

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear parents,

Internet and technology are excellent tools for teaching and learning, as well as being a crucial part of everyday lives.

Children must be supported and guided to learn sufficient strategies to manage and cope with online risks. It is important they develop resilience and responsibility to understand how to act when faced with such risks. The computing curriculum, as well as our lessons on PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education), will aim to equip our children with tools to shield them from any threat and keep them safe online.

We work together with parents and families to ensure such online safety; we know children will spend some of their leisure time using the internet. Therefore, today I would like to bring to your attention a trend that has been slowly creeping into many of our children's and young people's virtual lives.

We have noticed that many of our students freely access 'Tik Tok'. This is an app, which is tremendously popular worldwide. Users post short videos of up to 60 seconds, of everything from popular songs to users dancing, lip-synching, performing comedy sketches, and more.

This may appear to be quite fun and innocent at first sight, and in the large majority of times it is just that, a bit of fun. But we need to remember we are trying to teach our children safe and responsible use of technologies, so they can develop the required range of digital literacy skills.

So then, why do we allow them to use an app which is recommended for a minimum age of 13 years, according to their terms and conditions? How prepared are we to deal with the small minority of instances when the use of the app is not so innocent?

Children often engage in observational learning. Essentially, they imitate behaviours that they see by watching others; these observations include what they see on TV or in video games.

This leads me to another small concern regarding trends and observational learning.

Some of our children are copying, commenting on and discussing a TV show from Netflix. This show has high levels of inappropriate content for children. Even if a child hasn't seen a single episode, variations of other people copying the show's episodes are on the internet community.

I would urge parents to continue to be vigilant and support children on the use of social media. Allow them to use it responsibly and appropriately but remain in the know of what they are accessing.

Sometimes we may think 'My child is mature enough to understand it is not real.' However, some shows, apps, games are not appropriate, they do not need to 'learn' about them yet.

Therefore, my question is: Why do we want our children to grow up more quickly than necessary? Why not allow them to be children during the time they should be?

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Gonzalez

## Stars of the Week

Reception – Victoria for singing beautifully in Nativity practices and performing the actions confidently.  
Year 1 – Ivan for working very hard at activities in class.  
Year 2 – Sophie for being kind and caring, and trying really hard.  
Year 3 – Neriya for giving great answers and sharing knowledge with others.  
Year 4 – Jasmine for an excellent diary entry in literacy and working hard in all her lessons.  
Year 5 – Saniya for fantastic engagement and working really hard in all lessons.  
Year 6 – Maria for making a great effort to improve her writing.



## Reminders

Please remember to return your Flu Vaccination form, Pupil Voice reply slip, Father Christmas booking form and General Permissions form, if you have not already done so.

## Dates for your Diary

Year 3 to mass	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December
Nasal Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas lunch	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Fair	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 3-5pm
Christmas jumper day	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Parties	TBC
Year 5 Carol Concert	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm
Year 6 Carol Concert	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2.15pm
Year 1 Nativity	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm
Reception Nativity	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm
Year 2 Nativity	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm
Year 3 Carol Concert	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm
Year 4 Carol Concert	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2.15pm
Last day of term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December

## Nativities and Carol Concerts

Under current guidelines, we are happy to welcome parents and guardians to attend their child's Nativity or Carol Concert. The school gate will open 10 minutes before the start of each performance and you should enter the building by the back door of the hall, please. We would ask that no more than 2 adults per pupil should attend and no pre-school children, please. We encourage the wearing of face coverings. Please be aware that if guidelines change, we may have to change our plans.

## Christmas Lunch

The school Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The cost of this meal is the usual amount of £2.45 for children in Years 3-6, and free for children in Reception to Year 2.

## Last Week's Attendance

15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	
Reception	97.3%
Year 1	99.7%
Year 2	99.7%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	<b>100%</b>
Year 5	97.6%
Year 6	97.0%
Whole school	98.4%



## **Gospel Reflection**

*Today is the first day of Advent.*

*Advent is a special time when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. Let's think a bit more about the things we wait for and what we hope for today.*

*Jesus is talking about when he will come again. Jesus says that he will come again in a cloud with power and great glory.*

*Even though we do not know the exact time when Jesus will come again, he says that we need to be ready. We have to wait and watch for him.*

*We do not know when Jesus will come again, but in today's gospel Jesus tells us to pray and to watch how we behave while we are waiting, so that we will be ready when he comes. How do you think Jesus wants us to behave? How do you think he would like us to treat other people, both here and around the world?*

*Jesus asks us to love one another and to treat other people as we want to be treated. Whether they're in our own family or on the other side of the world.*

*The other thing that is special about waiting for Jesus during Advent is HOPE. We have hope that Jesus will one day come again and make all things new. We have hope because of his birth long ago in a stable in Bethlehem, when he came to show all people God's love for us.*

*Hope is not just a wish for good things to come in the future. It also changes the way that we feel and think and act. When things are hard, if we have hope that they will get better in the future, that helps us to keep trying and working to change things. And this then often leads to the difficult situation getting better.*

*We can share hope with others, by being with them in difficult times, by giving them a smile or a hug, or by helping them with something that is hard.*

*Prayer:*

*Loving God, may your love be with us always and bring peace and joy to all people around the world, as we wait in hope for the coming of your Son Jesus. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*