

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 21 May 2021

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderfully busy and enjoyable half term.

We started the half term with the children learning all about their new foundation subject topics. These were enriched by virtual trips and visitors, and culminated with our whole school history and PE/sports days this week.

We have continued to welcome our parish priests in to school to visit classes across both the infant and junior department, and celebrated Masses in school and via our school YouTube Channel and by linking in to masses at St Vincent's and Holy Angels. We have shared class assemblies and this week celebrated a whole school remote International Mass with our school community. We have also continued to share our parents' reflection sessions which, although small in number currently, provide valuable spiritual enrichment to the parents and grandparents who attend.

Class teachers have been able to meet virtually with parents to discuss their children's progress using School Cloud and our pastoral team have continued their fortnightly drop-in sessions.

As restrictions are gradually lifting, we hope to allow more opportunities for interaction but are making decisions based on the advice given by the government to ensure the safety of all.

I would like to thank you for your support as we have moved through the recovery of the pandemic, and I hope that we can be together as a community when the time is right.

COVID SAFETY

We continue to have Covid safety measures in place. These are outlined in our risk assessment. The children continue to wash their hands regularly and adhere to the measures in place in school. It is important that we still use every lever available to us in ensuring our community remains safe and that children stay in school. We ask that we work in partnership as we progress through the roadmap out of lockdown so that we can continue to keep safe.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

INTERNATIONAL MASS

This week we welcomed Fr Tom to school to celebrate our international mass. It was a truly moving occasion where we gave thanks for our diverse community. The mass was a wonderful example of how we value each and every child and family in our school; please take the time to hear our children read their mass parts in very many languages by following this link:



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<https://youtu.be/WoLEPVwPWIE>

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

It was a wet and rainy start to Walk to School Week but it did not deter our children from taking up the challenge and travelling sustainably to school. During the week, the children had the opportunity to track their journey on the wallchart and interactive travel tracker. Each day, they were able to add two stickers to the wallchart, bringing the walking superpowers to life and completing the comic strip, and also receiving an individual sticker for walking to school. The children will be bringing home the walking diaries they have completed during the week along with a badge if they have participated.

We are delighted to share that the support for this challenge was incredible. Reception, Y2 and Y6 were our most active year groups and showed that a good number of children took part. Please continue to support this important area for the safety and wellbeing of our children. A great way to support this is by cycling to school and using our newly installed cycle rack, which is situated on the school site near the Balmoral road's gate entrance. Please refer to the guidelines sent last week for safety information regarding cycling to and from school. This week the children took part in class based road safety lessons to reinforce safe travel; look out for important news about our scooter rack coming very soon.

MINI VINNIES

The Mini Vinnies have been busy selling Rosary beads this term and donations have been sent to Sister Josephine, a Marist sister, who works with refugees in Senegal. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and to the Year 6 Mini Vinnies.

RARING2GO

The new May Half Term issue of Raring2go! Altrincham & Sale is now available online. Inside there is a lot of useful information for families including details about what is on this half term, information about holiday clubs, local services and ideas for days out. You can read it by following this link – no endorsements are made by the school in any of its contents:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/altrinchamandsale/spring/>

COVID RECOVERY

We have been taking each of the five recovery levers and sharing information on one of them each week. This week, we will focus on metacognition.

Metacognition is the ability to examine how you process thoughts and feelings. This ability encourages children to understand how they learn best. It also helps them to develop self-awareness skills that become important as children get older. We have encouraged metacognition in all of our children by giving them many opportunities to reflect on what type of learner they are and how they can use strategies to become better learners. This term we



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have encouraged more independent learning and continued to embed our 'growth mindset' approach in everything we do.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS

It was wonderful to see all the children dressed up for History Day on Wednesday. It is an exciting way for them to immerse themselves in their current History topic and learn more about this period of time. Due to the restrictions that have been in place this year, it has been more difficult for children to take part in the school trips and visitors that we normally have to enrich and enhance our curriculum. Over the summer term, we have put into place virtual school trips or school visitors that will allow our children experience interactive and memorable learning experiences in order to deepen their knowledge in a safe way.

	Virtual/School Visitor	Subject - Topic
Reception	Dylan's Reptile World - Visitor	Understanding of the World - Minibeasts
Year 1	Dylan's Reptile World - Visitor	Science - Habitats
Year 2	Virtual Chester Zoo trip - Visitor	History - Our Local Heroes
Year 3	Mr Egypt - Visitor	History - Ancient Egyptians
Year 4	Virtual Reality Experience – Visitor	Geography - Volcanoes
Year 5	Virtual Reality Experience - Visitor	Geography – The Americas
Year 6	Robinwood – off site	Outdoor Pursuits
All year groups	We Are Adventurers - Visitor	Forest School linked to teamwork and outdoor education.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Year 2 Miss Campbell 100%
Highest junior class attendance	Year 4 Miss Jamieson 100%
Overall school attendance	98.3%

*Please note that disability related absence is not taken into account when calculating best attendance

We break up today for half term and return to school on Monday 7 June. I hope you enjoy spending time together and have an enjoyable break.

Kind regards,

Mrs Harrop

