Monday 30th March. 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 Monday 27th April 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 3rd April, when school closes at 2:00p.m. but it will continue to run on all other dates. Breakfast Club will run every day.

LENT 2020

On Ash Wednesday the whole school received ashes at St. James's Church. It was lovely to have so many family members joining us for this service at which Father Christopher also blessed our Lenten promises.

Once again during Lent we will be supporting the Catholic Children's Society. The theme of the 2020 Lenten Appeal is 'Light Your Lenten Path.' which is linked to 'The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word', following the three themes of *celebrating*, *living* and *sharing*. Following a special assembly led by the Catholic Children's Society to explain the importance of their work, each pupil was given a collection box and an activity sheet.

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 once again invite parents to participate in family prayer times using our 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. The weeks ahead are going to be very reflective and prayerful and we will try to shine our light at all times on our Lenten path.



SECONDARY TRANSFER

Today Year 6 students will find out if they have been successful in their applications to Secondary School. Online outcomes will be available from 5:00p.m. on 2nd March and Miss Coleman is available if any parents wish to discuss the outcome of their applications.

In the Summer Term a meeting will be held for interested Year 4 & 5 parents, or any lower down the school, to explain how the secondary transfer system works. Although most secondary schools will not be holding their open evenings until the Autumn term, this will allow time for parents to research which schools they would like to visit. The time frame is very short so it is worth doing some preparatory work before September.

Another meeting will be held in July, specifically for Year 6 parents, to distribute the updated information and details for that year. All parents need to be aware that many popular Church schools are over-subscribed and follow very strict admissions criteria. Most Church schools expect parents and children to be practicing Catholics who attend Mass weekly.

STAFFING NEWS

We regret to inform you that, for personal reasons, our Reception teacher Miss Savage will be leaving St. Vincent's at the end of term and moving out of London. We thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her well for the future. We are very pleased to welcome Miss Miss Rajasuriar, who is known to the children, to our school family and she will take over as the Reception classteacher until the end of the academic year.

PARENTS EVENING

The Spring Parents Evening will be held this month, on Wednesday 27th (not Year 5) and Thursday 28th March (with an additional session on Friday 29th March for Year 5 parents only to ensure both teachers can be seen together). Before your appointment there is an opportunity to look at your child's work and then the timetable allows for the class teacher to spend ten minutes discussing your child's progress and to review the targets set in the Autumn Term. If longer is needed a separate appointment will need to be made. Please remember that teachers are always willing to meet at other times so there can be more regular updates on progress if this is requested by parents. There is also an opportunity to see what your child has been doing in school by attending the termly 'Book Look' which is always very popular.

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2020: TOGETHER FOR A BETTER INTERNET

Last month we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Each class thought about what they like to do online and how to ensure that everyone is free to be themselves online. We all realised that it is important for everyone to follow the rules as these keep games and websites fair and safe for everyone. This year, the focus was on having a safer internet for everyone, how the internet is a good resource and for children to have a positive experience when using the internet. We reminded children that our behaviour on the internet should be the same as in 'the real world', and that we should be kind and polite to all. Please talk to your children about their experiences on the internet, what they like to do and how they, and others, behave online. Remember to look at the school website Online Safety page for further useful links and resources www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/school-info/ online -safety/

