

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
6th January 2023

Dear parents and families,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school!

I hope you had a safe and peaceful Christmas break filled with warm, happy and memorable moments with your children.

Thank you for all of your Christmas messages and for all of your generous gifts. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

The New Year is always a time for reflection, a time to take stock of where we are and to look ahead to where we want to get to. At St Vincent's, we take this time to refresh our philosophy of striving for improvement and our aim to give our children the tools to achieve personal success. All teaching staff continue with steely determination to support our children academically, physically and emotionally. At this pivotal point of the academic year, teachers will analyse the assessments completed last term and use this information to ensure we provide individualised learning for each child.

Parents will be invited this half term to make an appointment to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. We are organising Parents' Evening for the week commencing Monday 6th February.

As we move on from the time when online appointments were highly recommended, we are considering the best way forward for all of us. Historically, the appointments with the teachers have always been face-to-face. We now wonder, is that the most convenient method for everyone? On Monday, you will receive a survey to let us know your preference. Would you prefer a face-to-face appointment, an online one or perhaps you would not mind either way?

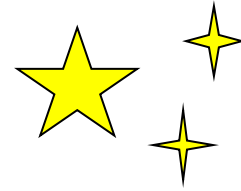
With this survey, we are just trying to gauge the general feeling. We will then use your answers to design the best possible fit for our Parents' Evening.

We are also offering parents the opportunity to come and see your child's books on Wednesday 1st February between 3:15 and 4:30pm during a drop-in session for all classes. This is a great chance to see how your child is getting on with their learning. On many occasions, this helps to prepare for the meeting with the class teacher the following week.

I would also like to thank the whole community for a tremendously successful Christmas Fair. Thank you for all your feedback, which was overwhelmingly positive. (Please see the review later in this newsletter.) I would also like to thank all of the families who donated items and to all of those who volunteered in some way on the day, your help made such a difference.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez



Stars of the Week

Reception – Fifi for always taking part really well in every activity set in the classroom.
Year 1 – Shaylen for trying his best and working hard in literacy, writing a character description,
Year 2 – Oliver for working hard and having imaginative ideas in literacy.
Year 3 – Isabelle for being very helpful in class and sharing her knowledge about the water cycle.
Year 4 – Leia for always being a kind and considerate friend and showing compassion to others.
Year 5 – Kiana for the lovely quality of gratitude.
Year 6 – Isabella for making a determined effort to improve her writing.

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

Year 4 Library visit	Wednesday 11 th January (leaving at 1:40pm)
Year 5 Mass	Wednesday 11 th January (leaving at 9am)
Year 5 Library visit	Wednesday 18 th January (leaving at 1:40pm)
Year 6 Mass	Wednesday 18 th January (leaving at 9am)
Year 4 Liturgy assembly	Wednesday 18 th January at 9am
Year 3 Mass	Wednesday 25 th January (leaving at 9am)
Year 6 Liturgy assembly	Wednesday 25 th January at 9am

Speaking with teachers

If you need to speak with a teacher after school, please wait to the side so that the teacher can firstly ensure all children from their class have been collected. Thank you.

Year 4 and Year 5 PE sessions

The yr 4 and yr 5 PE sessions with Charlton Athletic have now finished. The children will need to bring in their PE kits to change into on both Monday and Thursday's from next week. They will no longer have the Tuesday session.

Year 6 Swimming Lessons

The yr 6 swimming lessons will start on Monday 9th January. Please ensure your child remembers to bring their costume and a towel. Any help from parents who can walk down to swimming is appreciated. Please let Mr Moore know.

Thank you

All members of staff would like to thank you for your good wishes for Christmas and for your very kind and generous gifts and cards, which are much appreciated.

Christmas Fair Review Feedback

Please see here our questions and a summary of your responses.

Q. What do you think worked well at the Fair?

You were happy with:

Food stalls, organisation, staggered home times, spirit and hard work of staff, welcoming and smiling faces throughout, Father Christmas tickets sold in advance, fair prices, Raffle draw.

Q. What do you think we could do to make things even better?

Your suggestions:

More things for older children, more sitting areas, more children's games, more bottles for the tombola, have children running some stalls, use of outdoor area, better signs and details.

Q. Are there any other fundraising events that you would like us to look into?

Your preferences:

School disco, cake sale, quiz night for parents, an auction, St Vincent's got talent, Amazon Wish List, regular dress down days, Christmas, Easter and Summer Fair.

Thank you for all your responses. Overall, we were very pleased with the afternoon, although of course we have some improvements and ideas in mind for next time. Your feedback is very useful. I would like to thank all members of staff that made the Fair possible. They voluntarily dedicated their time and energy. Each stall was designed and organised by the staff team who run it on the day. Our teaching staff even involved their extended families; husbands created games, mums made crafts to sell and children donated their precious toys! All this to ensure children could have a great afternoon. Many members of staff also donated their own money to purchase items to prepare the fair as their contribution to the day. I can ensure you they were not expected to do that but they wanted, as always, to do the best for our children. Well done to all of them.

With such a good time, we raised £1970. A fabulous amount, which will entirely be spent on the purchase of extracurricular resources for the children.

Prayer and Reflection

With the arrival of the New Year, we start to put away signs of our Christmas celebrations: we finish off festive food, box up decorations, maybe recycling Christmas cards (and Christmas trees!) and perhaps generally breathe a sigh of relief about the return to normality. As we busy ourselves discarding all things of the festive season and look ahead to what 2023 might have in store, it is good to pause and remember that we are still in the season of Christmastide, which officially ends at Candlemas on 2nd February. We can leave many things behind, but hopefully the image of Jesus, God's gift of joy, hope and peace for the world remains.

Please find here a link where you will find some of the content children will experience in school throughout January and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope and pray that the New Year brings peace and blessings for you and your family.

<http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>