

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Today's Wednesday Words are **God's love**. "Let us never lose hope! God loves us always, even with our mistakes and sins." Pope Francis

Dear parents and families,

Yesterday marked the international Holocaust Memorial Day. This is a significant day which gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect. This day we remember the millions of people who perished in the Holocaust under Nazi prosecution and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Teachers will use days like yesterday as a conversation starting point to ponder on lessons from the past and take actions for the future.

This conversation, of course, takes form in different ways as the ages of children vary. We refer to our values of Love, Forgiveness and Compassion and how to mould our lives by them. Topics of discussion vary from: So what happens if someone threatens or mistreats a child or talks badly about their families? If I witness someone hurting someone else, what can I do? What should I do? As well as many other character-building questions.

We want our children to be able to recognise injustice against themselves or others. We want to teach our children to be upstanders, not bystanders.

Our school is a place of refuge and diversity, a place where we stand shoulder to shoulder with each other. So when we look at the past and the devastation of discrimination and injustice, we learn to avoid the same mistakes and work to create a better future. We continue to celebrate our differences and share our common values. 'We live, love and learn with Christ.'

In our conversations with children, whether this happens in class or collective worship, we discuss the devastating effect that hate crime can have, not only on the individual but also on the wider community. We learn to challenge it in an appropriate way.

It is not uncommon for children at St Vincent's to alert the adults, parents or teachers, if another child is hurt or in distress. They look after each other and on many occasions, in their own way, they stand against inequality. They learn to grow and become responsible, respectful and active citizens with firm beliefs and ethics. It makes me proud to see this daily and it helps me rest assured that they understand how to engage with a fairer society.

In the light of God, they see everyone as equally precious.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Mrs Gonzalez

## Stars of the Week



Reception – James for having a positive attitude to learning and showing 'aspiration' – one of our school values.

Year 1 – Jesse for working hard at activities and for great reading.

Year 1 – Flora for amazing artwork and wonderful writing.

Year 2 – Orezime for developing confidence and using a nice loud voice this week.

Year 3 – Ella for showing care and compassion to everyone in Year 3.

Year 4 – Rachel for great focus in class and for always trying her best.

Year 5 – Sebastian for writing an innovative diary account.

Year 6 – Morgane for excellent swimming.

Year 6 – Victory for great improvement in literacy.

## Break the Rules Day

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February, we are bringing back Break the Rules Day. See separate flyer for information.

## Birdwatch Week

This week the children have been taking part in activities as part of our RSPB birdwatching week for science. They have been making birdfeeders, designing posters and enjoying spending time outdoors identifying birds within our local area.

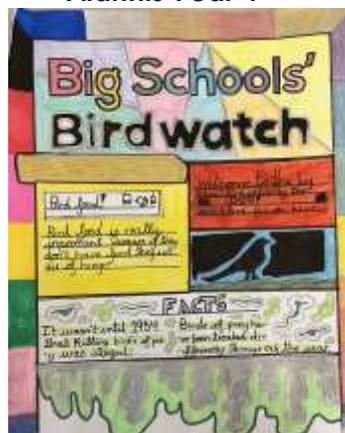
*Tilly Year 4*



*Henry J Year 4*



*Alannis Year 4*



## Dates for your Diary

Break the Rules Day	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
Last day of the first half of term	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
School closed for Half Term break	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
First day of second half of term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
Last day of term	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April

## Last Week's Attendance

17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	
Reception	92.0%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 2	80.0%
Year 3	67.4%
Year 4	85.2%
Year 5	73.1%
Year 6	93.7%
Whole school	<b>83.4%</b>



## **Gospel Reflection**

*Luke 4:21-30*

*Last week we heard how Jesus was speaking in the synagogue and how he had been sent by God to bring good news to people who are poor. The people were amazed with all that he said to them. Today's reading follows straight on from last week's. The people do not believe that Jesus is special.*

*They become angry about what he is saying.*

*Jesus was preaching in his home town. This was the place where he had grown up and many of the people knew him. They knew him as an ordinary man, the son of Joseph the carpenter.*

*Sometimes when we know someone very well, we see their good points and their bad points. Because we know them so well, we think of them as ordinary and we no longer see how special they are. Sometimes the person themselves doesn't even realise they are doing anything special. They think they are just being quite ordinary.*

*But all people, no matter how ordinary they seem, are special. And they can all do special things. God's people are unique. They come from different places and have different lives. Mahdi and the children at St Joseph's are two examples of ordinary people trying to live their daily life really well. The ordinary things that we do are special and extraordinary too. The people in the gospel reading get so angry that they do not listen to what Jesus is saying. They do not want to follow him anymore.*

*Let's all try follow Jesus and to listen to him in the coming week, so that we can do special things in our lives and for each other. And let's pray for all children throughout the world, who are all special in their own ways.*

*Extracted from Cafod's children's liturgy*