

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
17th December 2021

Wednesday word is **Mercy**. "God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy." Pope Francis.

What a week we had!

We have enjoyed a week full of entertainment and dazzling performances. Children, from Reception to Year 6, delighted the audiences with powerful singing and acting. It was a great pleasure to see so many parents come to support their children and the school.

And although we were all masked and still being as careful as we could, we absolutely relished the opportunity to bring some festive cheer to our school. Weeks like this lighten the gloom of the pandemic times. Our children continue to spread the cheer into our lives and demonstrate excellent energy.

Of course, we still have a long way to go before we can all sit together and get fully involved in our children's schooling. We are aware that we had to exclude most grandparents and extended families from the performances. To those of you who wanted to come and couldn't, we missed you and we hope next year we can open our arms to you.

As we look back on the year ending and we wonder what the new one will bring, I can't help but be hopeful, nervous, optimistic, but above all grateful.

The difficulties faced by schools in the past two years have put to the test all our strength, endurance and determination. All teaching staff have worked relentlessly and will continue to do so, to ensure our children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and to keep them safe and mentally strong. Parents, you have put your trust in us and even through the 'tricky' days, we have managed to work together.

So in this season of Hope and Joy, as we celebrate, let's raise a glass to the New Year and hope it will be the best ever yet.

May I wish all families and friends a wonderful Christmas filled with moments you'll always remember.

Mrs Gonzalez

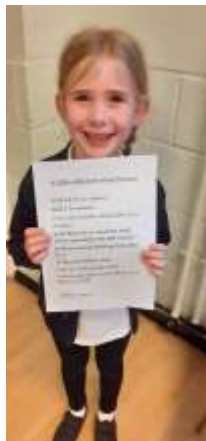
Christmas Jumper Day!



Achievements

This week Year 2 have been thinking about what Heaven is like. Here is a poem by Sophie, which made us all reflect or

A little reflection about Heaven



*Will we be in colour?
Will I be alone?
Can you eat the cloud like it is candy?
Will there be a rainbow and when you slide
you get candy?
Is there candy falling from the sky?
Is there football and
Can we write and read?
Can we go near each other or is there a wall?
Sophie Year 2*

A huge thank-you to **Ella, Bella** and **Henry** for giving their time to decorate our church. Well done!

Our **Mini Vinnies** delivered cards to a local residential home, Fairmount, spreading some Christmas cheer.



School Uniform

Our School Council has now concluded the consultation with parents and children and has met with our Governors. I am pleased to say the children have presented a strong case and hence the Governors agreed to add the option of girls' trousers to our uniform. Well done **Ziva** and **Ana** (Year 6), **Ivana** and **Elias** (Year 5), **Tilly** and **Joshua** (Year 4), **Maddison** and **Angela** (Year 3), **Neidas** and **Veronica** (Year 2).

Girls in our school will be able to choose to wear trousers, if they wish, from January. Please note, the trousers need to be **uniform grey tailored trousers**. Trousers must not be skinny-fit, and should be loose around the ankles. Jeans, leggings, sportswear, flares, hipsters, studded, combat, pin-striped and lace are not appropriate.

Admission to Reception September 2022

If you have a child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, please remember that the deadline for applications for Primary School admission in September 2022, is **15th January 2022**. You should apply online on the website of the borough in which you live. In addition you should complete a Supplementary Information Form which can be found on the school website or may be obtained from the school office.

Gospel Reflection

On Sunday we'll hear how cousins Mary and Elizabeth rejoiced when they saw each other and how Elizabeth knew straight away that Mary's baby was very special. Let's think a bit more about this and about babies around the world.

While Mary is pregnant with Jesus, she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also expecting a baby. As soon as Elizabeth sees Mary she is filled with joy. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and recognises that Mary's baby will be the Son of God.

Babies are special. They need a lot of looking after. No matter where in the world they are born, all babies need the same things. They need someone to love and care for them. They need someone to feed them and to keep them warm and clean.

As we remember how Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy as they waited for their very special babies to arrive, let's pray for all the other babies around the world who are all special too.

God loves us all, even the tiniest baby. Let us remember God's love for us, and for all people, and think about how we can show love to others in this coming week. We can show love by visiting someone, sharing things, sending a message, or by helping. We can show love for our brothers and sisters around the world, by doing what we can to make the world a fairer place for all people to live and by treating others as we would like to be treated.

Prayer:

*God of all, fill us with joy at the coming of your Son, as Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy. Help us to spread your love by caring for all our brothers and sisters around the world.
Amen.*

Dates for your Diary

First day of Spring Term	Tuesday 4 th January
Year 5 Library visit	Wednesday 12 th January
Year 6 Mass	Wednesday 19 th January
Year 4 Library visit	Monday 24 th January
Year 5 Mass	Wednesday 26 th January
Year 4 Mass	Wednesday 2 nd February
Year 3 Library visit	Wednesday 2 nd February
Year 3 Mass	Wednesday 9 th February
Year 2 Library	Wednesday 9 th February
Last day of the first half of term	Friday 11 th February
School closed for Half Term break	Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th February
Return to school	Monday 21 st February
Year 2 Mass	Wednesday 23 rd February

Last Week's Attendance

6 th Dec – 10 th Dec 2021	
Reception	100%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	95.5%
Year 3	89.1%
Year 4	93.8%
Year 5	95.5%
Year 6	95.7%
Whole school	95.0%



Christmas Helplines

Christmas will be difficult for many people. For anyone who might be finding things hard this festive season, we have attached a separate flyer detailing Christmas helplines, which offer help at this time of year. It is important that we look after the physical and mental wellbeing of ourselves and our loved ones.