

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
16 January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to share important information about the revised Ofsted inspection framework, which came into effect nationally in November 2025, and what this means for schools, including St Vincent's.

One of the most significant changes is that Ofsted will no longer give schools a single overall judgement such as "Outstanding", "Good", "Requires Improvement" or "Inadequate." Instead, schools will receive a new report card, with a five-point grading scale across several different areas of school life.

The new grades are:

- Exceptional
- Strong Standard
- Expected Standard
- Needs Attention
- Urgent Improvement

Ofsted has been very clear that the old judgements cannot be directly compared with the new grades. For example, the former judgement of "Requires Improvement" does not mean the same as the new grade of "Needs Attention" and "Outstanding" is not the same as "Exceptional".

Ofsted has explained that "Needs Attention" is intended to be advisory. It highlights areas where further work is needed to reach the expected standard. It is not a fail, but a way of identifying issues early, before they become more serious.

Ofsted has also made clear that expectations have risen again. Under the new framework, inspectors expect that most schools nationally will be working at the "Expected Standard." This means a school is providing an effective education and doing what it should be doing in that area. Some areas in some schools may be judged as "Strong Standard," and Ofsted expects that very few schools nationally will be graded "Exceptional" in any area.

This means that a school previously judged "Good" may now receive several "Expected Standard" judgements. This does not mean a school has declined. In many cases, schools may have improved, but the criteria are now more demanding, and judgements reflect these higher expectations rather than a reduction in quality.

There are also important additional features within the new framework. Inclusion is now a specific area of evaluation, with a strong focus on how well schools support all pupils, particularly those with SEND and those who are disadvantaged. Safeguarding will continue to be judged separately as either "Met" or "Not Met."

Reports will also include a narrative section describing what it is like to be a pupil at the school. At St Vincent's, we remain very proud of the education we provide and the outcomes our children achieve.

We are confident in our school's strengths and in our ongoing commitment to reflection, improvement and high expectations for every child.

Schools are usually inspected within four to five years of their last inspection and we will, of course, keep you informed if we are notified of a future visit. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and partnership.

If you would like to explore this further, Ofsted has published a helpful guide for parents explaining the new report cards and grading system. This can be found here:

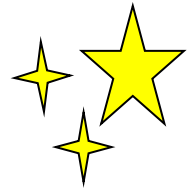
Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades – GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-ofsted-report-cards-and-grades>

We remain firmly committed to serving our children with care, integrity and ambition, rooted in the values that sit at the heart of St Vincent's.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez
Headteacher



Stars of the Week

Reception – Kiki for working really hard in Phonics and Maths.

Year 1 – Andrew for enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in class discussions.

Year 2 – Danny for working hard at tasks and engaging well in lessons.

Year 3 – Mia for a positive attitude towards learning and always putting in her best effort.

Year 4 – Maya for fantastic teamwork and being an encouraging teammate during P.E.

Year 5 – Adriana for good behaviour for learning.

Year 6 – Daniel O for making a great effort to improve his work.

School Value Awards

Reception – Glenn for kindness and respect, making our classroom a welcoming place.

Year 1 – Lucia for a strong desire to succeed and consistently striving to do her best.

Year 2 – Khatira for kindness and compassion and for always putting great effort into tasks.

Year 3 – Gabriel TG for his effort to improve and reach new heights in learning.

Year 4 – Damola for showing compassion and kindness, and welcoming a new staff member.

Year 5 – Nero for showing excellent respect to adults and peers.

Year 6 – Max for great aspiration.

Silver Awards

Silver Awards are for earning 50 dojos! Well done!

Year 1 – Seth.

Gold Awards

Gold Awards are for earning 100 dojos! Well done!

Year 1 – Tiaraoluwa, Adebola.

Year 5 - Alison, Jessica and Ola.

This Week's Attendance

12-16 January 2026	
Reception	95.6%
Year 1	98.1%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	98.6%
Year 4	98.4%
Year 5	95.9%
Year 6	95.7%
Whole school	96.9%



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.

Monday 19 January	Year 5 trip to National Portrait Gallery
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term Break
Friday 27 March	Last day of Spring Term
Tuesday 14 April	First day of Summer Term

Term and holiday dates up to July 2026 are shown on the school website

Year 4 Visit to the Houses of Parliament

I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful Year 4 pupils following their recent visit to the Houses of Parliament. I had the pleasure of accompanying the group, and I was incredibly proud of the way they represented St Vincent's throughout the day.

The visit was a valuable opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of democracy and the British values that underpin life in our country. They were attentive, curious and respectful, asking thoughtful questions and engaging enthusiastically with the learning. It was a joy to see them exploring such an important place and making meaningful links with their work in school.

They were a true credit to our community and represented St Vincent's with maturity, confidence and kindness. Well done, Year 4.

