

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
18 November 2022

Dear parents and families,

This week we celebrated Anti-Bullying and we stressed the theme message for this year: "Reach out".

Embedded in our curriculum and in line with our school ethos and values, we regularly give our children opportunities to grow in their understanding of virtues to live by. We guide our children to appreciate the connection between biblical and practical wisdom and living.

Within our curriculum, we also look for regular opportunities to remind children that bullying is never OK. Everyone deserves to feel happy and safe and there is help available if you need it for yourself or anyone else.

One important part of maintaining a happy and safe learning environment is to invite children to think about an adult they trust. This links perfectly to the theme "Reach out".

This year we wanted to let everyone know that by reaching out to get help for ourselves, we can improve the situation and by reaching out to help someone else, we show kindness, which can also help to improve the situation.

- Reach out and speak to an adult you trust.
- Reach out to somebody you know who is being bullied.
- Reach out to a trusted adult if you know someone who is bullying others.
- Reach out and help make changes in your school for the better.

We discuss with the children that bullying can be verbal, physical or online and includes telling lies about people, harassing, intimidating or upsetting them.

Cyberbullying is most certainly on the increase. Research shows that over half of the UK's 12 to 15 year olds have faced some form of bullying, including Cyberbullying over the last year.

We also know that at primary school age, particularly when they begin to use a mobile phone or a computer, children begin to have different experiences online and sometimes they come across inappropriate or uncomfortable situations. Our children learn not to allow themselves to be intimidated into taking part in unacceptable behaviour over the internet. When someone they do not know, or a friend or family member, instigates inappropriate behaviour online, we ask them not to participate.

Just refuse. Say NO!

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs González

Stars of the Week



- Reception – Sophia for showing courage and bravery in the nativity practice.
- Year 1 – Orion for excellent numeracy work and for showing curiosity towards his learning.
- Year 2 – Nero for always participating, sharing great ideas and working hard.
- Year 3 – Lucas for showing resilience and aspiration in all tasks.
- Year 4 – Uvieo for working hard to learn times tables and remembering the strategies learned.
- Year 5 – Zachary for writing a fantastic rhyming poem.
- Year 6 – Elias for making a determined effort to improve his writing.

Admission to Reception 2023

The deadline for applications for admission to Reception Class in September 2023 for children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 is 15 January 2023. Please complete an application on the website of the borough in which you live. In addition, please complete a Supplementary Information Form (available from the school office or the school website) and return this to the school office, with a copy of your child's full birth certificate and, if applicable, a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

Dates for your Diary (changes in red)

Donations of bottles	Monday 21 November
Year 4 Mass	Wednesday 23 November <i>(leaving at 9.00am)</i>
Year 3 liturgy assembly	Wednesday 23 November at 9.00am
Donations of soft toys	Monday 28 November
Year 5 Mass	Wednesday 30 November <i>(leaving at 9.00am)</i>
Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 6 December
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 9 December
Nativity (Years 1 and 2)	Tuesday 13 December at 2.00pm
Years 3 and 6 Mass	Wednesday 14 December at 9.00am
Year 4 liturgy assembly	Wednesday 14 December at 9.00am
Christmas Fair	Wednesday 14 December
Reception Nativity	Friday 16 December at 2.00pm
Carol Concert (Years 3 – 6)	Monday 19 December at 2.00pm
Last day of term	Wednesday 21 December

Last Week's Attendance

7-11 November 2022	
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	87.0%
Year 2	96.6%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	93.0%
Year 5	93.3%
Year 6	99.1%
Whole school	94.5%



Donations for the Christmas Fair

We will be collecting donations of bottles of drink under our outside canopy in the playground on Monday 21 November. Both alcoholic and soft drinks are most welcome. We will also be collecting soft toys that are in good condition on Monday 28 November. If any families are able to offer raffle prizes, please contact us, as they will be gratefully received.

Gospel Reflection

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Luke 23:35-43

Today we hear how Jesus is laughed at while on the cross and how two thieves have very different things to say to him. We think about the type of king that Jesus is and how we can share his love with others.

The label above Jesus' cross said he was the king of the Jews.

The crowds can't understand why Jesus, the Son of God, can't save himself. They are very confused. To them a king is someone who has power, money, land and who dresses in expensive clothes - not someone who ends up on a cross with a crown of thorns on his head.

Kings are powerful, but on the cross Jesus seems helpless. He is going to die, and the people can't understand it.

We know now that this was all a part of God's plan - Jesus had to die so that we are saved.

Jesus is a very different kind of king. He is the king of love. He gives us all a chance of new life with him in heaven.

There were two thieves on either side of Jesus, both on crosses as well. The first thief wanted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God by coming off the cross. He insulted him.

The second thief tells the first off for being so rude to Jesus. He knows Jesus has done nothing wrong. This second thief asks only to be remembered by Jesus.

Jesus can see that the second thief is sorry for what he has done. Jesus promises the second thief that he will remember him, and that he will be welcomed into Jesus' kingdom.

Even when things are bad, when we are frightened, or hurting, upset or lonely, Jesus is right there with us. He knows how it feels to be laughed at, to be sad, to be in pain. And just like he did with the second thief on the cross, he is always willing to love us and to welcome us.

Jesus, the king of love, showed his love for us and for all people by dying on the cross.

We can be kind, welcoming, generous. We can make sure that when we have power, we use it as Jesus did – for the good of all people – not just to make ourselves rich or important. We can make sure we include others in our friendships and in our games. We can join together with others to raise money or to change a situation that we think is unfair or needs improvement.

Let us pray to Christ our King together:

O King of Kings, you died so that we might have new life. Help us to share your love with each other and to be there for each other in the most difficult times.

Amen.