



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

It has been such a sad start to this half term that it did not feel appropriate to send a newsletter home until now. The focus of the newsletter this month is how we can work together for the benefit of the children. I hope that the content is helpful and if there are any other ways in which we can support families through this difficult time, please do let us know.

As ever I am so proud of our pupils. They have been really resilient and reflective, whilst continuing to work hard and to behave responsibly. Well done St. Vincent's!

Thank you to all our parents for your understanding during this period. I feel we have really supported each other and it is testament to the strength of our community that we have been able to come together in such a positive way during such a challenging time.

Our staff have also been fantastic and it is lovely to be able to share some good news with you. Firstly we are pleased to welcome Mrs Hope to the staff team. She will be working as the Year 1 Teaching Assistant. Mrs Robertson will continue in Year 1 but she will change role to become a Learning Support Assistant, focussing more on individual pupil needs. I am also pleased to confirm that Ms Drury is expecting a baby around Easter time. We are so excited to welcome a new addition to the St. Vincent's family.

Kindest regards, Miss Coleman, Headteacher

REST IN PEACE, PAOLO

The loss of our beloved Paolo has broken our hearts but we were blessed to know him for so many years and have many special memories of him to treasure. We have enjoyed sharing these with each other and looking at photographs of Paolo-in which he always seems to be grinning with a very cheeky smile! Father Christopher has been a tremendous support, talking to us all and leading us in prayers. It gives us great comfort to know that Paolo is now at peace in heaven with Jesus.

We continue to hold Paolo's family in our thoughts and prayers and they will forever be part of our St. Vincent's school family.

Sandra and Enrico have asked us to express their gratitude for the love and support from our St. Vincent's friends and families, especially at the funeral which was a beautiful celebration of the life of such a special child.



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SUPPORT AT ST. VINCENT'S

If you ever need support for you or your child, please speak to any member of staff and we will always do our best to help you. You can speak to us at the school gate or make an appointment for a more private meeting at a mutually convenient time. Just send an email to the school office. Children can also express any worries using their class Worry Box or the online Worry Box.

<https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/blog/worry-box/>

Sometimes there will be specific needs that require additional support and we hope that the suggestions below are useful:

Health Needs

Miss Coleman is the lead for long term medical condition and Mrs Lynch, in the school office, manages medication within school. Children should never bring any form of medication to school, whether prescribed or a natural remedy, without the office being informed. This is for the safety of your child and others within the school.

School Nurse

We are really pleased to finally have an allocated school nurse, Lucy McDonald, and she is in school every Wednesday. The school nurse can support families in the management of identified medical conditions. She will also lead health promotion activities for pupils and staff as well as parent workshops. Please do let us know if there is a topic you feel would be useful.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

If you think your child has a special education need please contact the SENDCO, Mrs Duffy. We also work with an Educational Psychologist and with the Woodfield Road Child Development Centre. Although there are long waiting lists, sometimes a referral can help to identify specific needs, which helps us to ensure the appropriate support is being given.

Mental Health Needs

Mrs Duffy and Miss Carruthers are both trained Mental Health First Aiders. As well as support in school such as our Lunchtime Hub, we can refer families for additional support from professionals.

MIND

We are very fortunate to work with MIND. As well as staff professional development and workshops for pupils, MIND can offer parenting support around a range of issues affecting children including anxiety (ongoing concerns and worries), behaviour, family and peer relationships and adjusting to change and transitions.

Play Therapist

We have recently employed a play therapist, Tim Hudson, who is primarily supporting Year 6 at present but will eventually work across more year groups. He delivers child centred creative support for individual pupils, as well as contributing to the lunchtime hub and some more general group support.

CAMHS

Sometimes we will refer individual pupils to CAMHS, NHS services that assess and treat young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.

Early Help

The Westminster Early Help Team provide additional support for families and this can vary according to need. The support can range from providing information or support at home, to recommending courses that may be helpful. Different organisations should come together to help families to get the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

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BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT: ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021 'ONE KIND WORD'



As well as the services mentioned overleaf we try to support pupils with regular reminders about how we should treat others. One way of doing this is through themed weeks. Anti-Bullying Week 2021 this year is from Monday 15th – Friday 19th November and has the theme 'One Kind Word'.

Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration and charity can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us.

One Kind Word can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. We can all play a part in a chain reaction that powers positivity.

We think this upbeat message will resonate with children who know all too well how unkind words can hurt and undermine them.

To launch the week, we asked all pupils to wear odd socks. It was a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week, as well as being a fond memory of Paolo, who always had odd socks!

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.

ONLINE SAFETY SUPPORT

Online safety is another area that we are aware of families needing lots of support with. It is very hard to keep up with the ever developing technology and social media.

To help parents and carers keep up to date with the ever changing online trends, National Online Safety (www.nationalonlinesafety.com) have a #WakeUpWednesday campaign to provide free online safety guides. Each week they share a new guide to support schools, parents and carers that will give a summary of what the game/app is, highlight the positives and anything for us to be aware of. It is always important to know which games and websites your children are using and to have an open conversation about this so that children know that they are always safe to talk to an adult about any worries they have. To receive the guides, sign up for free on the National Online Safety website. Some of their guides are shared on our school website (<https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/news/online-safety-resources/>).

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT: 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 our newest addition Ewa Hais, as well as the Class Representatives. It's been wonderful to finally hold some meetings in real life and these will continue as much as possible, with meetings online where more appropriate. As the coronavirus situation is still so uncertain it has been agreed that the focus of the SVPA will continue to be on 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 pre-loved 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!

There will be an in-person meeting on Wednesday 24th November at 9:05a.m. in the well ventilated school hall. Please do join us.

WEBSITE AND FURTHER SUPPORT

Please be reminded that the school website www.stvincenstprimary.org.uk remains the main source of communication from the school. We work really hard to keep it up to date, using the news page to keep you informed about daily life in school and to celebrate the children's achievements, whilst using the information pages to keep you updated with key information on a range of school related issues. Please do let us know if there is any further content you feel would be beneficial. Once again thank you to everyone who comments on the news post-it is great to have this interaction and feedback.

We also try to signpost parents to resources we feel will be of benefit. Please explore the parenting Smart website a free online resource featuring practical advice and tried-and-tested tips for parents and carers of primary aged children. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/> The short videos and articles cover a range of topics including bereavement, from meltdowns to friendship difficulties, from anxiety to the transition to secondary school.

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

Please note that all dates are subject to change. The website calendar lists the most up to date and accurate information.

- 1st Children back to school
- 2nd 8:00 SVPA Pre-loved Uniform Sale, St. Vincent Street
- 3rd School Photographer-individual and siblings 8:00 start for Year 5/6 Bubble and their siblings
- 3rd p.m. Year 6 watching performance of Oliver at Queen's College
- 4th 9:15 All Saints Mass for pupils, school hall
- 8th School closed
- 8th 12:30 Funeral for Paolo Galliani, St. James's Church
- 10th October Gallery art workshops for Nursery and Reception
- 10th 15:45 Year 6 singing at Marylebone Lights Switch On –please support
- 10th 18:00 Switch On of Marylebone Lights
- 12th 9:30 Year 2 Assembly
- 15th-19th Anti-Bullying Week
- 15th Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week
- 16th 9:00 MIND workshop for parents
- 17th 13:30-17:30 Parents Evening
- 18th 15:30-17:30 Parents Evening
- 24th 9:05 SVPA meeting, school hall
- 26th 9:30 Year 5 Assembly

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