

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
19 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we held our first Meet the Teacher sessions. These are lovely opportunities to put a face to your child's class teacher—especially if you haven't had the chance before—and begin the partnership that helps every child thrive.

A common question from parents is, "How can I support my child at home?" Teaching methods can look a little different from the way many of us learnt at school, but one simple, powerful way to help—whatever your child's age—is reading.

Please keep up regular reading, even when children become *free readers*. They still need encouragement to read each night and to talk about what they're reading. A quick chat makes a big difference to fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Easy ways to support reading at home:

- Keep a calm, regular reading slot each evening (10–20 minutes is plenty).
- Take turns: your child reads to you, and sometimes you read to them.
- Talk about the book: *What's happening? Why did that character do that? What might happen next?*
- Pick a mix of fiction and non-fiction to widen interests and vocabulary.
- Jot a quick note in the reading record—every comment helps the class teacher.

For children reading at advanced level, the aim is to keep challenge and joy in balance. Encourage a healthy mix of ambitious reads and lighter choices, and chat not just about what happens but how the writer tells it—think themes, symbolism, bias and even narrators we might not completely trust. Help them make connections across texts (a novel with a poem, article, or film) and pair fiction with related non-fiction to broaden knowledge. Help children consider how reliable the narrator is; sometimes we can't fully trust their version of events. A narrator may be biased, exaggerate, misunderstand what's happening, or leave things out, which invites readers to weigh the evidence and "read between the lines". Two child-friendly examples are the Wolf in *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, who tells his version to make himself look blameless, and Greg Heffley in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, whose diary often flatters him and glosses over his part in problems. When you're reading together, try questions like: *Do we believe what they're saying? What proof do we have? How would this chapter change if a different character told it?* Reading with a pencil can be powerful: note striking words, patterns and questions to revisit. A short written response now and then—a 100-word reflection, a character diary, or a paragraph analysing a key passage—builds precision and depth. Keep reading aloud together for trickier chapters and do keep an eye on suitability as themes become more mature. If you'd like recommendations, your child's class teacher will be happy to help.

Together, we can build strong reading habits that open doors for every child.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Gonzalez



Stars of the Week

Reception – Albert for creativity in producing lovely independent art pieces.

Year 1 – Alonso for fantastic work and ideas in Literacy.

Year 2 – Shayah for showing kindness and for creating lovely artwork.

Year 3 – Jamal for settling into a new school so quickly and impressing us with amazing writing.

Year 4 – Victoria for creativity and originality in a Science project.

Year 5 – Joshua for consistently contributing thoughtful ideas during class discussions.

Year 6 – Tobenna for helping to lead the Celebration of the Word.

School Value Awards

Reception – Zara for compassion towards her peers.

Year 1 – Sofia for readiness to help others, spreading positivity and care throughout the school.

Year 2 – Ian for working hard to produce great work.

Year 3 – Manuela for remarkable resilience and never giving up.

Year 4 – Harper for determination to focus and work hard.

Year 5 – Jesse for curiosity and aspiration in learning.

Year 6 – Valentina for great resilience.

Bronze Certificates

We have our first group of children getting a Bronze Award for earning 25 dojos! Well done!

Year 4: Ava, Kayden, Camilla and Teddy

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.

Tuesday 23 September	Mass at OLHC for Years 2-6 (parents welcome)
Wednesday 24 September	Year 6 visit to Mass
Wednesday 1 October	Year 2 Celebration of the Word
Wednesday 1 October	Year 4 visit to Mass
Wednesday 8 October	Year 1 Celebration of the Word
Wednesday 8 October	Year 3 visit to Mass
Friday 17 October	Last day of first half of Autumn Term
Monday 20 – Friday 31 October	Half term break
Monday 3 November	First day of second half of Autumn Term
Friday 19 December	Last day of second half of Autumn Term

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

Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians

Children in Years 2 to 6 will attend Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians on Tuesday 23 September. If you would like to walk to the church with us, please arrive at school at 1.30pm.

This Week's Attendance

15-19 September 2025	
Reception	97.8%
Year 1	93.8%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 3	99.3%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	95.0%
Year 6	92.9%
Whole school	96.4%



Playground Safety Reminder

A gentle reminder that, for everyone's safety, children (including younger siblings) should not use the school play equipment before or after school. Please also ensure bikes and scooters are not ridden in the playground at any time—dismount at the gate and walk them. Thank you for your support.