

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
21 July 2023

Dear Parents and Families,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I am filled with mixed emotions. It is both a time of joy and celebration for the accomplishments of our students and a moment of reflection and farewell, as we say goodbye to those moving on to new chapters in their lives.

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated and hardworking teachers and staff. Your unwavering commitment to nurturing our students' minds and hearts has been nothing short of exceptional. The impact you have on our young learners extends far beyond the classroom, and for that, I am truly grateful.

To the parents and guardians, thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. Your support and collaboration throughout the year have been crucial in creating a nurturing and conducive learning environment.

In our farewell to our Year 6 students, we celebrate their successes and the memories they have created during their time with us. We are confident that they leave here equipped with the skills, knowledge, and values needed to thrive in the world beyond these school walls. Remember, you will always be part of the St Vincent's School family, and we look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the children and families who will be moving on to new horizons; I want to express our gratitude for the wonderful memories and positive impact you have had on our community. You will be missed, and our doors will always be open to welcome you back. Best wishes on your new journey ahead.

For our returning students, the end of this school year marks the beginning of new opportunities. Embrace the summer break as a time for rest, reflection, and development. Remember, when we return, a new academic year awaits, filled with exciting challenges and fresh possibilities.

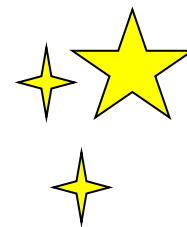
As we close this chapter, let us remember that we are a community that supports one another. Our strength lies in our unity and resilience. Together, we have overcome challenges and celebrated triumphs. I am confident that we will face the future with the same determination and spirit.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my best wishes to those of you who are taking holidays or spending quality time with loved ones during the summer break. May this time bring you rest, rejuvenation, and cherished memories.

Thank you once again for a remarkable school year. I am proud to be part of this incredible community, and I eagerly anticipate the upcoming year, filled with new opportunities and fresh chances for success.

I wish you all a joyful and restful break ahead.

Mrs Gonzalez



Stars of the Week

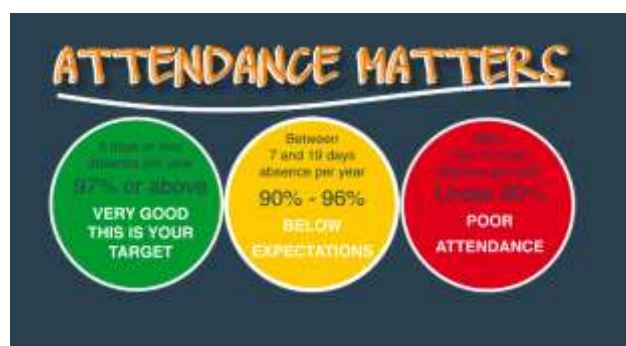
- Reception – Marho for showing kindness to everyone always.
- Year 1 – Harper for being helpful and always showing resilience.
- Year 2 – Jessica for always trying her best and not giving up when things are difficult.
- Year 3 – Valentina for always trying her best at learning.
- Year 4 – Giorgio for a fabulous “Greek Gods” mini-book.
- Year 5 – Jasmine for exceptional comporment throughout the year.
- Year 6 – Joshua for making good progress with his writing.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4 September	First day of Autumn Term
Friday 13 October	Last day of first half of term
Monday 16 – Friday 27 October	School closed for half term break
Monday 30 October	First day of second half of term
Wednesday 20 December	Last day of Autumn term

This Week's Attendance

17 - 21 July 2023	
Reception	92.7%
Year 1	90.0%
Year 2	97.7%
Year 3	91.6%
Year 4	87.5%
Year 5	89.2%
Year 6	92.2%
Whole school	91.6%



September School Hours

I would like to inform you about some important changes to our school schedule starting in September.

Following the recent request from the government for schools to implement a standard weekly teaching time of 32.5 hours, we have carefully reviewed our current timetable to ensure compliance, while maintaining the high standards of education that we strive to deliver. After careful consideration and planning, we have revised our timetable to ensure compliance with the government's directive, while maintaining our commitment to providing the best possible education for your children. Starting in September, we will be adjusting our school hours for all year groups, including Reception.

Effective from the start of the autumn term, our new school hours will be as follows:

Monday to Friday: 8:45 AM to 3:15 PM

With this updated schedule, we will be able to provide the required instructional hours, while still allowing ample time for breaks and lunch, ensuring our students have the opportunity to refresh and recharge throughout the day.

Uniform

As we approach the start of the new academic year in September, I would like to take this opportunity to remind us all of the school uniform rules to ensure a smooth and organised beginning for all students.

Our school uniform policy aims to instill a sense of pride, belonging and equality among our students, fostering a positive learning environment. By adhering to the uniform guidelines, we encourage students to focus on their studies, personal growth, and the values we hold dear.

Please note there are some important changes, particularly with respect to our school bags.

Please find our school uniform policy below.

We kindly request that you ensure your child's uniform complies with our uniform policy from the first day of the new term. Our teachers and staff will be diligently monitoring uniform adherence, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining our school's standards.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation in upholding our school's values and ensuring a consistent and positive learning environment for all students.



SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY

Our School Uniform is important to us. School uniform can play a valuable role by: setting an appropriate tone; instilling pride; supporting positive behaviour and discipline; encouraging identity with, and support for, the school ethos; protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. We also believe that it supports effective teaching and learning.

Smartness and high standards of appearance are expected at all times. At St Vincent's, we believe that a school uniform is important, because it:

- ◆ looks smart
- ◆ wears well
- ◆ contributes to a sense of belonging
- ◆ gives a common purpose
- ◆ fosters a feeling of pride
- ◆ reduces 'fashion competition' between students.

