



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing half term, despite the miserable weather. It was lovely to relax and unwind after a very busy return to school.

I appreciate how difficult it is to keep up with the ever evolving situation and changing guidance. At the moment it is clear that schools are staying open and I am very grateful to our team of staff and governors for their endeavours to support this. However, please rest assured that we are fully prepared for any potential school closures and believe that our Remote Learning Plan is robust. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the COVID Fund as this has really helped us to support everyone in our school family and to develop fully resourced plan that meets the needs of our community (although we are still hopeful that we will never have to resort to this). As a school we are constantly reviewing our procedures and we will continue to keep you updated by email or on the school website. Although challenging, it is quite exciting to find new ways of doing things and there are some benefits. Years 6 and 5 have led the way with wonderful filmed assemblies-and it wonderful to see from the website comments that these have reached such a wide audience with family members across the world being able to enjoy the experiences.

This half term we are hoping to provide more interaction with parents. The SVPA will be virtually planning Christmas events, we will be hosting our first virtual parents evenings and we are hoping to start online workshops for parents. More details are below and will be added to the school website, which remains the hub of all the most up to date school information. Thank you to everyone who has written comments on the news posts or sent emails. We value your feedback and really appreciate when parents take the time to send a positive message.

We continue to strive to provide an enjoyable learning environment for pupils, with a broad curriculum. I am really sorry that we still cannot safely offer after school activities. This is because of the restrictions of our building which make it difficult to preserve the bubbles whilst seeing all pupils out safely and ensuring that all rooms are cleaned thoroughly for the next day of school, as well as the upcoming lockdown restrictions. We will continue to review this, when the government guidance changes again.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kindest regards,
Miss Coleman, Headteacher

COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS

We appreciate that it is not as easy to have informal chats 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.

PARENTS EVENING-IMPORTANT CHANGES

This year Parents Evening will be on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss children's progress so far this year and to agree targets for the year that home and school can work on together. As we are restricting the number of people entering the school premises, these meetings will be conducted virtually. Appointments can be booked this week, once you have received the usual booking instructions text/ email. We will then send further details of how to join on the day of your appointment. Due to the volume of people to be seen only ten minutes is allocated per child.

We appreciate that it is beneficial to see the work your child has been doing in school. We will therefore be sending your child's exercise books home on Tuesday 10th November. Please send a strong plastic bag into school so that your child can take their books home. These must all be returned by Friday 13th November at the latest, depending on the day of your appointment, and all work for those few days in school will be completed on paper.

This is a new way of conducting the appointments so there will inevitably be some teething problems but we will try our best to ensure the appointments run as smoothly as possible.

Together through Christ we grow and learn



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST.VINCENT'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thank you to all the parents who support the St. Vincent's Parents' Association, especially our chairs, Julie Nouailhetas, Shana Toevs & Nicole Rao and the Class Representatives. The first meeting, held virtually, was a great success with an impressive attendance. Thank you to everyone who was able to join. At the meeting it was agreed that during the pandemic the focus of the SVPA will change to supporting the wellbeing of pupils (rather than organising fundraising social events) and that money raised will be to cover costs.

As well as the regular second hand uniform sales, the SVPA is currently working on producing a tea towel featuring a self-portrait of every child in the school and planning some fabulous Christmas celebrations. We will keep you updated!

BUILDING WORKS UPDATES

One of the challenges of being located in thriving central London is that there are constantly building projects taking place in close proximity to the school. Miss Coleman and the school governors meet regularly with representatives from all the different projects and the developers have appointed a liaison person who also supports the coordination. Together we are trying to minimise the impact on the school and any disruption to our routines. This means that the week of half term was very busy as everyone tried to maximise the use of the school closure period. A brief summary is below.

Concord- Moxon Street Car Park/ Marylebone Square

The work to the car park has finally started. The contractors completed some of the noisy works closest to the school during half term but this is a very long project. There are monthly Community Liaison Group meetings which parents are welcome to attend. Details are on the school website.

Westminster / Conway- Public Realm Works St. Vincent Street

We are so pleased that St. Vincent Street is now open and we once again have direct access to Marylebone High Street. The shared surface looks lovely and will eventually be extended for the whole of St. Vincent Street. This work was originally planned for the summer holidays but the pandemic caused delays and now there is not sufficient time to safely complete the work directly outside the school. This half term the drainage issues were resolved (so we no longer have a swimming pool outside the school when it rains!) and in the February half term the shared surface paving will be completed. We are looking forward to this!

