



# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

## SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful summer and were able to spend precious time with your family and friends. We all enjoyed the break and feel refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

It has been wonderful to welcome your children back to school. I would also like to welcome all the new families and our two new teachers, Miss Forster Adams & Miss Hoskins, who have joined the St. Vincent's community. I hope you settle in well and are happy at our school.

Although we are operating in yet another different way, the school continues to be a hub of learning activity and joy. We are so pleased that our school family is together again and that we are all able to interact more freely with each other.

As the guidance regarding coronavirus changes and the local situation evolves, 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 and staff, and to try and keep our school open for education. We will continue to keep you fully updated.

The school website will remain the main source of up to date information. The planned upgrade has been delayed so we are currently updating the content. We will also send home monthly newsletters, and regular emails with key updates. We are also hoping that you will be able to meet with school staff in person, and see them informally at the end of each day when they are seeing out the pupils. Details of Meet the Teacher are contained in this newsletter.

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, healthy year.

Kindest regards,  
Miss Coleman, Headteacher



### 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 general questions you may have. The meetings will start this week. We appreciate the importance of meeting the class teams in person so the meetings will be held in the school hall, where there is space to socially distance and an efficient ventilation system. We have held the sessions 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 (8:30-9:00) to try to make it easier if parents need to take time off of work. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September **Year 1** Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September **Year 3** Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September **Year 4** Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September **Reception** Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September **Year 5** Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September **Year 2** Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall

After the meeting the presentation will be posted on the class page of the school website for reference.

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### **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-22**

Thank you to all the parents who completed the annual Parent Questionnaires sent out in June. The results have been analysed and the outcome combined with responses from other stakeholders including pupils, staff and governors, as well as data and other information about the school. The main areas for improvement from the School Development Plan 2021-22 are below:

- To reconnect our Catholic school community
- To continue to have high expectations for all pupils to reach at least the expected standard with appropriate challenge and support
- To further support the holistic wellbeing of our school family
- To enhance effective communication with regard to ever changing circumstances

### **TAPESTRY IN THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS) – ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM**

We are always looking for ways to improve our school and one of our School Development Plan priorities 2021-22 is about enhancing communication. We have really missed having parents present on site and appreciate that you have missed the opportunities to share learning experiences at school with your children. This year we are introducing an easy-to-use and secure online learning journal to the Early Years (Nursery and Reception). Tapestry facilitates this, by enabling a personal journal to build over time. Photographs, videos and notes of special moments about your child are not only recorded, but can be made available regularly and often immediately to you. The communication between staff and parents that Tapestry enables, helps build a shared understanding of how every child can reach their full potential.

Tapestry builds a very special record of a child's experiences, development and learning journey through their Early Years education. All information held in the platform is stored securely and can be downloaded and shared as required. Parents or carers are able to view their child's progress, the activities provided for them, and how much fun they're having, whilst also uploading their own comments and media.

Over the course of the next few weeks, Nursery and Reception parents will receive an email activation link so that you can access your child's account (please check your junk / spam email folders). The following link provides a short tutorial on how to set up your account.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7ROkDnb4I0> .

### **REMOTE LEARNING**

From Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September homework will fully resume. Tasks will be set using Google Classroom as it is important we continue using this, but, to try and reduce screen time, work will be completed in the yellow homework books. More information will be shared at the Meet the Teacher sessions and instructions for access, with tips for parents will be saved on the school website class page Home Learning Blogs. We are hoping for a less disruptive education this year but some pupils may need to self-isolate at different times, and thus remote learning will always be readily available on Google Classroom.

If a child has to self-isolate (Reception – Year 6):

- Work can be accessed via their class Google Classroom page. This work will be lessons using Oak Academy that we have mapped to our school curriculum.
- Every week, 'Self Isolation Work' will be shared so that if someone needs to isolate then they can immediately access the work. Work can be done in their Homework Books and marked when they return to school
- Times of registration will also be shared and children have the option of video calling (using Google Meet) their class at school to keep in touch with their friends and teachers

If a whole class has to isolate (Nursery – Year 6):

- In the event of a whole class isolating, you will be contacted by the school to inform you of this
- There will be a set timetable that children can follow with a mixture of live sessions with their class and pre-recorded lessons from their teacher
- All of the classwork and timetables will be shared via Google Classroom

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### 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 and their wonderful support of the school during the pandemic, with a focus on wellbeing for the pupils and trying to keep our school family socially connected. The online auction was such a fun evening-and also raised an incredible £34,500 much needed funds for the school. Thank you so much. Thank you especially to our Co-Chairs, Julie Nouailhetas (mother of Leopald, Y1 and Stella Y6) and Shana Toevs (mother of Giorgia, Reception, Sebastian Y5 and William Y6)

We are hopeful that this year we can have more real life events. The first priority is a welcome Coffee Morning. The challenging circumstances last year meant we could not host meetings at school so we want to make the most of the opportunity to welcome everyone onto the premises whilst we can. Our hall is large and we are fortunate to have a ventilation system so we hope you can join us. Subsequent meetings will be a mixture of virtual and real life as there are advantages to both.

We will also continue our regular second hand uniform sales. The first one is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

The S.V.P.A. always welcome new members. Please come along and share your ideas, offer assistance and make new friends. Thank you for your support. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 9:15 a.m. in the School Hall when we will also be electing class representatives. We look forward to seeing you and welcoming you to our school family.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you!



### 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.

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### MASS, ASSEMBLIES AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Although restrictions have been lifted we are taking a slow and cautious approach, as we feel this is the safest option for our school. If the coronavirus situation remains positive and we have not experienced any outbreaks in our school, we hope to have our first whole school celebration with pupils on the Feats Day of St. Vincent De Paul, when we will celebrate Mass together in our well ventilated hall. Unfortunately parents will not be able to join us for Mass but we are looking to find ways that you can attend performances of assemblies in person. We miss our whole school family coming together but it is because we want to protect our family that we are proceeding with caution.

We apologise for the delay to the start of Breakfast Club and After School Club but these will now start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Extra-curricular clubs run by external providers will start on Monday 20<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 paying 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. Thank you for your understanding and support.

### KEY DATES

Some key dates for the half term ahead are below but this list is not definitive-new trips/events may be arranged after the newsletter has been published and all dates are subject to change so please check the website calendar for the most up to date information.

Arrangements for attending assembly performances will be confirmed nearer the time. If we cannot have a live audience the assembly will be filmed and posted on the school website.

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September- Children return to school
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September- Year 1 Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September- Year 3 Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September- 8:30-9:15 SVPA Uniform Sale, St. Vincent Street
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September- Year 4 Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September- Reception Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September- Year 5 Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September- Year 2 Meet the Teacher 8:30-9:00, school hall
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September- p.m. Swimming starts for Year 5
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> –Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October- Harvest Collection
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September- 9:15-10:00 Welcome Meeting for New Parents, school hall
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September- 9:30-10:00 Year 6 Assembly
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September- Feast day of St. Vincent de Paul
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October- 9:30-10:00 Year 3 Assembly
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October-World Mental Health Day/ Young Minds Hello Yellow event
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October- 9:30-10:00 Year 1 Assembly
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup>-Friday- 22<sup>nd</sup> October Enterprise week

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