

### IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

3rd Year 6 to Sayers Croft for a one week residential  
4th Children return to school (Reception-Year 5)  
7th 9:00 Year 5 Meet the Teacher  
10th 9:00 Year 2 Meet the Teacher  
11th 9:00 Year 1 Meet the Teacher  
12th 9:00 Year 4 Meet the Teacher  
12th 15:00 SVPA Uniform Sale, school hall  
13th 9:00 Reception Meet the Teacher  
14th 9:00 Year 3 Meet the Teacher  
17th Harvest Collection week-please send goods into school  
17th 9:45-10:45 a.m. Year 2 Creativity Morning  
17th Extra-curricular after school Clubs start again (see separate newsletter)  
18th a.m. Horse riding starts for Year 6  
18th p.m. Swimming starts for Year 5  
20th 9:00 Nursery Meet the Teacher  
21st Year 3 Creativity Morning  
21st 10:35 Year 6 Assembly-all welcome  
21st 13:45 Year 1 Creativity Afternoon  
24th School Council visiting Houses of Parliament: Representation and Voting  
25th 9:30-12:00 Year 5 Creativity Morning  
26th 9:05 Coffee Morning/ SVPA Meeting to welcome new parents-all welcome  
26th 9:15-10:15 Year 6 Creativity Morning  
26th 13:45 Year 4 Creativity Afternoon  
27th Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul  
27th 9:15 Mass -St. Vincent de Paul, school hall. All welcome  
28th Year 1 visiting Museum of Childhood  
28th 10:35 Year 2 Assembly-all welcome

### IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

3rd Disco Tickets on sale before school  
3rd 9:05 SVPA Meeting - election of class representatives-all welcome  
4th Year 3 visiting Sir John Soane's Museum  
5th 8:15a.m. Book Look  
5th 10:35 Year 5 Assembly-all welcome  
10th 9:05 Coffee Morning, all welcome  
11th Year 6 visiting RAF Museum  
12th 10:35 Year 1 Assembly-all welcome  
12th 18:30 S.V.P.A. Family Disco  
15th -19th Enterprise Week  
**22nd -26th Half term**  
29th Children back to school  
31st Secondary Transfer application deadline  
31st School Photographer-individual and siblings

### 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 calendar on the school website [www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk) and the noticeboard at the front of the school for the most up to date information.

## **St Vincent's Catholic Primary School**

# **NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018**

*TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN.*

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to school!

I would like to welcome our new teachers, Miss Savage & Miss Lee, and our new teaching assistant Mrs Mourao Pereira as well as all the new children and families who have joined the St. Vincent's community. I hope you settle in well and are happy at our school.

It has been a lovely summer break and I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing holiday. Thank you for generous gifts and thoughtful cards at the end of term.

We worked hard up until the very last week of term, and were very pleased to achieve the School Games Silver Award and to renew our Eco Schools Green Flag. Well done to everyone who supported these achievements.

Whilst the school has been closed we have continued to be very busy completing building works across the school. We are very pleased with the progress that was made within a very tight time frame. The second floor has been completely renovated and air conditioning has been fitted across the school. We are still working on installing a ventilation system-this will be essential to support the welling of the children during the Moxon Street Development works, when the system will provide the children with fresh air whilst the windows are closed.

We are really happy that during this the summer holiday the zebra crossing on Aybrook Street was installed. This will really support the safety of our pupils on their journey to school.

The school website [www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk) contains more detail about these projects-with a photographic record of the progress. It is also the main source of information about the school particularly the latest news so please do check in regularly.

Once again this academic year we have lots of exciting activities planned for the children. Details of these will be forthcoming once the children have had the opportunity to settle back into school routines. Further details about the curriculum will be provided at the Meet the Teacher sessions and in the class information sheets which will be sent out later this week.

Please remember that your opinions are always valued. I am always available to meet with parents, as are the classteachers. Simply let the office staff know that you would like an appointment and we will arrange this for a mutually convenient time.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of, parents, teachers and governors working together to provide an outstanding education for our lovely pupils. Thank you for your continued support.

