

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQEL
Orchard Road
Altrincham
WA15 8EY

Email: admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk
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8th September 2023

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,



Welcome to 2023-2024 academic year. I hope that you enjoyed spending time with your family over the summer break.

I would like to warmly welcome our school community back to school. I would especially like to welcome our new reception children and parents to the St Vincent community. We are delighted that you have joined our St Vincent family. We are settling well into the new school year, and everyone has been busy getting to know school routines. We are sure that this year is going to be an exciting year, full of new experiences and exciting learning challenges.

Prayer for the start of term

Lord God, bless our school as we enter a new academic year.

May ours be a community of welcome and hope.

Watch over our pupils - so that they grow in understanding and love.

Encourage our staff - so that their service reveals your generosity and mercy.

Inspire our leaders - so that their actions show your wisdom and justice.

Loving Father, through the Trinity you teach us the importance of relationship,

Help us work together to accomplish your mission:

That all your children may have life to the full.

Amen



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SCHOOL PRAYERS

We say our school prayers through the day. The children know the prayers well, but it is also important for parents to know our prayers. Please see the link to our school prayers on our website [here](#).

WELCOME SUNDAY ST VINCENT'S CHURCH

Welcome Sunday this year is the 16th and 17th September. After each of the Masses at St Vincent's church, the community will have a chance to meet and mingle with people and refreshments will be served. This is part of our parish initiative to build our community.

As part of Welcome Sunday, we especially invite all families with children starting reception to the 10am Children's Mass and all families with children starting Year 7 to the 6:30pm Mass. At these Masses a blessing will be given for the start of this new step in the children's academic life.

Help needed - we need a few volunteers to help serve refreshments during Welcome Sunday. If you could offer a little bit of time before or after Mass please sign up on the poster at the back of church.

On 17th September, it is also the Altrincham 10k meaning that the local area will be busy. Please check your route on www.altrincham10k.com

PARENT CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Each year we hold year group curriculum meetings for parents. During the meeting the class teachers will talk through the curriculum content for the year and activities the children will do. This is a good opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and learn about how we can work together to support teaching and learning.

| Date | Year Group | Time of meeting | Location |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Wednesday 27 th September | Y3 | Y3 Curriculum Evening 4:30 - 5:15pm | Junior hall |
| | Y4 | Y4 Curriculum Evening 5:15 - 6:00pm | |
| | Y5 | Y5 Curriculum Evening 6:00 - 6:45pm | |
| | Y6 | Y6 Curriculum Evening 6:45 - 7:30pm | |
| Thursday 28 th September | Reception | Reception Curriculum Evening 4:30 - 5:15pm | Infant hall |
| | Reception/Y1/Y2 | Phonics Workshop R/Y1/Y2 5:15 - 5:45pm | |
| | Y1 | Y1 Curriculum Evening 5:45 - 6:30pm | |
| | Y2 | Y2 Curriculum Evening 6:30 - 7:15pm | |



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THE SCHOOL DAY REMINDER



The school day is as follows:

| | Infant Department | Junior Department |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Classroom doors open | 8:45am | 8:40am |
| Morning bell | 9:00am | 8:55am |
| Afternoon bell | 3:30pm | 3:25pm |

When the classroom doors open, children are allowed to enter their classrooms. There is a morning activity for the children to start at this time and this enables the children to settle into their classroom. This arrangement also eases playground and traffic congestion in the morning.

At the end of the day, we ask children and parents to make their way to the exits by 3:45pm so that our site manager, Mr Brindley can lock the gates to ensure the site is secure. Children are not permitted to play on school playground equipment or field after school. Other activities take place after school and we need the site to be cleared and secure as part of our safeguarding arrangements.

PUNCTUALITY

Please ensure your child arrives at their classroom door before the morning bell, which is 9am for the infant department and 8:55am for the junior department. This facilitates a calm and prompt start to the day.

ATTENDANCE

We want our children to have excellent attendance and achieve well. Please note that we do not authorise holidays in term time. Please refer to our [term dates](#) before booking a holiday to ensure it is booked within the half term holiday.

Please also note that we do not permit a child to leave school early to travel.

As part of our safeguarding procedures, if your child is too poorly to attend school, please notify the school office by phoning or emailing to report the reason for absence on 0161 911 8040 or admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk

Please note that all routine, non-urgent medical appointments such as the dentist and opticians should be made outside of the school day.



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REDUCING CONGESTION - PARK AND STRIDE



Many of our parents park and stride to school by taking advantage of free parking in the large Tesco carpark. Parents can park for free then walk to school and enter school via the Balmoral gate.

We know that there are many benefits to walking to school. It helps children learn road safety skills so that when children begin to walk on their own. Walking together also gives children a chance to talk and notice the world around them. Children then arrive at school feeling refreshed and ready to learn.

As our main school entrances are down two cul-de-sacs, we ask that cars do not drive down Orchard or Osborne Road unless absolutely necessary so that our children are not put in any danger. There is no parent parking on these roads. Please also note that keen traffic wardens patrol Orchard and Osborne Rd.

SCHOOL ENTRANCE GATES

As a reminder, parents can enter school through any school gate. We have gates on:

Orchard Rd

Osborne Rd

Balmoral Rd

Stockport Rd at the end of the ginnel next to the golf course.

Please note that we do not permit dogs on site apart from assistance dogs.

SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENTS



We serve delicious meals prepared and cooked on site. The menus can be found on our website [here](#). Infant meals are free and funded through the government initiative Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).



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The government does not fund the meals in the junior department, so parents are required to pay for them. Please note that payments must be made via [ParentPay](#) prior to the half term being taken. The funds need to be in the lunch account before a meal can be accessed. Parents also have the option of paying in full for the whole term or year if they wish.

Meals cost £2.50 per day, £12.50 a week for pupils in years 3 to 6. The half termly cost of meals can be found as follows:

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Autumn 1 | £85.00 |
| Autumn 2 | £95.00 |
| Spring 1 | £70.00 |
| Spring 2 | £70.00 |
| Summer 1 | £72.50 |
| Summer 2 | £82.50 |

HEALTHY EATING SNACKS

Reception and infant children receive a government funded piece of fruit each day for their break time snack.

The government does not fund fruit for junior aged children. Children in the junior department are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit to school for their mid-morning snack. We discourage processed snacks.

We have noted that some parents ask to give out treats to their child's class on their birthday. Whilst this is a kind gesture, over the year this can add up to lots of sweets and is not in keeping with our healthy eating approach. We also have a number of children with severe allergies or dietary requirements. For this reason, and in line with many other schools, we ask parents to refrain from giving out sweets. This is also in line with our school, nursery and Sunshine Club policy.

NUT FREE SCHOOL



Several of our children have nut allergies. For this reason, it is vitally important that children do not bring in products containing nuts or have traces of nuts in their snack or for their packed lunch.



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SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK



We have some donated uniform we would like to offer to parents. In order to organise our uniform we need a clothes rail. If any parent has a clothes rail and clothes hangers they would like to donate, please can you drop it off at reception. That way we will be able to wheel our uniform onto the playground easily for parents to browse.

It has been a lovely warm week this week. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school, a named hat and has sun cream applied to help the children keep safe in the sun.

We offer an open door to parents. If you have any questions about school life, please liaise with your class teacher. Mrs Farrell (infant deputy head), Mrs Sutton (junior deputy head), and I are also available to work in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher