

# ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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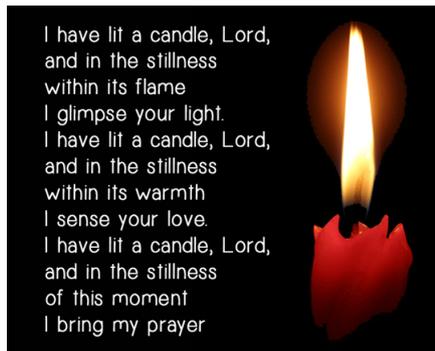
4 February 2022

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

### CANDLEMAS

This week, on 2 February, we celebrated Candlemas. Each child made and painted a tealight holder which they will bring home with a battery operated tealight. We have seen some wonderful designs and the children have really enjoyed talking about how they let their light shine. Mrs Wormall and Mrs Gerrard's Year 1 class led a beautiful assembly on the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and talked about their talents too.



### CHINESE NEW YEAR

This week we had an assembly in both departments to celebrate Chinese New Year. Our halls were brightly decorated with Chinese lanterns and pictures and we enjoyed a Chinese style lunch whilst listening to traditional Chinese music. We learnt about the Year of the Tiger and the Zodiac story. In Reception we did our own Lion Dance. You can find out more about this on our Twitter page.



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## SAFER INTERNET DAY



Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Safer Internet Day 2022 will be celebrated on **Tuesday 8 February** with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

The pupil digital leaders have been preparing assemblies to present to their class and all children will take part in a range of lessons and activities throughout the day that promote online safety. The children will also make a personalised keyring as a reminder of the importance of the day.

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH



The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Growing Together**.

**Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Please see the free resources from Place 2 Be on this link. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Nursery and Reception will be coming together for an afternoon of activities focused on wellbeing. They will be roasting marshmallows, den building, woodwork, junk modelling, making bug hotels and



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minibeast and bird feeders. Across the school we will be focusing on 'growing together' and taking part in mindful activities.

## THERAPY DOG VISIT



Next week on Friday 11 February we will be having a visit from a VIP – a Very Important Pooch! The visit is part of a newly established partnership between St. Vincent's and Therapy Dogs Nationwide. The organisation places temperament assessed dogs with their volunteer handlers into schools under their 'Paws & Read Scheme' which is recognised by The Kennel Club. Research suggests children can be nervous and uncomfortable when reading aloud in a classroom environment. The 'Paws & Read' Programme allows these children to read to a therapy dog, as they are non-judgemental, attentive and perfect listeners.

So next week we will be welcoming Shakespeare, a Great Dane for a short visit. For this initial visit he will visit the infant department and we may even have time for him to hear a story or two! We will arrange the KS2 visit for after half term. Please let us know by Wednesday 9 February if your child is allergic to dogs via [this form](#). We can't wait to meet Shakespeare and his owner, and begin this exciting new journey for our school.

## PTA BALL



The PTA Ball was first scheduled for 2020. Due to uncertainty and restrictions it was moved to June 2022. Unfortunately the team in place in 2020 has now moved on or have other commitments. We are looking for a few more people to join our current organising team, the main jobs will be organising the silent auction, the tables and decorations and the tickets.



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If you feel you could help please get in touch at [stvincentspta@gmail.com](mailto:stvincentspta@gmail.com). No previous experience needed. This could be a wonderful occasion to come together, have fun and raise funds for the children to enjoy.

## KEY DATES FOR SPRING 1

|          |             |  |   |
|----------|-------------|--|---|
| Monday   | 07 February | Children's Mental Health Week              | School activity                           |
| Tuesday  | 08 February | Safer Internet Day                         | School activity                           |
| Thursday | 10 February | KS2 Class Assembly: Y4 Mrs Bullock's Class | Junior department hall class parents only |
| Friday   | 11 February | Parents' Reflection: 10am                  | Zoom                                      |
| Friday   | 11 February | School closes for half term                |   |

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

Each week we report attendance. Please note we do not authorise holidays in term time.

| Attendance Percentages          |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Highest infant class attendance | Y1 Mr McCann, Y1 Mrs Wormall/Mrs Gerrard and Y2 Mrs Burke/Mrs Leather all 100% |
| Highest junior class attendance | Y4 Mrs Bullock 100%  |
| Overall school attendance       | 97.46%   |

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

We work in partnership with parents. Mrs Tiernan (deputy head teacher based in the infant department), and Mrs Farrell (deputy head teacher based in the junior department), and I are very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher

