

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Email: admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk
Web: stvincents.trafford.sch.uk
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1st March 2024

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

LITURGICAL SEASON OF LENT

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful



Thank you to Canon Jonathan and Fr Monroe for celebrating Mass with us yesterday. It was also lovely to see so many parents join us for Mass.

This week we launched our Big Lent Walk and had a special visit from Charles from CAFOD. After the assembly, every class completed a daily mile and we are currently 5 on the national leader board. Thank you for giving so generously to this important cause.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION



You will know that last month we received two special letters from Damian Hinds, Minister of State (Education) for our statutory test results from last academic year. We are delighted to share that we received another letter from him this week, recognising the high performance of the school. The letter congratulated us on being in the top 2% of the country for our SATs results. Once again, thank you for the continued dedication of our staff team for expert teaching and for all of the parental support we receive.

Please follow the links to see the recognition letters:



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[St Vincent's Year 1 Phonics results - top 4% in the country letter](#)

[St Vincent's Year 4 Multiplication Check results - top 200 schools in the country letter](#)

[St Vincent's Year 6 Reading, Writing and Maths results- top 2% in the country letter](#)

READING ACTIVITIES

School Values: Be Passionate about Learning



Years 4, 5 and 6 were very excited to have a visit from Tamzin Merchant, to talk about her new book: The Troublemakers. We got the opportunity to create some ideas for our own writing and to learn some more about being an author. Copies of the book (and the first two in the series) will be available in the junior department library.

Don't forget World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, we're really looking forward to seeing your costume creations. Our KS2 Poet Laureate, Ben, was inspired to write a haiku about it! You can find his amazing work in our library.

BLUE PETER BOOK BADGE

School Values: Be Passionate about Learning



Over Christmas we challenged the children to apply for their Blue Peter Reading Club badge and the first ones are starting to come through this week. Congratulations to those children and remember there is no deadline to apply.

Please let us know if your child receives a Blue Peter reading badge so we can congratulate them on their success. Please follow the link for more details. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>



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MATHEMATICS PROBLEM SOLVING

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This week, the children have had a fantastic time taking part in Maths workshops delivered by The Problem-Solving Company. The children were encouraged to build on important qualities like cooperation, resilience and teamwork while developing their mathematical problem-solving and reasoning skills. The Infant department had a wonderful time investigating how 2D shapes can be created by piecing together other shapes, for example, how a square can be created from pentominoes. Meanwhile, the Junior department gathered and solved clues as part of an escape room experience, recapping prior knowledge that they have learned over the course of their education. Thank you to our wonderful PTA who funded this enrichment for us.

STAY AND SHARE AND STAY AND PLAY

School Values: Be Passionate about Learning



It was wonderful to welcome Reception parents to school for Stay and Play sessions this week. Thank you for all of the lovely feedback on our parent survey too.

We also had a well-attended Stay and Share session today for Years 1-6. Lots of parents came to school to see pupil work on display in the classroom and in class books. The date of the next opportunity to see pupil books is Thursday 21st March on Parents' Evening where a snapshot report will also be given.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful

This week we have added the Music Curriculum update to the newsletter. You can also follow the link below for all other curriculum updates: <https://www.stvincents.trafford.sch.uk/page/curriculum/63387>



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Music Curriculum Overview



Be Respectful - We develop respect and tolerance for others by learning about different places and cultures.



Be Passionate about Learning - We challenge ourselves to know and understand the world better.



Be Kind - We learn about our place in creation to be compassionate citizens of the world.



Make a Difference - We learn about our place in the world so that we can responsibly make difference and look after our planet.

Music at St Vincent's

'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.' Plato

At St Vincent's we aim to educate the whole child using a broad and balanced curriculum, in order that every child can fulfil their potential and 'let their light shine'. We recognise the importance of Music education and realise that it is an essential way for children to express themselves and is a way of celebrating the uniqueness of each child.

We have a specialist Music teacher from Trafford Music Service (Mrs Ridd) who comes in to teach curriculum music lessons for children in KS2.

However, we recognise that Music is integral to the wider life of the school, improves mental health, resilience, self-esteem and confidence and so is not limited to discrete weekly Music lessons.

Music is an essential part of our varied Liturgical celebrations and; 'When we sing we praise twice' (St Augustine).



WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

In the Spring Term our Year 4 children will start to learn the recorder and our Year 5 children will have the opportunity to learn a brass instrument. Learning an instrument is an amazing experience that can help a child to begin a lifelong love of music.

Practice – If possible, it's best to practice at least four times a week for 10 minutes.

It's a good motto to try to be your child's greatest fan

Little things like having a good space (not a cold room or with the television on) help with practise. Reward schemes like sticker charts can also work well.



Spring 1

These are the topics being taught this half term in music:

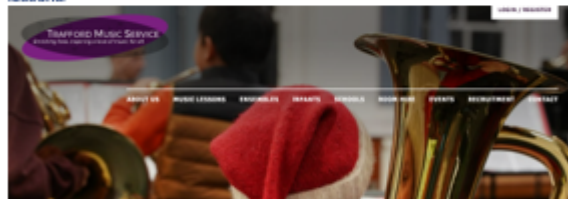
EYFS	Continuous provision and Nursery rhymes
Year 1	Introducing tempo and dynamics
Year 2	Exploring feelings through Music
Year 3	More musical styles
Year 4	Recorders 1
Year 5	Exploring time and key signatures
Year 6	Gaining confidence through performance

Have you looked at the Trafford Music Website?

Trafford Music Service have an extensive programme of singing and instrumental ensembles for children of different ages and abilities, based at The Claremont Centre in Sale.

Please follow the link to their timetable of ensemble groups:
<https://traffordmusicservice.co.uk/ensembles/timetable/>

They also offer a wide range of lessons. Please follow this link for further information about lessons available: <https://traffordmusicservice.co.uk/music-lessons/>



In addition to our classroom based offer, St Vincent's have a wide range of Music lessons delivered by highly skilled specialist teachers. The teachers come into school once a week and offer paired or individual twenty minute lessons for the guitar, violin, piano, or wind instrument.

If you are interested in your child learning an instrument please use the contact details below:

String Instruments: Violin, Viola, Guitar, Cello:
https://traffordmusicservice.co.uk/primary-schools/st-vincents-primary-school/?listings_page_id=245

Wind instruments: Julian Bryan - julianbryan@hotmail.co.uk

Piano: Alison Gee <https://www.alisongeeepiano.co.uk/>



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SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

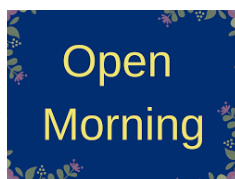
School Values: **Make a Difference** **Be Passionate about Learning** **Be Kind** **Be Respectful**



Please see the safeguarding newsletter attached. The focus this month is on the use of social media. Please do take a read of this important information.

OPEN MORNING

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We will be having our Open Morning on Wednesday 6th March. We will welcome prospective parents to have a tour and see the School and Nursery in action. Please let friends and family know about it and to contact admin on admissions@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk to book a slot on a tour at either 9:15am, 10am, 10:45am or 11:15am.

ATTENDANCE

School Values: **Make a Difference** **Be Passionate about Learning** **Be Kind** **Be Respectful**



Please see below the attendance percentages for **last week**.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
RML	97.41	2AB	98.75	4CG/EL	96.25
RLT	92.5	2OW/CR	98.33	5CL	99.17



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RLD	91.25	3DM	95.83	5LM	97.08
1AM	100	3LH	91.94	5DH	96.67
1MH	97.41	3CN/JJ	97.18	6NS	100
1CR	85.83	4ML	98.75	6SK/CO	96.67
2LC	96.67	4JK	96.67	6DB	91.94
Overall percentage: 96.47%					

DATES FOR SPRING 2 HALF TERM

Day	Date	Event	Location
Wednesday	06 March	Open Morning	Across school
Thursday	07 March	World Book day – pupils dress up as a book character	-
Thursday	07 March	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05: led by Y3 Mrs Needham/Mrs Jennings' class	Junior hall
Thursday	07 March	Y3 Sacramental Programme First Holy Communion Meeting: 6:30pm	Junior hall
Friday	08 March	Parent's 'Stay and Pray': 9:05am Led by Y4	Junior hall
Monday	11 March	British Science & Engineering Week	-
Thursday	14 March	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05am: led by Y3 Miss Hutton's class	Junior hall
Friday	15 March	Parent's 'Stay and Pray': 9:05 led by Y3	Junior hall
Monday	18 March	Y1 Lenten performance dress rehearsal	
Tuesday	19 March	Y1 Lenten performance: 9:05am	Infant hall
Tuesday	19 March	Y4 Parent Meeting – Multiplication Check	Junior hall
Wednesday	20 March	Y1 Lenten performance: 9:05am	Infant hall



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Thursday	21 March	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05am: Led by Y6 Mrs O' Keefe/Miss Kirk's class	Junior hall
Thursday	21 March	Parents' Evening 3:45 - 7pm	Both departments
Monday	25 March	KS2 Lenten Service: 6:30pm	Holy Angels Church
Thursday	28 March	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05am: Led by Y4 Mrs Gerrard/Mrs Leather's class	Junior hall
Thursday	28 March	PTA Easter Eggstravaganza: 3:30pm	Infant hall and playground
Thursday	28 March	School closes for Easter	-
EASTER HOLIDAY			

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