

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin October, we will be marking Black History Month across the school.

At St Vincent's, we believe that Black history should not be taught only during one month of the year. Throughout our curriculum, we aim to ensure that Black people, their experiences and their contributions are represented as an important part of British and world history. October does, however, give us a valuable opportunity to explore some of these stories together in greater depth.

This year, our whole-school project is called Black History on Our Doorstep: Honouring the Black Britons Who Shaped Our Communities. Each year group will investigate a different person or period of history.

Reception will learn about Floella Benjamin, who came to Britain from Trinidad as a child and later became a much-loved children's television presenter, writer and campaigner. Her story will help the children think about belonging, confidence and how we can make others feel welcomed and valued.

Year 1 will explore John Blanke, a Black musician who worked in the royal court during Tudor times. His story provides important evidence that Black people have been part of British history for many centuries.

Year 2 will study Mary Seacole, a Jamaican-born healer, businesswoman, traveller and writer who used her knowledge, courage and determination to care for others during the Crimean War.

Year 3 will discover Ignatius Sancho, who had strong links to Greenwich and Blackheath. He became a writer, composer, shopkeeper and one of the earliest known Black voters in Britain. His life helps us to understand both the opportunities and injustices experienced by Black people in Georgian Britain.

Year 4 will learn about the Windrush generation and Sam King, who served in the Royal Air Force, travelled to Britain on the Empire Windrush and later became the first Black Mayor of Southwark. His story shows how Caribbean people served Britain, built new lives and made lasting contributions to their communities.

Year 5 will investigate Dr Harold Moody, a doctor and committed Christian who established a medical practice in Peckham after experiencing racial discrimination. He cared for his local community and founded the League of Coloured Peoples to campaign peacefully for fairness and equality.

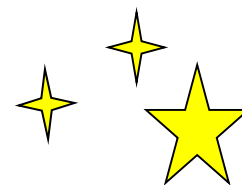
Year 6 will study Olive Morris, a young South London campaigner who worked for better housing, education, women's rights and racial equality. Her story will encourage the children to consider how communities bring about change and how we decide whose lives are remembered in public history.

We have chosen these figures because, together, they show that Black British history stretches across many centuries. They include musicians, writers, carers, doctors, workers, public servants and community campaigners. Their stories are not separate from British history; they are an important part of it.

This learning connects closely with our Catholic ethos. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us of the dignity of every human person, our responsibility to stand in solidarity with others and our duty to work for justice and the common good. Through these stories, the children will see examples of service, courage, compassion and people working together to challenge injustice and strengthen their communities.

As we live, love and learn through Christ, we want our children not only to gain knowledge, but also to grow in compassion, curiosity and love for others. We hope families will talk to the children during October about the people they are studying and the important lessons we can learn from their lives.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Gonzalez
Headteacher



Stars of the Week

Reception - Milana for beginning to actively listen and follow instructions, making you a reliable and dependable student.

Year 1 – Diana for her amazing story in English.

Year 2 – Ethan for always showing a deep interest in learning and a desire to learn more.

Year 3 – Teddie for showing love and kindness to new members of school.

Year 4 – Megan for your enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in class activities and discussions.

Year 5 – Margot for showing a deep interest in learning, exploring new ideas in our class trip.

Year 6 – Alison for her important contribution to Wednesday's assembly.

School Value Awards

Reception – Oliver for consistently showing empathy towards others, making school a more caring place.

Year 1 – Mikyla for always doing the right things and being a wonderful role model, showing love and compassion in everything you do.

Year 2 – Isiuwa for always being super respectful and showing fantastic listening.

Year 3 – George for your fantastic start at St Vincent's.

Year 4 – Elia for being resilient and staying focused on your goals.

Year 5 – Epiphany for being an excellent role model to your classmates through your hard work in our school trip.

Year 6 – Flora for her important contribution to Wednesday's assembly.

- Arianna-Rose for making great improvements to her presentation.

This Week's Attendance

from 28th September to 2 nd October 2026	
Reception	95.37
Year 1	94.24
Year 2	95.56
Year 3	98.64
Year 4	97.74
Year 5	94.44
Year 6	96.88
Whole school	96.11



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.

Wednesday 14th October 2026	Year 3 Library Visit – 2pm
Friday 16th October 2026	Last day of first half of the term
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
Monday 2nd November 2026	Year 4 visit to the Horniman Museum 9.00am
Wednesday 11th November 2026 New date	Year 1 Celebration of The World - School Hall 9.00am

Term and holiday dates up to July 2027 are shown on the school website

If you have any comics and card games (e.g. UNO) that you would be happy to donate to the school, they will be gratefully received.

Bicycles and Scooters

Children are very welcome to bring bicycles and scooters to school. However, please remember that bicycles and scooters should not be ridden in the school playground at any time.

The playground can become particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day, with lots of children and families moving around. To keep everyone safe and avoid accidents, bicycles and scooters should always be walked through the playground.

Thank you for helping us to keep our playground safe for everyone.

Safeguarding

If you need to discuss an **immediate** safeguarding concern, you can contact us through the following contact methods:

Call the school number 0208 857 5134 and ask for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Email: general.post@st-vincent.sch.uk F.A.O. DSL

The Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are:

Mrs Gonzalez and Mrs Hall