

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
15 December 2023

Dear parents and families,

As we journey deeper into the Advent season, let us just pause for a moment to reflect on the significance of Gaudete Sunday, a day that brings us profound joy and anticipation as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Gaudete Sunday, which means "Rejoice" in Latin, marks the midpoint of Advent. It serves as a reminder of the joyous occasion that awaits us with the birth of Jesus Christ. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, the rose-coloured candle, symbolising joy in the midst of our anticipation and preparation.

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it is easy to lose sight of the simple joys that surround us. Gaudete Sunday invites us to pause, to delight in the blessings we have, and to foster a spirit of gratitude and hope. It is a time to reflect on the love and light that Christ brings into our lives.

Throughout this week, our children have been immersed in exploring the concept of Jesus as the Light of the World. Engaging in discussions and reflections, they considered the sources of their happiness and joy. What stood out was their profound appreciation for the significance of time and the love within their families. While we were pleased, it was not entirely unexpected to witness our children recognising the love that unites them with their families.

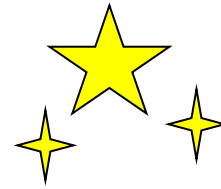
In addition to their discussions and reflections, our students also composed heartfelt prayers, entreating God to shine His light upon the most vulnerable among us, spreading hope, comfort, and healing to those in need.

As a school community, let us embrace this season of waiting with hearts full of joy and kindness. Let us encourage one another to spread cheer and goodwill, to reach out to those in need, and to embody the true spirit of Christmas.

May this Gaudete Sunday remind us of the profound joy found in the anticipation of Christ's birth and inspire us to carry that joy into our interactions and everyday life.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez



Stars of the Week

Reception – Gabriella for trying hard with the creative activities.
Year 1 – Oscar for always working hard and for great Christmas artwork.
Year 2 – Ezinne for working hard and sharing good ideas.
Year 3 – Lukas for working incredibly hard at a setting description.
Year 4 – Maximilian for advancing our science and geography discussions.
Year 5 – Chengyi for a fantastic literacy piece debating robots' rights.
Year 6 – Polly for making great improvements to her writing.

School Value Awards

Reception – Daniella for showing compassion to her peers.
Year 1 – Elia for excellent resilience in her learning and for always trying her best.
Year 2 – Shaylen for showing curiosity in his learning.
Year 3 – Sophia for showing love and respect to those around her.
Year 4 – Aziah for becoming a more resilient learner.
Year 5 – Julian for being a compassionate and caring friend.
Year 6 – Une for showing good aspiration.
Year 6 – Gala for showing good resilience.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 19 December	Years 3 – 6 Carol Concert 14:00 Parents welcome
Wednesday 20 December	Reception Liturgy 09:00 Parents welcome
Wednesday 20 December	Class Christmas parties (party clothes)
Wednesday 20 December	Last day of Autumn term
Thursday 4 January	First day of Spring Term
Monday 12 to Friday 16 February	Spring Half Term Break
Thursday 28 March	Last day of Spring Term

When visiting the school for liturgy assemblies, nativities, etc. please enter by the door on the side of the building, near the school hall.

This Week's Attendance

11-15 December 2023	
Reception	96.5%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	92.7%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	99.5%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	95.8%
Whole school	95.9%



Sale of Artwork at Carol Concert

Children's art will be on sale after the Carol Concert (Tuesday 19th) at **£1** per item.

Christmas Parties

Class Christmas parties will take place on Wednesday 20 December, the last day of term. Children may bring their own party box, decorated for Christmas, containing some snacks. Please ensure that the snacks do not contain nuts. Children may come to school wearing their party clothes.

Applications for Admission

Please remember that if you have a child born between **1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020**, the deadline for submitting your application to start primary education in September 2024, is **15 January 2024**.

Punctuality

A large number of children are arriving late for school every day. Please ensure that your child is on time for school and enters by the centre doors **between 8:40 and 8:45am**.

Scripture of the week

God of light, shine brightly, show us how to bring hope to others.

God of love, help us to comfort people and to share in their joy.

God of hope, help us this Advent, to share your light with others.

Amen