All students should wear the uniform and we encourage them to maintain an acceptable standard of clean and tidy dress in school.

Our School Uniform, Reception to Year 6

- White, short or long sleeved shirt/blouse
- Grey tailored long trousers (school uniform trousers, not jean style).
- Grey pinafore or skirt.
- Navy V-neck jumper or cardigan (*), no hoods please
- Navy blazer (optional)
- Light blue school tie (*), unless blouse is open neck
- Grey socks for trousers
- White socks for skirts or grey or navy tights
- Black or navy shoes
- Black or navy coat (plain)

Summer variations

- Short grey tailored trousers
- Black or navy sandals (closed toes)
- Plain light blue or white polo shirts
- Blue & white check or stripe dress
- School logoed sunhat, alternatively, plain navy or black sunhat

(*) Navy v-neck jumpers and cardigans with the school logo are available from the school office as well as school ties, school bags and summer hats.

Footwear:

Must be plain black or navy with closed toes and suitable for active play.
Boots are only suitable for cold weather and they must be ankle boots.
Trainers are only to be worn for games or PE.

Outdoor clothing

Students should bring a coat to school each day. Coats must be plain black or navy, the material of the coat must be without pattern.

P.E.

Plain navy blue or black shorts
Plain white T-shirt
Plain navy blue or black tracksuit
Black plimsolls and/or trainers for outdoor activities

Please note T-shirts in the House colours are not part of our P.E. kit. They should only be worn on Sports Day if children wish.

Fashion Items & Jewellery

For safety reasons, students are not permitted to wear jewellery in school. This includes earrings of any kind. If ears need to be pierced, then please leave this until the start of the 6-week summer holiday.

Fashion accessories such as make-up, nail polish, hair gel, hair extensions, jewellery other than watches, should not be worn.

Long hair should be tied back neatly and off the face, with bands, 'scrunchies' or ribbons where possible in the school colours (navy, white). Extreme hairstyles are not suitable as they draw excessive attention to your child and detract from learning.

Any student arriving at school wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it. The child's parents will be informed. If a child is unable to remove the jewellery without assistance, his/her parents will be called and asked to do so. The school will not accept any responsibility for items of jewellery lost or stolen.

School bags

Students have the option to use our school bags or backpacks, which feature the official St Vincent's logo. Any other school bag should be navy or black and have a plain design, free from logos or brand markings.

We seek to create a level playing field for all students by discouraging the use of very expensive bags. By adhering to affordable and uniform bag guidelines, we promote a sense of belonging and unity among our students, fostering a focus on education rather than status symbols.

This policy aims to promote uniformity and inclusivity, avoiding unnecessary competition based on material possessions. We believe that these guidelines will enhance the learning experience for our students, enabling them to concentrate on their studies and personal growth. Your cooperation in adhering to these policies is greatly appreciated.

Please remember to label every item of uniform with a clear name. This is to avoid items being lost.

Letter from Angela Cox and Canon Victor Darlington

Education Commission

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



July 2023

Dear Colleagues

All too quickly we reach the end of our first year in post and we wish to thank you all for your hard work and commitment to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Southwark. During the past year we have got to know many of the schools and parishes across the diocese, all of which have shown how important it is to engage with our communities. It has been very rewarding and uplifting to observe all the hard work going on in many of our schools. This is especially so where the school supports and celebrates parish life as well as accompanying families in their journey of faith. Some events we have celebrated this year include:

- Christ the King Sixth Form's 30th anniversary;
- The retirement of headteachers after many years of service;
- The induction of our new CSI inspectors following their training and licensing.

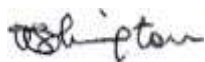
Likewise, the numerous invitations to visit schools received by Canon Victor has been particularly enjoyable and impressive. In particular, meeting heads, teachers and school governors has been very inspirational, especially at those schools which face tough challenges. Overall, heads and staff have shown a great sense of dedication and teamwork which is reflected in the motivation and faith of the children as they worked in their classrooms. Hopefully such inspiring school visits will continue at the commencement of the new academic year.

Although it was a relatively quiet year in terms of DfE initiatives within the Archdiocese it has been rewarding to work with those concentrating on fulfilling the Archbishop's vision of a family of schools working together in successful academy trusts. Significant time has been given to interviewing those volunteering to bring professional expertise to our CAT boards and we move into next year with five CATS approved by the DfE so there is now a home for all SATs and schools.

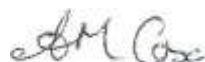
Taking a break to nourish and strengthen ourselves is an important part of our faith. Time to discern the way forward, guided by the Holy Spirit through prayer, is a necessary element to fit into our busy lives. Jesus sometimes withdraws to a lonely place from His busy schedule to pray. Let us also use this summer break to pray and discern the way forward. Even the most difficult situations can be resolved by patience and opening our hearts and minds to reflecting on the teaching of the Lord, trusting Him always.

We hope that during the summer break you also have time to reflect on the achievements of this year and seek inspiration to come back in September fully refreshed. Enjoy the time with your families and may God keep you safe during these summer months.

With assurance of our prayers,



Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education
South East Area of the Archdiocese of Southwark



Angela Cox
Diocesan Schools Commissioner
Education Commission for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark

Congratulations to our Year 6 Trophy Winners



Morayo for Excellence in Sports



Isabella for Most Progress



Naasei for Achievements in
Music



Melissa for Achievements in
Literacy



Hannah for Achievement in
Religious Education



Gabriel for Achievements
in Computing



Matviy, for Achievements
in Science



Ayaan, for Achievements
in Mathematics



Maria, Citizenship Award

Well done!