

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
30 January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

You may have seen recent discussion in the media about mobile phones, social media, and the growing call for stronger protections for children — including proposals around restricting access to social media until the age of 16. This reflects an increasing body of research highlighting the impact that excessive screen time and early exposure to social media can have on children's wellbeing, attention, sleep, self-esteem and mental health.

At St Vincent's, we are very clear in our approach. We operate a no mobile phone policy for pupils. This means that children should not have mobile phones with them during the school day or at any time when they are on the school grounds, including before and after school.

We also ask parents to be mindful that access to online communication and social media is not limited to mobile phones. Many other devices can connect children to the online world, including tablets, gaming consoles, smart watches and even some toys. These can allow messaging, image-sharing, voice chat, gaming with strangers, and access to online content.

We recognise that some families of children in Years 5 and 6 may wish their child to carry a phone for safety reasons if they are walking home independently. In these circumstances, parents are required to sign an agreement, and phones must be handed into the school office at the start of the day and collected at home time.

Online safety is a key part of our safeguarding culture and curriculum at St Vincent's. Through our PSHCE and computing curriculum, as well as assemblies and focused safeguarding work, children are taught how to keep themselves safe online, how to communicate respectfully, how to recognise risk, and how to seek help if something makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

I would also like to encourage parents to be mindful that children often meet and socialise before and after school, and may share online experiences, messages or content with one another. Even if your own child does not have a phone, they can still be affected by what others are accessing.

If your child uses a mobile phone or any other internet-enabled device, I strongly advise regular checks, open conversations and clear boundaries. This is not about mistrust, but about safeguarding — helping children to have safe, positive and age-appropriate experiences.

What parents can do to support safe use at home:

- ✓ Talk regularly with your child about what they are doing online and who they are communicating with
- ✓ Check devices, apps and privacy settings from time to time
- ✓ Set clear, age-appropriate rules around screen time, games and online access
- ✓ Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult if something online worries or upsets them
- ✓ Remember that consoles, watches and other devices can also provide access to online communication

By working together, we can ensure our children are protected, supported and guided to use the online world safely, responsibly and with confidence.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez
Headteacher



Stars of the Week

Reception – Audrey for listening and following instructions, making her reliable and dependable.
Year 1 – Adebola for excellent behaviour and respect for classroom rules and routines.
Year 2 – Harry for working hard at tasks and sharing nice ideas.
Year 3 – Noah for listening and following instructions, making him reliable and dependable.
Year 4 – Eniola for consistent effort to stay on task and remain focused during lessons.
Year 5 – Toby for good creativity in his writing.
Year 6 – Emily for working hard to improve her overall standard.

School Value Awards

Reception – Samirah for eager pursuit of knowledge and always asking insightful questions.
Year 1 – Kyla for aspiring to be the best she can and motivating others to do the same.
Year 2 – Elisha for producing fantastic art work and creating a picture with speech bubbles.
Year 3 – Sophia L for continuous effort to improve and reach new heights in learning.
Year 4 – Kaycee for consistently trying hard and staying focused on goals.
Year 5 – Alexander M for his polite nature to both staff and peers.
Year 6 – Neidas for trying hard to extend his writing.

Silver Awards

Silver Awards are for earning 50 dojos! Well done!
Year 2 – Alanis.

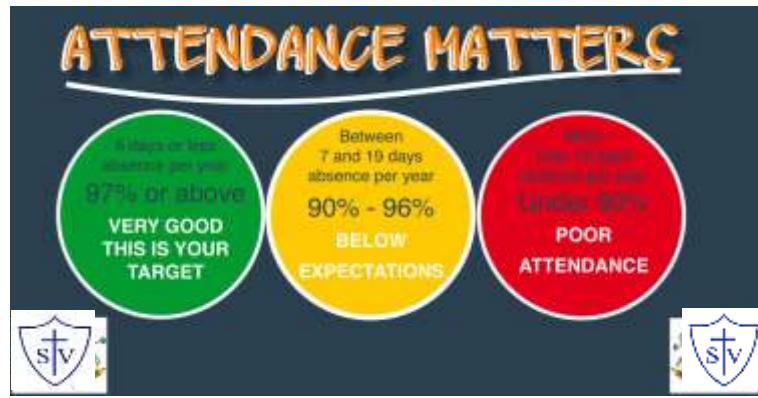
Gold Awards

Gold Awards are for earning 100 dojos! Well done!
Year 1 – Chizaram.
Year 2 – Dheeraka.
Year 5 – Emme, Lukas, Alexander M, Flora, Darcie, Arianna-Rose.

This Week's Attendance

26-30 January 2026	
Reception	93.5%
Year 1	92.6%
Year 2	94.6%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	95.6%
Whole school	95.5%





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 4 February	Year 3 celebration of the Word
Wednesday 4 February	Year 6 visit to Mass
Thursday 5 February	Number Day
Wednesday 11 February	Year 4 celebration of the Word
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term Break
Friday 27 March	Last day of Spring Term
Tuesday 14 April	First day of Summer Term

Term and holiday dates up to July 2026 are shown on the school website

Number Day

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day at St. Vincent's on **Thursday 5th February 2026**. NSPCC number Day makes maths meaningful and is a great way to make numbers fun and bring about a positive, 'can do' attitude towards mathematics. Children may come to school wearing an item of clothing with a number on it, e.g. a sports top, hat or badge. In exchange, we are asking for a donation of either a £1 or £2 coin which will go to support the NSPCC.

Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents abuse tomorrow.

We can help to fund their vital services such as Childline - always there for children and young people, whatever their problem or concern. You can find out more about the NSPCC's work at nspcc.org.uk

Christmas Costume Donations

Now that Christmas is well and truly behind us, many families may be having a clear-out of wardrobes and storage boxes. If your child wore a costume for our Christmas productions and it is now too small, no longer needed, or you were planning to pass it on, we would be very grateful if you would consider donating it to the school.

We would also welcome donations of any other costumes suitable for Reception or younger children, which can be used to support role play, storytelling, performances and themed learning throughout the year.

Donated costumes are carefully stored and reused to support future nativity plays, drama activities and themed events. Having a bank of costumes allows us to ensure that all children can take part fully, without families feeling pressure to purchase new outfits each year.

If you are able to donate, please bring any clean costumes to the school office. Your support helps us to build a shared resource for the children and is a wonderful way of supporting our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support.