

## COVID SUPPORT AND ADVICE

We are receiving lots of questions about illness and symptoms of COVID-19 so we have prepared a website news post with the key information and this is repeated below for information. <https://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk/news/covid-19-symptoms-and-advice/>

We have also made a form that you can use to help decide the appropriate course of action to take if you or your child display symptoms and this will also help you to report this to the school. We hope this is useful.

COVID-19 Help & Advice Form <https://forms.gle/5Hh2msmHvtpZ7uacA>

Please complete this form if your child or some in your household has symptoms as it will help you with what action to take. It does not offer medical advice. Consult your GP or Call NHS 111 for general medical advice or 119, the new NHS COVID number. It is essential that all families complete the information if they or a member of their household displays any symptoms. It is very important that the school is kept up to date and informed at every stage. Thank you.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child is displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms described above, testing is now available for all ages (including the under 5s). If children who report symptoms, parents should apply to have a coronavirus (COVID-19) test. These are available for all ages (including the under 5s) and online via the NHS portal <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by calling 119. (119 is the new Covid number for NHS Test and Trace. 111 is still the number for all other non-emergencies.)

If your child develops symptoms at school and you have difficulty booking a test please speak to Miss Coleman.

If your child is NOT displaying the above symptoms, but is unwell for example with an upset tummy, please keep them home, as always so they can recover and not pass this onto others. However if your child is not displaying symptoms but has a runny nose or common cold, they may come to school.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

As was shown by our emergency evacuation during the first week back, such events can happen at any time! Our pupils were incredible and we were impressed with their calm behaviour and incredibly quick clearance of the school. 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.

Please note that the school cannot amend your personal detail on Parent Pay-you need to do this yourself. This includes adding a second person to receive the school emails.



**St Vincent's Catholic Primary School**

**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome your children back to school. Although we are operating in a different way, the school is once again a hub of activity and we are so pleased that our school family is together again.

I would also like to welcome all the new families and the three new teachers, Miss Walsh, Miss Drury & Mr Kersys, who have joined the St. Vincent's community. I hope you settle in well and are happy at our school. This week our Nursery will start a staggered intake. We are looking forward to meeting you.

I apologise that there has not been a newsletter for a long time but it did not feel appropriate in the circumstances and email was a more efficient way of communicating. From now on, we will continue with both and the school website will remain the main source of up to date information. We are currently updating the website content to ensure it meets your needs. If there is any further information you feel would be beneficial please do let us know. This newsletter includes the key messages at present, and next month we will hopefully be able to share more of the next steps in our reopening plan.

Thank you for your support during the lockdown and the subsequent return to school. Many of you have sent positive messages and your kind words have brought us great comfort.

The reopening of the school has been as successful as we could have hoped. I am aware that the collection at the end of the school day is still very busy so thank you to everyone who is helping to reduce the congestion by arriving on time and leaving the area as soon as your child has been collected. The soft start is working really well and children can be dropped off at any time between 8:00 and 8:55 a.m. Please note that this large window means that there is no excuse for children being late for school.

We will continue to review our risk assessments, policies and procedures so please be aware that all arrangements are subject to change. Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of the pupils & staff and we will keep you fully updated.

We are hoping to gradually re-introduce more extra-curricular activities to the school day after half term, depending on the local situation and government advice. We are also exploring how to maintain the strong links we have with parents-starting up our coffee mornings and SVPA meetings using virtual arrangements for the initial sessions.

Please remember that your opinions are always valued and although we cannot meet with you in person, we are still available to talk. If you have any queries or concerns, simply let the office staff know that you would like an appointment and we will arrange this for a mutually convenient time (usually by Zoom).

You can also share your thoughts with us via the school website. Please feel free to comment on the news items. Your feedback is most appreciated.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of, parents, teachers and governors working together to provide an outstanding education for our brilliant pupils. Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a productive, successful, healthy year.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Coleman,  
Headteacher

P.S.

One way that we are supporting wellbeing is by welcoming Molly to our school family. Although she is still only a puppy she has been a regular visitor and fabulous for the wellbeing of pupils (and staff!) during this time. The hope is that when she is one year old she will train to officially become a Therapy Dog-for now this is an informal title.



### 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.

### COVID FUND

Thank you also to everyone who contributed to our COVID Fund. We were amazed that this raised over £18,000! We will be meeting with governors this month to agree how this money will be spent. The priority is to support the wellbeing of staff and pupils at this difficult time and also to provide resources in case of a local lockdown. If you would still like to donate, please do so using Parent Pay. This money will benefit the whole school family and be used to try and minimise some of the detrimental impact of the pandemic.

### FAMILY SUPPORT

We are aware that the pandemic may have caused a change in family circumstances. If you are struggling in any way, please do let us know and we will do all we can to help. This could be listening and sharing a problem or it could be signposting you to external agencies who may be able to provide other support, including financial.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

After such a long period away from school the pupils are returning to a recovery curriculum. This will help to address some of the loss experiences during the pandemic-of friendships, human contact and socialising as well as routine and stability. We are having a much greater focus on emotional wellbeing, with our priority being that children feel safe and happy returning to school.

