

IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

2nd Year 6 to Sayers Croft for a one week residential
3rd Children return to school (Reception-Year 5)
4th 9:00 Year 2 Meet the Teacher-all welcome
5th 9:00 Year 4 Meet the Teacher-all welcome
6th 9:00 Year 5 Meet the Teacher-all welcome
9th 11:00 Year 5 Creativity Morning-all welcome
10th 9:00 Reception Meet the Teacher-all welcome
10th p.m. Swimming starts for Year 5
10th 14:00 Year 2 Creativity Afternoon-all welcome
11th 9:00 Year 3 Meet the Teacher -all welcome
11th 14:00 Year 4 Creativity Afternoon-all welcome
12th 9:00 Year 1 Meet the Teacher -all welcome
12th 15:00 SVPA Uniform Sale, school hall
13th 9:15 Year 1 Creativity Morning-all welcome
16th Harvest Collection week-please send goods into school
16th Extra-curricular after school Clubs start again (see separate newsletter)
17th 10:00 Year 3 visiting Marylebone Library
17th 11:30 Year 2 visiting Marylebone Library
18th 9:05 SVPA Meeting - election of class representatives-all welcome
18th 11:00 Year 4 visiting Marylebone Library
18th 14:00 Year 3 Creativity Afternoon-all welcome
19th 10:00 Year 5 visiting Marylebone Library
20th 10:35 Year 6 Assembly-all welcome
20th 11:30 Year 1 visiting Marylebone Library
24th 9:00 Nursery Meet the Teacher
24th Year 2 visiting the Tower of London
24th 9:15 Year 6 Creativity Morning-all welcome
25th 9:05 Coffee Morning/ SVPA Meeting to welcome new parents-all welcome
27th Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul
27th 9:15 Mass -St. Vincent de Paul, school hall. All welcome

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

1st Year 6 visiting HMS Belfast
2nd 8:30 Disco Tickets on sale before school
2nd 9:05 SVPA Meeting -all welcome
2nd WE Charity workshops for KS2
4th 10:35 Year 2 Assembly-all welcome
8th EYFS Open Morning-all Nursery and Reception parents welcome
9th 9:05 Coffee Morning: Online Safety-all welcome
11th 10:35 Year 5 Assembly-all welcome
11th 18:30 S.V.P.A. Disco
14th -18th Enterprise Week
21st -25th Half term
28th Children back to school
30th School Photographer-individual and siblings
31st Secondary Transfer application deadline

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 and the noticeboard at the front of the school for the most up to date information.



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

TOGETHER, THROUGH CHRIST, WE GROW AND LEARN.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to school! We all enjoyed a peaceful summer break and I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. Thank you for generous gifts and thoughtful cards at the end of term.

It has been lovely to see everyone again and it has been a really positive start to the year.



I would like to welcome 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. This week Year 6 have returned from their residential to Sayers Croft and our Nursery will start a staggered intake. We look forward to seeing you.

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 are all saved on the website Class Pages. The school website www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk is also the main source of information about the school, particularly the latest news so please do check in regularly.

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 wonderful pupils. Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a productive, successful year.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Coleman, Headteacher

STAFFING NEWS

As many of you have noticed, we are thrilled to announce that Mrs Duffy is expecting a baby. Our best wishes are sent to Mrs Duffy and her husband, and we look forward to welcoming a new addition to the St. Vincent's family in the Spring Term.



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. Please check the dates in this newsletter and on the school website 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.

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.

UNIFORM

Please be reminded that the summer uniform may be worn until October half term but after that all children will be expected to wear full winter uniform. The option of trousers for girls is allowed during the winter months (from October half term until the end of the Easter holidays only). However, these trousers must be plain with no decorative detail and should not be leggings or jeans. A uniform leaflet, with full details of the winter and summer uniforms is available from the school office or on the school website. To support parents the SVPA regularly hold second-hand uniform sales where good quality pieces can be purchased at minimal cost. The first sale will be on Thursday 12th September at 3:00p.m. in the school hall.

P.E. KIT

Children are expected to wear the correct kit for Physical Education (P.E.); plain navy shorts or jogging bottoms (no logos or detail including stripes) and a white polo shirt embroidered with the school logo.

If children forget their P.E. kit they will be lent a spare school one. It is expected that this spare kit is washed at home and returned to school the next day. P.E. lessons may only be missed with a letter from a doctor explaining the necessity for this. The same rule applies to swimming.

WEBSITE & ONLINE SAFETY

Please remember to regularly check the school website 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. 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. If you have any suggestions for content that you would like to be included on the website, please speak to Miss Coleman.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

It is essential that emergency details are up to date. This includes having an additional emergency number for 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.

HARVEST

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 three 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 16th September. Thank you!

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!

This year we have a new arrangement and four parents will work together as co-chairs.

- Tara Hayes, mother of Nadine Y2
- Julie Nouailhetas, mother of Leopald, Nursery, Stella Y4 and Jade Y6
- Nicole Rao, mother of Layla Y2 and Ajay Y4
- Shana Toes, mother of Sebastian Y3 and William Y4

We are very grateful to them for taking on this challenge and wish them well in their new roles. Thanks are also given to everyone who contributes to the fantastic work of the SVPA for your amazing support of the school.

This summer we were able to replace every computer in the school with funds raised by the St. Vincent's Parents Association, especially the auction. We have also been able to provide every KS1 and KS2 pupil with their own pencil case containing the essential equipment needed, so they do not need to worry about carrying these items to and from school each day. Thank you!

If you would like to be involved in the SVPA, please come along to the first SVPA meeting of the academic year which will be on Wednesday 18th September at 9:05 a.m. in the Music Room when we will be electing class representatives. The following week, on Wednesday 25th September, there will be a special SVPA meeting to welcome our new parents. The first social event for the whole school community will be the S.V.P.A. Family Disco on Friday 11th October (tickets on sale 8:30 a.m. 2nd 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. Coffee mornings that we have planned for the term ahead include:

- Wednesday 9th October: Online Safety
- Wednesday 20th November: First Aid

As well as being informative, the coffee mornings are a good opportunity to meet other parents and socialise. Please do join us!



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019-20

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 2019-20 are below:

- ⇒ *To continue to use the new standards frameworks to ensure a creative Religious Education curriculum and deep understanding of our faith*
- ⇒ *To raise the standard of Writing so that it is in line with other subjects (SPaG focus)*
- ⇒ *To continue to develop communication with parents and pupils so we can work together to support identified next steps*
- ⇒ *To support children's understanding of how to have a healthy lifestyle: Physical, Spiritual, Social & Emotional Wellbeing*
- ⇒ *To continue to support staff wellbeing and career progression*

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.