

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
11 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another lovely week at St Vincent's, and it is wonderful to see the children settling so well into their new classes and routines. There is already a real buzz of learning around the school, and it feels as though the new school year is properly underway!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Meet the Teacher sessions this week.

It was wonderful to see so many families in school and to put faces to names. These meetings are much more than an opportunity to hear about timetables, homework and what the children will be learning. They are the beginning of an important relationship between home and school.

We know that children thrive when families and school work together and we really value the opportunity to build that partnership with you from the very beginning of the year. Thank you for giving us your time, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you throughout the year.

One of our key priorities this year is attendance. We want every child at St Vincent's to be in school as much as they possibly can, because every day in school really does matter.

Of course, children become ill and there will be occasions when absence is unavoidable. This is not about encouraging children to attend school when they are genuinely unwell. It is about all of us working together to make sure that avoidable absence is kept to an absolute minimum.

It is very easy to think that a day here or there will not make much difference, but those days can add up surprisingly quickly.

Attendance is not only about academic learning. Being in school regularly helps children maintain friendships, feel part of their class, develop confidence and independence and benefit from all the experiences that happen throughout the school day.

Punctuality matters too. Missing even the first few minutes of the day can mean missing important teaching, instructions and that valuable settling-in time with the class. Our policy reminds us that just 10 minutes late each day can amount to approximately 6½ days of lost learning over a school year.

Throughout this year, we will be monitoring attendance carefully and, importantly, working with families when attendance begins to become a concern. If there is something making it difficult for your child to attend regularly or arrive on time, please talk to us. We would always rather know early so that we can understand what is happening and look at how we can help.

Alongside this week's newsletter, I am also sharing our Attendance Policy with all families. I would be grateful if parents and carers could take a little time to read through it.

The policy explains our expectations around attendance and punctuality, how absences should be reported, requests for absence during term time, and the procedures we follow when attendance becomes a concern.

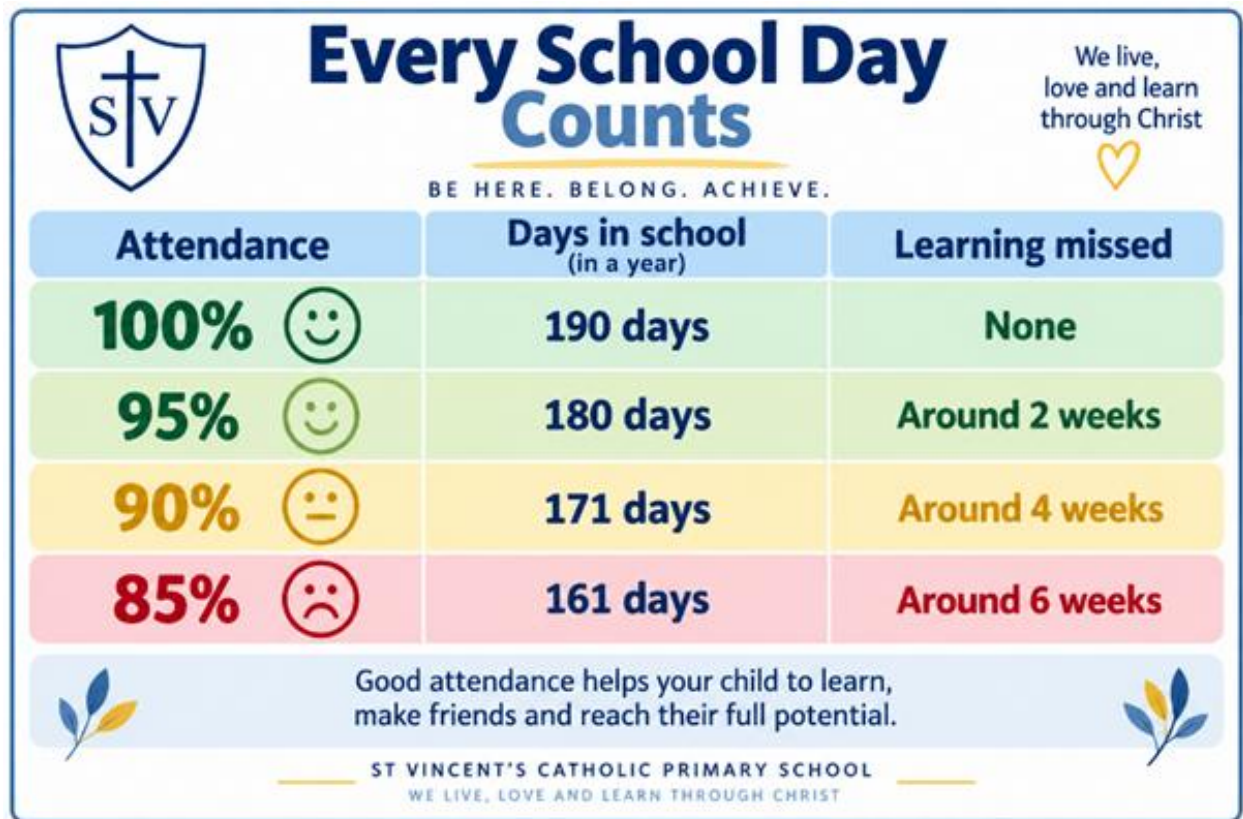
You will also find information about term-time absence. Holidays during term time cannot be authorised, and any request for other leave during term time must be made in advance and can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Our approach, however, is not simply about percentages. Our priority is to work with families, understand any barriers to good attendance and provide support where it is needed. At the same time, we all share a responsibility to make sure that children attend school regularly and have every possible opportunity to benefit from their education.

