

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
23rd April 2021

Gospel Reflection

John 10 11-15

Dear parents and carers

During the past few weeks and months we could see a force taking momentum in the news. I have been pondering on the issues raised and the great significance on all of us.

Recent events have brought up to the surface the deep-seated questions of inequality, discrimination and racism; issues longstanding in our society and ones we must all approach with responsibility and accountability.

At St Vincent's we pride ourselves on actively teaching against any form of discrimination. We celebrate and are proud of being a community formed by different parts of a puzzle which contains a myriad of cultures, races and beliefs. We vigorously speak to our children against unfair treatment of others and how our differences make us strong and beautiful.

We wish for our children to live in a world where they will be judged on true merits based on their achievements, talents and hard work. The thought of them facing any prejudice curtailing their success by being judged according to their 'roots' is a sad and objectionable thought.

We understand that education is pivotal to any changes in society and we endeavour to prepare our children to become successful citizens of the 21st century. With this, we also understand that any form of prejudice is a barrier to achieving our goals. Inequalities have been around for centuries but, presently, we want to actively work towards eradicating them. Through education we give our children the tools to become part of the 'change', to become our future politicians, lawyers, doctors, police force, employers... They will shape our future society so let's help them make it the best future that we can all have.

Our school has been arduously working at developing our curriculum to reflect all those changes we desire. It is by allowing our children to understand the world that we will empower them to be the critical and creative thinkers that we want them to become. This has been central to the rationale behind our curriculum development over the last months.

We continuously review our plans and topics to address and align them to the issues relevant to our diverse community. But we know that we do not have all the answers. I recognise that we need to actively listen to our community about how to eradicate prejudice and racism. We are a strong community; if we can take any silver lining from the long period of school closure, it would be that our community is stronger when we work together.

Children at St Vincent's are regularly told about racism and how to combat it. This will be done, through assemblies, lessons and at different times during the day. These conversations can occasionally spark strong and mixed feelings and can make people feel uncomfortable; however it is vital we help our children understand.

On this Sunday's gospel we will hear how Jesus takes care of us, just as a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. He knows each one of us and we know him, and are glad to follow him wherever he leads.

A good shepherd cares for all the needs of his sheep, finding them pasture and water, shelter from the weather, and protecting them from wild animals and danger. He watches over them at all times and knows each one of them individually.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are his 'flock'. He told this story to make us understand that he cares for us as much as the shepherd cares for his sheep. He watches over us at all times and knows each of us by name. He goes before us to guide us and keep us from all harm. He takes care of all our needs and we can trust in his goodness.

Jesus' love was so strong that he was willing to suffer and die on the cross for our sakes. His sacrifice meant that we can follow him to his heavenly kingdom, where we will share eternal life with him.

Prayer:

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd and we are your flock.

Help us to know your voice and always follow you.

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If at any time you struggle to continue the conversation at home and find it difficult to talk with your children about prejudice and racism or with the emotional impact of this topic, please do get in touch and we can offer support and advice.

Discrimination and racism are learned behaviours and with effort, education, and action we can prevent and address them, in school and in the wider society.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez

After School Club

Our new After School Club starts on Monday 26th April and will run daily until 6.00pm. If you have any questions or would like to book a place, please contact **Segun Adeniji** by phone on [020 3802 6909](tel:02038026909) or by email at info@fit4futurefoundation.org

Multi-Sports Club

The Multi-Sports Club, which is held on Mondays after school for children in Years 3 and 4, is now full.

The Daily Mile

St Vincent's will be taking part in the first National Daily Mile to get one million children moving across the country. All children should come to school wearing their PE kits next Friday 30th April. It is designed to celebrate the positive benefits that daily activity can have on our mental health. Here is any extra information you might need:

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/england-does-the-daily-mile/>

Stars of the Week

Reception - Aurora: For wonderful blending in the phonics learning group.

Year 1 - Orezime: For working well and participating in class.

Year 2 - Dora: For always working hard and producing excellent work.

Year 3 - Corben: For a fantastic week of learning and working really hard.

Year 4 - Isabella: For excellent work in history on the Vikings.

Year 5 - Hassatou: For improvement in spelling.

Year 6 - James: For excellent focus in Maths and English and producing some good pieces of work.

This Week's Attendance

Reception	99.7%
Year 1	99.3%
Year 2	99.3%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	98.5%
Year 5	98.4%
Year 6	98.7%
Whole school	99.1%