

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter  
10 February 2023

Dear parents and families,

As we prepare for the beginning of Lent, following the Half Term, I would like to share with you a letter from

**Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Education**

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*Wednesday 22nd of this month is Ash Wednesday. On that day, we begin the Holy Season of Lent. This is a time of penance and preparation. The first reading of the Mass of Ash Wednesday is a call from Prophet Joel (Chapter 2: 12-18) inviting us all to come back to the Lord with all our hearts, fasting, weeping, and mourning. Prophet Joel encourages us to focus on having a change of heart and our merciful God will forgive us.*

*In his Lenten message last year, Pope Francis encouraged us in these words: "Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives. May the corporal fasting to which Lent calls us, fortify our spirit for the battle against sin." Through these words, our Holy Father set the tone for this season.*

*Time and again we must have heard people say: "what are you giving up for Lent." Rightly so, we should make every effort to practise the spiritual disciplines of Lent by praying a bit more, giving a bit more and fasting and abstaining a bit more than we used to do. This year, in addition to all these, I would like to encourage you to do something slightly different. Why not consider what you will take up for Lent? We can choose to take up some new good habits, we can take up reading the Bible, or we can take up being more kind and supportive of others. Most of all: We can take up attending Mass this season of Lent.*

*Whatever we choose to give up, or take up this Lent, may the Lord sustain us for the 40 days and may his abiding love and mercy continue to be with us this season. Amen.*

*May God bless you*

**Canon Victor Darlington,**

**Episcopal Vicar for Education**

Let us ponder on these words and guide our children to reflect on building the good habit of prayer.

Have a lovely week. Enjoy your special time with your children, making memories to cherish for a lifetime.

Mrs Gonzalez

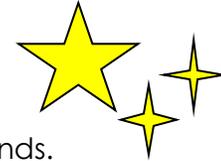
## School Meal Payment

Payment for school meals should be made **in advance**, please. It would be helpful if you could pay for a term or half term, rather than daily or weekly, if possible. Payments made by cash or cheque should be placed in an envelope, labelled with your child's name and the amount enclosed. We cannot accept loose cash. The cost of meals for the next half term is **£75**.

## Messages about Absences

When you need to let us know that your child will not be attending school, because of sickness or a forthcoming appointment, please do so by email, if possible.

## Stars of the Week



Reception – Lena for settling in well at St Vincent's and making good friends.

Year 1 – Amirah for being a team player and giving her best efforts to her tasks.

Year 2 – Olumide for working hard in class and being kind to others.

Year 3 – Martin for always showing an excellent attitude to learning.

Year 4 – Lainey for answering many questions in mass, showing great listening skills and curiosity.

Year 4 – Ambrose for excellent maths work.

Year 5 – Gala for being engaged in her learning and pushing herself to do her best.

Year 6 – Hannah for producing fantastic religious education work.

## Dates for your Diary

School closed for half term break	Monday 13 to Friday 17 February
First day of second half of Spring Term	Monday 20 February
Years 3-6 to Mass	Wednesday 22 February ( <i>leaving school at 9am</i> )
World Book Day Celebration	Friday 3 March
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 31 March

## Last Week's Attendance

30 January – 3 February 2023	
Reception	96.0%
Year 1	99.7%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	97.6%
Year 5	98.4%
Year 6	94.8%
Whole school	97.2%



## **Prayer for those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria**

**Pope Francis and thousands of visitors and pilgrims at his general audience prayed for the victims of the earthquakes that devastated the regional along the border of Turkey and Syria. The pope asked for solidarity; those wanting to respond can find ways to do that at: [cnewa.org](http://cnewa.org) or [crs.org](http://crs.org)**

God of mercy,  
We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria  
following the recent earthquakes.  
We mourn the death and destruction.  
and pray for those who have died and those who grieve.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

We hold in our hearts those who are injured,  
and those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Sustain and guide all responding to this disaster.  
Grant those affected courage and resilience,  
as they rebuild their lives and communities.

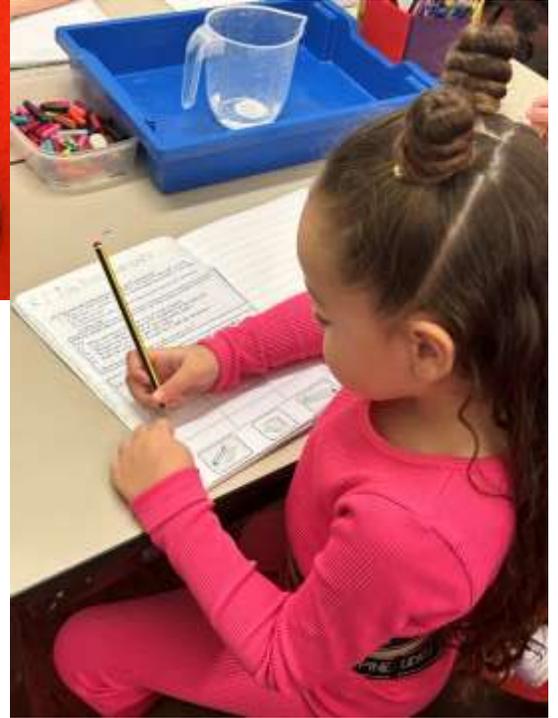
Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Inspire us to unite in solidarity,  
acting swiftly and generously,  
so that help may reach all who need it.  
Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Amen.

# Dress to Express





Have a wonderful Half Term Break.

From the St Vincent's Team