We are looking forward to a productive, successful year.

Yours sincerely,

M. Coleman



**MEET THE TEACHER** We value the relationship between home and school and a strengthening of this will be provided by a meeting at the beginning of the year to meet your child's new classteacher. During this meeting teachers will explain the curriculum for that year group and the particular routines for that class, and it will provide an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. The meetings will start this week so please check the dates in this newsletter and on the school website [www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk) We have held them on different days to enable families with more than one child to attend all the relevant meetings and the timing is at the start of the day to try to make it easier if parents need to take time off of work. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-19** Thank you to all the parents who completed the annual questionnaires sent out in June. The results have been analysed and the outcome combined with responses from other stakeholders including pupils, staff and governors. The main areas for improvement from the School Development Plan 2018-19 are below:

- Physical, Spiritual, Social and Emotional Wellbeing: To ensure that children are helped to have a holistically healthy lifestyle
- To aim for all children to reach the Expected level by putting appropriate support in place
- To aim for all identified children to reach Greater Depth
- To continue to support staff wellbeing and career progression
- To ensure that all pupils reach at least the expected standard under the new assessment framework for Religious Education
- To provide even further opportunities for pupils to contribute to the development of school liturgical and sacramental life

**FUNDING** As a voluntary aided school the Governors must independently pay at least 10% of all projects. The school has been very successful in applying for different grants towards the projects but all projects require supplements from the school. The annual Governors Maintenance Fund has also been used where necessary although this money is mostly used for general maintenance to keep the school in its current great condition such as painting the classrooms. We ask parents to annually contribute £50 per child towards this Maintenance Fund or £60 per family. This can be paid via Parent Pay. All voluntary contributions are gratefully received and help us to keep St. Vincent's in the fabulous condition that it is today. Thank you to all the parents who have paid this voluntary contribution and a special thanks to those who have donated above the amount requested. Such generosity is most appreciated and always welcomed.

**SCHOOL MEALS** Unfortunately the cost of the school means has risen. We have tried to avoid raising the charges to parents but this is not sustainable. As advised in February, the cost of a school meal will therefore increase to £2.20 per meal from September 2018. If you are entitled to Free School Meals it is really important that you claim them. If you have any questions, please see the school office staff who are happy to help.

**WEBSITE & ONLINE SAFETY** Please remember to regularly check the school website [www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk) As well as the statutory requirements, we use the website to communicate with parents- there will be regular updates and information about events happening in school as well as links to home learning. Please make sure you complete the Acceptable Use Policy for your child as we will only use the images of children for whom we have permission (please note that names of children will never be included with the images). Photographs are used regularly to illustrate the exciting learning taking place in school. We strongly encourage parents to look at the online safety page which has tips and details of helpful sites to help you to keep your children safe when online.

**ST.VINCENT'S COMPLAINTS POLICY** In a Catholic school, parental concerns are of particular importance. As the first educators of their children, parents have a duty to take an active interest in their school. "Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring." (*Gravissimum Educationis*). To this end, "there must be the closest co-operation between parents and the teachers to whom they entrust their children to be educated. In fulfilling their task, teachers are to collaborate closely with the parents and willingly listen to them." (Can.796) In St Vincent's Catholic School, therefore, dealing with parental concerns will be an intrinsic part of the school's ethos and mission.

Nearly all concerns or questions can be resolved very quickly and informally if parents feel able to voice them as soon as they arise. Feedback is always welcome and parents are warmly encouraged to voice any concerns straightaway, preferably to the person concerned. Every effort will be made to allay concerns at this level. Occasionally, however the concern will become a complaint and the formal procedure should be followed. The full procedure is available on the school website.

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS** Extra-curricular clubs will start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. A separate newsletter will be sent home explaining which clubs are available and how to apply. Once again, all payments must be made in advance for the clubs. However we never want a child to miss out on any school activity for financial reasons so if you have any difficulties playing please speak to Miss Coleman. This applies to all families even if you had an arrangement last year this must be agreed again for the forthcoming term.

