

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
3rd December 2021

The Wednesday word this week is **Preparation**. 'Joy, Prayer and Gratitude are three ways that prepare us to experience Christmas in an authentic way.' Pope Francis

Dear parents and families,

One of the aims at St Vincent's is to teach our children, not only the National Curriculum, but also values and principles to mould them into successful citizens ready to contribute to our society. This may sound, at first, complicated and even quite remote, given how young some of our children are. But everything begins in small measures.

We are lucky to have a very active School Council who are always vigilant of the needs of the school. I have probably mentioned to you before that they decided to have a group in the playground to ensure children are supported with their friendships and with any 'fall outs' they may have. You would be surprised by how the playground is sometimes a small replica of the adult world outside the school. There are unwritten rules and routines we don't even know about and who better to regulate this than the children themselves?

The School Council did not just pin point a few children and 'voila' the group was formed. They have met a few times to think about the objectives of their group; they have prepared questions which they then used to interview candidates and after extensive deliberation they have appointed the group. The children in the group call themselves 'Anti-bullying Ambassadors'; however, I think they are so much more than that. This is a baby step to connect children with the needs of others, to make them tuned in to issues like wellbeing, discrimination and above all, compassion and service.

Another group in school that is currently doing an impressive job is our 'Mini Vinnies', a group that aims to have the little hands of our children helping those in need by showing them they truly care. Our Mini Vinnies are a group of Year 3 children, who truly turn concern into action by using the principle of 'see, think, do' to find people in need and help them. So far they have organised a successful food collection for our local foodbank, boxes with Christmas cards for the residents of local care homes and they had planned visits to sing carols to the elderly (although this needed to be cancelled due to regulations). Well done, Mini Vinnies, you are true representatives of our values.

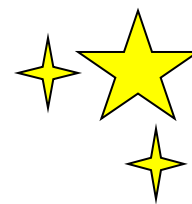
These are just a few examples of how our young people demonstrate social responsibility, how they understand that everyone is deserving and how they value diversity and all people.

Mrs Gonzalez

Admission to Reception September 2022

If you have a child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, please remember that the deadline for applications for Primary School admission in September 2022, is 15th January 2022. You should apply online on the website of the borough in which you live. In addition you should complete a Supplementary Information Form which can be found on the school website or may be obtained from the school office.

Stars of the Week



Reception – Lyla for bringing the festive cheer into our class room every day!

Year 1 – Arianna-Rose for creating a wonderful model house.

Year 1 – Eliza for showing the value of love – being ready to help others.

Year 2 – Ezra for showing great aspiration this week, working hard every day to behave well and follow instructions.

Year 3 – Selena for showing resilience by not giving up even when tasks seem hard.

Year 4 – Lena for being a kind and caring girl and for always working hard in class.

Year 5 – Raphaela for showing great resilience in her work.

Year 6 – Thomas for making a great improvement in his writing.

Year 6 – Cynthia for making a determined effort to improve her work.

Reminders

Please remember to return your Flu Vaccination form, Pupil Voice reply slip, Father Christmas booking form, General Permissions form and Fit4Future sponsor form, if you have not already done so.

Dates for your Diary

Nasal Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 8 th December
Christmas lunch	Wednesday 8 th December
Christmas Fair	Thursday 9 th December 3-5pm
Christmas jumper day	Friday 10 th December
Christmas Parties	TBC
Year 5 Carol Concert	Monday 13 th December 1.30pm
Year 6 Carol Concert	Monday 13 th December 2.15pm
Year 1 Nativity	Tuesday 14 th December 2pm
Reception Nativity	Wednesday 15 th December 2pm
Year 2 Nativity	Thursday 16 th December 2pm
Year 3 Carol Concert	Friday 17 th December 1.30pm
Year 4 Carol Concert	Friday 17 th December 2.15pm
Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 17 th December
First day of Spring Term	Tuesday 4 th January

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 8th 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

22 nd – 26 th November 2021	
Reception	96.0%
Year 1	98.7%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	96.5%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	96.0%
Whole school	96.7%



Gospel Reflection

Luke 3: 1-6

In Sunday's Gospel we'll learn how God speaks to John while he is in the desert.

John the Baptist goes round to the people and tells them to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. He offers to baptise them so that their sins will be forgiven. He wants them to turn back to God and ask for his forgiveness. Then they can make a fresh start and try to lead better lives.

God sent John to prepare the people for the coming of his son, Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and had the courage to stand before the crowds and Jewish priests and preach to them. He came to turn them away from sin and to change their hearts, so that they were ready to listen to the words of Jesus when he came.

Advent is a time when we think about our actions and try to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Jesus. We think about what we could do better and try to make a change to our lives.