

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Gospel Reflection

Mark 8:27-35

In Sunday's Gospel we hear about how it is not always easy to follow Jesus or to accept what God wants to happen in our lives. Even Peter, one of Jesus's disciples found it difficult. Let's think some more about this today... It is sometimes hard to do what God wants us to do, just like it was for Peter, because we are afraid, and we do not want to get hurt, or for those that we love to be hurt.

Jesus tells us that it will not always be easy to follow him, but that we must have courage, because God will always be with us. We recognise Jesus as the Son of God. We are called to follow him like Simon Peter, but Jesus warns us that this will not always be easy. Just as he carried the cross for us before his death and resurrection, we will all have our own crosses or difficulties to bear in life. Our reward for this will be to share everlasting life with Christ Jesus.

### Prayer

We ask you, O Lord, to help us through difficult times when our troubles seem almost too much to bear. Give us the strength to carry on and to always do our best.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Extracted from Cafod's Website

## Wednesday Word

The Wednesday word this week is **Jesus**. *"Jesus is more than a friend. He is a teacher of truth and life, who shows us the way that leads to happiness."* Pope Francis.

This week our Reception children completed one of the most important milestones in their lives – their first day at school!

They arrived at their classroom dressed smartly, enthusiastic and possibly a little apprehensive. It was great to see that we did not have many tears, notwithstanding the teary eyes of some parents! Luckily for us those tears soon dried and were replaced with big smiles.

During the first few weeks we will focus on the personal, social and emotional aspects of school and spending time getting them comfortable with the classroom. School is a big step for a lot of children, and hence it's really important that we make sure their confidence is high.

Research shows that children who are taught well in their first year of school go on to achieve better GCSE results in English and maths. The good news is that we are lucky, at St Vincent's, to have a superb teaching team in our Reception class, led by Miss Smith. You can rest assured we will work relentlessly to ensure we lay firm foundations for your child's learning journey.

Well done Reception for successfully completing your first week of school!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Gonzalez

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**Head teacher  
Juliana Gonzalez**

**Chair of Governors  
Terry Grange**

**SENCo  
Catherine Badawi**

## Stars of the Week

Our children will be awarded Star of the Week throughout the year. Please note these 'awards' recognize behaviour for learning that goes 'above and beyond'. This is measured on an individual basis, therefore it is not a competition against other children, but a recognition of personal merits. Everyone can expect to receive an award at some point and the system is a conscious effort to move away from rewarding academic achievement or regular good behaviour. We will be looking at learning attributes as well as moral values, for instance Love, Forgiveness, Compassion...



Star of the Week will start next week.

*It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.*

*Audre Lorde*

## Dates for your Diary

School photographer	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September
Half term break	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October
Last day of term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December

## This Week's Attendance

Reception	96.7%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	92.7%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	<b>100%</b>
Year 5	91.2%
Year 6	96.3%
Whole school	95.6%

## Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Neriya and her family on the arrival of a new sister, Zinga.

## Library Visits

This term we are recommencing our class visits to Mottingham Library on Wednesday afternoons. Year 5 will be going on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, leaving school at 1.40pm. If any Year 5 parents are able to help us walk the children there and back, please let Mrs Hall or Ms O'Sullivan know.

## PTA

### Our Mission

Hello and a very warm welcome to St Vincent's Catholic Primary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The aim of this PTA is to foster a strong sense of community between parents, children and teachers primarily through fundraising activities which include a number of fun social events which take place throughout the school year.

We strongly encourage all parents/carers of children attending St Vincent's to become involved in the PTA. We believe that having parents who are actively engaged with school life not only enriches our community, but also creates a better school environment for all of our children. It is a fantastic way to meet other parents and gain new friendships.

### Key People

Chair: Yi (Sunny) Sun  
Treasurer: Helen Bonneville  
Secretary: Lydia Roshanzamir

With your help and support we believe that the PTA can leave a lasting, positive contribution to life at St Vincent's.

The PTA has fully embraced the digital age, all parents are encouraged to join our community online by using our Classlist App.

### Cake Sale

On the last day of the summer term the PTA held a scrumptious cake sale and raised a wonderful £200! Thank you to all involved; the bakers, the sellers and the buyers!

### Future Events

There will be a PTA meeting soon to discuss future fundraising events and a Christmas fair. All parents/carers are welcome to join. Look out for details in the school newsletter and on the Classlist App.

### Website

We have also updated the PTA section of the school website <https://www.st-vincent.sch.uk/parents/pta>.