**SUPPORTING PARENTS AND CHILDREN** Please remember that the school has a number of staff who can supplement the support given by the class teachers and teaching assistants. If you are concerned that your child may have a special educational need, Mrs Duffy, Deputy Headteacher, is the Inclusion Leader and she is available to discuss the support that can be given to your child both at school and at home.

**ST. VINCENT'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION (S.V.P.A.)** Thanks are due to the St. Vincent's Parents Association (S.V.P.A.) for their fantastic fundraising efforts over the years. The S.V.P.A. always welcome new members. Please come along and share your ideas, offer assistance and make new friends! If you are unable to attend meetings or to attend events donations are always gratefully received. Every little helps! Carolina Linares, parent of Lola, Y5 & Nina and Ella, Y3, has been re-elected as Chair of the SVPA and Nicole Rao, parent of Ajay Y3 and Layla, Y1, will continue as Vice Chair. Thanks are given to everyone who contributes to the fantastic work of the SVPA for your amazing support of the school. If you would like to be involved in the SVPA, please come along to the first meeting of the academic year which will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9:05 a.m. in the Music Room as a special welcome to new parents. New class representatives will be elected the following week on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The first social event for the whole school community will be the S.V.P.A. Family Disco on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October (tickets on sale 8:30 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> October from the school office). We look forward to seeing you there!

**PARENTS COFFEE MORNINGS/ WORKSHOPS** At St. Vincent's we appreciate the importance of home/school links. Coffee mornings take place every Wednesday morning in the music room. Different staff members will also attend these mornings, providing an opportunity to discuss any issues about the school. At least once a month an informal workshop can be held, with different focus areas according to parent's needs or interests. If you have any ideas for workshops please pass them onto Miss Coleman or Mrs Duffy who will endeavour to arrange an appropriate speaker.

The Coffee Morning also serves as a regular forum for SVPA Meetings. A special welcome coffee morning for new parents will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9:05a.m. This is an opportunity to find out about the school, meet other parents and socialise.



**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES** It is essential that emergency details are up to date. This includes having an additional emergency number from someone who is not immediate family. If you have changed your telephone number or address please inform the office immediately. Once all the new children have started at school a practice emergency evacuation will take place.

**COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL** If you have an arrangement for another parent/ carer to be able to collect your child from school this must be confirmed in writing to the classteacher in advance or the other person will not be able to take your child. Please note that children under the age of sixteen will not be allowed to take responsibility for your child. These arrangements are to ensure the safety of the children and this will always be our top priority. If you are unable to collect your child on time they will be allowed to join the After School Activity Club and £5 will need to be paid for the use of this facility. Again this is to ensure the safety of your child as the teachers are busy after school running clubs, attending meetings, planning, preparing and assessing work so are not available for childcare.

**HARVEST ASSEMBLY** This month we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival in school. As last year, we will be helping feed local people in crisis by collecting tinned and dried food for the Westminster Foodbank. We are asking everyone to rally round to give items such as breakfast cereals, pasta sauces, tinned veg, tomatoes, meat, rice and sponge pudding, sugar, UHT milk, fruit juice and pasta.

The Foodbank provides short term emergency food to people in crisis. Food is given as an intervention strategy which allows care professionals, such as Church Pastoral Workers, Health Visitors, Social Services etc, time to put longer term measures in place. Food will be distributed at the Foodbank Centre at Westminster Chapel on Buckingham Gate, where people will be given enough food for 3 days as well as being signposted to organisations which can provide further assistance. If you have any goods you could donate please send them into school the week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you!

**NO EATING IN THE COURTYARD PLEASE** In the interests of health and safety could parents and children please refrain from eating and drinking (especially hot beverages which can be highly dangerous) in the courtyard as this area is used as learning environment for the youngest children and the crumbs attract vermin. Thank you.