

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
10 March 2023

Dear parents and families,

As part of our journey through Lent to Holy Week, Sister Josephine has been speaking to our children about the Stations of the Cross. Children had the opportunity to learn about Christ's journey, by looking at the 14 key moments in the trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Children also learnt about the 15th station, the Resurrection of Christ.

We also had a visit from Father Mario, who came to talk to children about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Children understood the importance of healing and cleansing their soul by reconciling with God. Father Mario talked about the importance of the three actions for Lent: Alms giving, Fasting and Prayer. In school, we talk to our children about: Give, Act and Pray, three words that simplify the difficult and abstract concepts behind Lent. Father Mario also talked to us about the need to go to confession at least every season, to ensure we seek forgiveness and we repair our relationship with our Lord.

Reconciliation (officially called the Sacrament of Penance and also known as Confession) is a Sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in his love and mercy to offer us forgiveness.

This sacrament allows Jesus to absolve our sins and helps us lead a life following the guidance and glory of Christ.

The forgiveness of sins involves four parts:

- **Contrition:** A sincere sorrow for having offended God, and a firm resolve not to repeat our sin.
- **Confession:** Confronting our sins in a profound way to God, by speaking them aloud to the priest.
- **Penance:** An important part of our healing is the penance the priest gives us in reparation for our sins.
- **Absolution:** The priest speaks the words by which we are reconciled to God and we are absolved from our sins.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) will be invited to attend confession next week.

"Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive". (Pope Francis)

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Gonzalez

Stars of the Week

Reception – Paula for showing compassion and being a lovely friend to everyone.

Year 1 – Marco for excellent literacy work on "The Tiger who came to Tea."

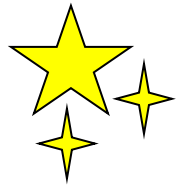
Year 2 – Juliet for a good attitude to learning and always working hard.

Year 3 – Antonia for writing a brilliant diary entry in literacy.

Year 4 – Charlotte for great contributions in class and super explanations.

Year 5 – Tilly for working really well with her table partner.

Year 6 – Raphaela for making great progress in her writing.



Special star of the week to Mrs Lyas for showing a great entrepreneurial attitude and for her generosity towards the school disco.



Dates for your Diary

Book Fair	Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 March
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 31 March
First day of Summer Term	Tuesday 18 April

Science and Multi-Sports Clubs on Monday

There will be no Multi-Sports Club after school on Monday 13th March, because of the Book Fair. Science Club will run as usual.

This Week's Attendance

6 - 10 March 2023	
Reception	89.3%
Year 1	96.0%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	95.6%
Year 4	98.2%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	94.7%
Whole school	95.2%



School Disco

Last Wednesday after school, we had a special afternoon of fun and lots of dancing.

The school disco was, in my opinion, a great success and a good time together for children and many parent helpers.

I wanted to say a special thank you to Mrs Lyas for her initiative in organising and running the school disco.

Also, a thank you to all parents who volunteered and helped to make the afternoon a special time for the children.

The disco raised £909!!!

All the money raised from all PTA and school events will be pooled together and used to fund something special for the children in school. We do not spend any money from the fundraising events for our curriculum areas, as we want to use it for something special and extracurricular. We will be meeting with our school council to discuss possibilities and ideas.

We will keep you posted.

Thank you all for your participation. In the next few days, you will receive a short survey about the school disco so you can feedback your thoughts.



Gospel Reflection

John 4:5-42

Jesus is thirsty and so he asks a Samaritan woman for a drink from the well.

The woman is surprised because normally Jews and Samaritans did not get along. It was also unusual at the time for a man to talk to a woman he did not know.

However, even though it is unusual, Jesus talks to the woman anyway.

Jesus is showing us that God loves everyone, no matter who they are, where they come from or the colour of their skin – man or woman, boy or girl, rich or poor.

Even though we are all different, we still need the same things to live.

Just like Jesus in this story, we all need water to drink. We need food to eat. A safe place to live, somewhere to learn and someone to look after us when we are sick.

Jesus shows the woman that he is Christ, the Son of God, by knowing all about her life even though he has never met her before.

God also knows everything there is to know about us. And God loves us.

Sometimes people forget that God loves us all and that we are part of one global family. They only see the differences between themselves and another group of people. This can lead to many problems.

It can lead to people not being very nice to each other. Which can also mean that there are arguments and fighting.

God asks us to love and care for all people no matter who they are because we are all part of one global family. To help each other when things are difficult and to work together to make the world a better place for everyone to live in.

So this week let us do what we can to help other people. Let us treat those who are different to us with kindness and respect. Let us share with others and try to live in peace.

Jesus shows us that we should treat all people kindly, even if they are different to us. Therefore, we ask for God's help as we pray:

Prayer

Caring God, fill our hearts with love for all your people. Move us to treat all people with kindness and respect and to work to make the world a better place for everyone to live in.

Amen.