To support us with this we are working with Trailblazers, a mental health project, that will help us to provide for both pupils and parents. More details will be coming soon on the website where you will find links to a range of supportive resources and organisations.

### ONLINE SAFETY

We are continuing to support the children with their online behaviour, ensuring that they are following the rules for being online and how to treat others. Each child has discussed and signed their AUP. Demonstrating that they understand the benefits of the internet as well as the responsibilities to go alongside this. As children use new and different apps, remember that Common Sense Media (<https://www.common sense media.org/>) has information and guidance on all apps and games to support parents in keeping up to date with what their children are doing online. We are currently reminding children that our behaviour expectations of them in 'real life' are the same as when they interact online and to treat others with kindness and respect.

### SCHOOL MEALS

We are very pleased that we once again received full marks in an unannounced hygiene inspection of the school kitchen. Well done to our fabulous team!

You will be aware that Harrison have taken over our school meals contract. A temporary menu is currently in place to support us as we settle back to school. The service complies with all the current guidance and will be reviewed regularly. If your child has a food allergy, you must complete the notification form.

The current cost of the meals £2.30 per meal. If you are entitled to Free School Meals it is really important that you claim them. If you have any questions, please contact the school office staff who are happy to help.

If you are changing from school dinner to packed lunch or vice versa please ensure that you notify the school office at least two weeks in advance.

### FEAST DAY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

#### **St Vincent de Paul: A Person of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century A Person for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*As Vincent de Paul walked through the streets of Paris everywhere he looked he saw homeless people and beseeching beggars.*

*He saw hungry people.*

*He saw children and elderly men and women who were neglected.*

*He saw sick people without health care.*

*He saw refugees from warfare.*

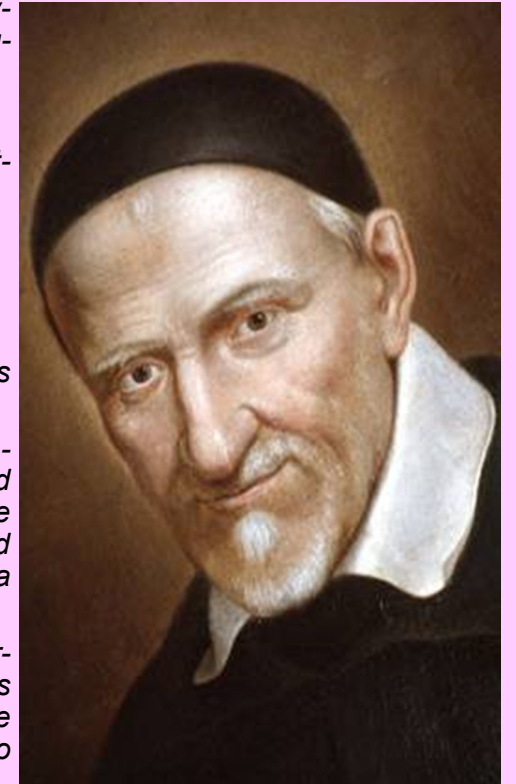
*He saw people who were spiritually abandoned and without hope.*

*In these people he found those whom he had been looking for: his brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*Vincent de Paul was profoundly dissatisfied with what he saw because he knew it was at odds with his ideal vision of the "good news" of Kingdom of God as proclaimed by Jesus Christ to the poor; a place where each human being created in the image and likeness of God possessed an inestimable dignity and value as a person.*

*He turned his sense of frustration and dissatisfaction into an urgent faith-filled desire to do as much good as he could, as well as he could, to reach out to improve the lives of the people whose gazes he returned so intently and whose suffering moved him so personally.*

**Grant us that same fervour of charity,  
that we too may see your image in those whom we assist  
and gladly give them a share of our time and possessions.**



### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-21

This year we did not send out our annual questionnaires so our School Development Plan priorities have been decided using a range of more informal feedback from stakeholders including pupils, staff and governors. The main priorities for the School Development Plan 2020-21 are:

- To use our faith and religious understanding to support our Catholic St Vincent's family to return to school
- To support the wellbeing and reconnection to school for staff, pupils and parents
- To review the curriculum to meet the needs of our school community
- To review all assessment procedures to ensure children continue to meet the expected age related standards in all core subjects

### BUILDING PROJECTS

As you are aware, the school is currently surrounded by building works- a common occurrence in central London. Miss Coleman and the school governors have been liaising very closely with all the different contractors to try and coordinate the approaches and to minimise the impact on the school. However if you have any concerns, please do let us know.

The much-anticipated Marylebone Square (Moxon Street Car Park) works are due to commence in October. We will let you know when the start date is confirmed.

### BIRTHDAY TREATS

As a school we celebrate birthdays by singing Happy Birthday to the child and allowing them the privilege of wearing their own clothes on the day (or nearest school day) of their birthday. Please do not send in party bags, sweets or cakes as these will not be allowed to be shared in school. Thank you for your support in this matter. The children love everyone knowing their birthday and look forward to wearing their own clothes so we are happy to continue this tradition.