Howard de Walden / Neilcott - Marylebone High Street/ St. Vincent Street

The main external works to this project are almost complete. However there will be internal refurbishment works needed to the property to there will still be active builders working on the site.

Dorrington/ Forcia - Marylebone High Street/ St. Vincent Street

Now that the road is open the scaffolding has been reinstated along St. Vincent Street so the next phase of these works can be completed.

More detail about each of these projects can be found on the school website Community Developments page where we have a dedicated page for each project, which includes any newsletters from the developers. Please do speak to Miss Coleman if you have any questions.

During half term we also completed some improvement works to the school. The Foundation Stage dividing wall was upgraded and is now fully operational. Film was also placed on the stairwell windows, providing much need privacy from the development opposite. The safety of the pupils is always our priority.

ONLINE SAFETY

As the evenings get darker, it can be tempting to spend more time on devices while in the house. It is important to continue the conversations with your child about the games and apps they are using and who they may be talking to. While parental controls do not manage to completely eliminate the risk, they are a good start. Please visit internet matters (<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>) or our Online Safety page to find guides for setting up parental controls for different providers (<https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/school-info/online-safety/>). Having parental controls and regular discussions about online behaviour and activity are the best way to continue to keep your children safe while using the wonderful resource that is the internet.

Together through Christ we grow and learn



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

CORONAVIRUS IN CHILDREN

Children can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but they seem to get it less often than adults and it's usually less serious. The main symptoms of coronavirus in children are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- You, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have the test.
- Complete the school Google Form which will provide you with further instructions

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCgBZ11PMi5N8Pm8P2J8lgyolNmfBgu1IJVFCFcr13Ro4m3g/viewform>

More advice and guidance, including appropriate stories to read with your child, can be found on the school website Coronavirus page. <https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/school-info/wellbeing/coronavirus/>



SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES

As a school we regularly review our Risk Assessment and the most recent version is published on our school website. We are fortunate that we have not yet had any positive COVID cases in pupils or staff. However we have had positive cases amongst parents and we are continually trying to reduce the risk of parents and carers spreading the virus to each other, particularly at drop off and pick up times, when we know it is particularly difficult to ensure social distancing. Thank you to everyone who has supported us with this. As the country moves into another lockdown we would kindly ask parents to adhere to the following:

- Please wear a face mask when dropping off/ collecting your child (as it is difficult to maintain social distancing in such a confined, busy space)
- Try to maintain 2m social distance from other parents and carers
- Only one adult to come to the school at one time
- Buggies/ pushchairs to only be used for the youngest children
- Be punctual and if you are early for pick up, wait at a safe distance, only moving forward when your child's class is ready
- Leave the vicinity immediately after drop off or pick up
- Only come to the school office for matters that cannot be dealt with by email or telephone
- Outdoor exercise and fresh air are important but please visit a range of places (not just Paddington Street gardens) and maintain social distancing

Working together, we can do our best to keep our school family safe. Thank you for your support.

Together through Christ we grow and learn



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2020 'UNITED AGAINST BULLYING'

Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November 2020 is National Anti-Bullying Week coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme this year is **United Against Bullying**.

This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.

Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference.

We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.



We will also be holding Odd Socks Day on the Monday of Anti-Bullying Week, where children and adults wear odd socks to school or work to celebrate what makes us all unique.

During this week each class will participate in lots of different activities to promote anti-bullying as well as celebrating our individuality. This includes a workshop by friend of the school Duggie Dug Dug, who will be visiting us virtually this year to present "There is no one like you!" - a really fun bubble show based on Psalm 139, celebrating that we are all wonderfully made and unique and that God had plans for us even before we were born.

At St. Vincent's we recognise that this focus should not just be for one week and we are committed to long-term sustainable measures to prevent and deal with any form of bullying behaviour, working together with children and parents to address this important issue. Help us to launch this week on Monday 16th November by wearing your odd socks as an opportunity to express yourself, celebrate your individuality and what makes us all unique!

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

- 2nd Children back to school
- 4th School Photographer-individual and siblings 8:00 start for Year 5/6 Bubble and their siblings
- 6th Year 2 Assembly-see website news post
- 9th & 10th First Aid workshops
- 9th-13th Other Faiths Week: Judaism
- 11th Jewish Museum Workshops
- 11th Parents Evening
- 12th Parents Evening
- 13th Year 1 Assembly-see website news post
- 16th-20th Anti-Bullying Week
- 16th Odd Socks Day
- 20th Year 3 Assembly-see website news post
- 27th Year 4 Assembly-see website news post

Together through Christ we grow and learn