Please do have a read of the policy, and if you have any questions, or there are circumstances affecting your child's attendance that you would like us to know about, come and talk to us. Working together early is always the best way forward.

Ultimately, the message is a very simple one: we want our children here. Every day gives them another opportunity to learn, grow, laugh with their friends, achieve something new and know that they belong at St Vincent's.

Thank you for working with us to make excellent attendance a shared priority this year.



Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez
Headteacher

Stars of the Week



Reception – Isaak for actively listening and following instructions making you a reliable and dependable student.

Year 1 – Kyla for always bringing such a positive and enthusiastic attitude to our class.

Year 2 – Glenn for showing a positive attitude to learning and for growing in confidence each day.

Year 3 – Alvin for showing great effort and focus in Maths.

Year 4 – Chloe for enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in class discussions.

Year 5 – Philemon-James for setting so wonderfully into a new school and being such a positive and encouraging friend to others.

Year 6 – Adriana for showing her true potential so quickly.

School Value Awards

Reception – Tahlia for always being ready to help others, spreading positivity and care throughout the school.

Year 1 – William for always showing fantastic resilience in every subject even when things are tricky.

Year 2 – Erika for having a fantastic attitude to learning and producing brilliant work. For being a shining example of our school values.

Year 3 – Shayah for showing love and compassion for your new table partner.

Year 4 – Oyin for successful settling in to St Vincent's Catholic Primary School.

Year 5 – Victoria for her lovely and engaging presentation about the Greek Museum she visited during the summer.

Year 6 – Sophia for making great progress over the week.

This Week's Attendance

from 7 th to 11 th September 2026	
Reception	96.76
Year 1	96.71
Year 2	98.22
Year 3	95.37
Year 4	98.85
Year 5	98.96
Year 6	92.01
Whole school	96.79



Dates for your Diary

Parents and families are warmly invited to join us in celebrating Mass.

If you would like to accompany the school as we walk to Mass, please inform your child's teacher so they can coordinate the arrangements.

Additionally, the Celebration of the Word will take place in the school hall, and parents of the respective year group are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	Year 4 Celebration of The World - School Hall 9.00am
Wednesday 30 th September 2026	Year 6 Celebration of The World - School Hall 9.00am
Thursday 1 st October 2026	Flu Vaccination sessions
Wednesday 14 th October 2026	Year 1 Celebration of The World - School Hall 9.00am

Year 4 – We Need Your Help!

As part of our topic on **teeth**, Year 4 would love to hear from any parents or carers who are **dentists or dental nurses** and would be willing to come in and talk to the children about their work and help us learn more about looking after our teeth.

If you are able to support us, please get in touch with your child's class teacher. We would be very grateful for your help!

Term and holiday dates up to July 2027 are shown on the school website

If you have any comics and card games (e.g. UNO) that you would be happy to donate to the school, they will be gratefully received.

Breakfast Club Price Increase

Please note that due to rising costs, the price of a Breakfast Club session will increase from £8 to £9 per child from 1st September.

Bicycles and Scooters

Children are very welcome to bring bicycles and scooters to school. However, please remember that bicycles and scooters should not be ridden in the school playground at any time.

The playground can become particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day, with lots of children and families moving around. To keep everyone safe and avoid accidents, bicycles and scooters should always be walked through the playground.

Thank you for helping us to keep our playground safe for everyone.

Safeguarding

If you need to discuss an **immediate** safeguarding concern, you can contact us through the following contact methods:

Call the school number 0208 857 5134 and ask for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Email: general.post@st-vincent.sch.uk F.A.O. DSL

The Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are:

Mrs Gonzalez and Mrs Hall