

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter  
25 November 2022

Dear parents and families,

From Sunday, we begin the new Liturgical Year with the season of Advent. It is a busy month in the Church calendar, and it will be a season full of busy activity in school too!

In Advent, we reflect as we wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus. As we prepare and excitedly count the days to Christmas, it is easy to be so busy that we can almost forget what Advent is really about.

Children in Year 3 will have a Jesse Tree in class. We hope that it will help them to take a few minutes each day to remember and to get ready to meet Jesus on Christmas Day.

A Jesse Tree is a bit like an Advent calendar, except that every day in Advent we hear a Bible story about someone in Jesus' family tree, and allow the story to help us prepare spiritually as we move towards Christmas.

It is called a Jesse Tree, because Jesus is a descendant of King David, son of Jesse.

The prophet Isaiah said,

A shoot will grow from the stock of Jesse.

Isaiah 11: 1

During the week following the first Sunday of Advent (and each week thereafter), different ornaments are added to the tree, each symbolising an Old Testament figure in the family line of Jesus.

If you wish to follow our resources at home, we have an online Jesse Tree for families to access all the readings and prayers during the journey through Advent to Christmas day.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>



Have a lovely weekend

Mrs González

## Stars of the Week



Reception – Christel for making excellent progress with phonics and reading.  
 Year 1 – Lyla for always working hard in class and sharing ideas.  
 Year 2 – Jesse for wanting to do his best and producing great writing.  
 Year 3 – Valentina for reading beautifully in our class liturgy.  
 Year 4 – Daniel for using beautiful language and vocabulary in writing pieces.  
 Year 5 – Leyla for engagement and commitment to learning.  
 Year 6 – Harry for excellent contributions to class discussions.  
 Year 6 - Raphaella for making a determined effort to improve handwriting.

## 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

Donations of soft toys	Monday 28 November
Year 4 library visit	Monday 28 November <i>(leaving at 1.40pm)</i>
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 2-4pm
Reception Nativity	Friday 16 December at 2.00pm
Carol Concert (Years 3 – 6)	Monday 19 December at 2.00pm
Last day of Autumn Term	Wednesday 21 December
First day of Spring Term	Wednesday 4 January

## Last Week's Attendance

14-18 November 2022	
Reception	92.0%
Year 1	94.0%
Year 2	91.7%
Year 3	83.8%
Year 4	93.6%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	92.7%
Whole school	92.1%



## Christmas Fair

Thank you so much for all of the wonderful donations that have been coming into school recently. Your support is very much appreciated and will really help to ensure that our Christmas Fair is a great event for your children. We are now asking for donations of soft toys that are in good condition to be brought in on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

We thank you again for your support!  
The St Vincent's Staff Team

### **Gospel Reflection**

#### **Matthew 24:37-44**

*Sunday is the first day of Advent. This is a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus. It is very exciting when we know that someone is coming to visit us. We make sure that we are ready when they come. Today we are going to think about what it means to be welcoming, and how we get ready to welcome Jesus.*

*The gospel story is telling us that we must be ready when Jesus comes again, but that we cannot be exactly sure when that will be, so we must try to be ready all the time. (Although we don't have to stay awake all night, we can go to sleep!)*

*Jesus tells us we may be very surprised when he comes. Lots of surprises are very good. Birthday or special treats make us feel happy.*

*Sometimes people surprise us by coming to visit us at home when we are not expecting them. Perhaps we might go to visit members of our family or our friends.*

*Is it just about buying presents and putting up Christmas trees?  
Are there other things we need to do? (eg sharing with others, being kind, helping other people).*

*God asks us to be ready so that we can welcome Jesus when he comes. Together we ask for God's help...*

#### **Prayer**

*Generous God, we give thanks for all those people who have visited us, or whom we have visited. Help us always to welcome the people we meet in life, no matter who they are or where they come from.*

*Amen.*