



11 February 2022

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Her Majesty The Queen has devoted herself to a life of service guided by faith. Sunday 6 February marked an historical and significant anniversary in the reign of our Queen. Seventy years ago, Queen Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died and, at the young age of 25, she became Queen. This week the children have been learning about the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession and have made a special card for her in Year 1.

Today we pray for Her Majesty and give thanks to God for her constant duty and service to our country and the Commonwealth. In the words of Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, who wrote on February 6, the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession of the throne:

*Today we truly rejoice in Her Majesty, our Queen Elizabeth.
We thank God for her shining, platinum, witness of service,
full of faith and dignity.
We offer our prayers to God for her and her family.
May God bless you, Your Majesty.
Amen*

PASTORAL DROP IN

Do you want to have a chat with our pastoral staff? Mrs Robinson and Mrs Gee are available to talk about any aspect of home or school life. The next drop in for parents is on **Tuesday 22 February** 2pm-3:30pm. You can sign up for a call by following the details below. Please visit <https://stvincentscatholicprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointment.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Tuesday 8 February was Safer Internet Day. During the day, teachers explored the theme: 'All fun and games?' Exploring respect and relationships online with their classes, children designed a keyring with a character or message from the assembly they had watched and Year 2 had a presentation from Community Support Officer Lindsay King.

Please find attached, useful information for parents on how to keep your children safe online. The information below includes some commonly used apps and games and their age ratings. These



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ratings are carefully considered and we would encourage parents to check these. Please also find attached useful information on managing screen time.



ONLINE SAFETY BEHAVIOURS – BEING KIND ONLINE

We expect our children to behave online and when using their phones as they would in school, showing care and consideration to their friends and others.

We know from the work we have been doing this week that bullying on phones, chat apps, as well as the sharing of distressing images or voice messages between friendship groups can significantly impact children's mental health. This can usually be avoided if we remind children and young people to look out for their friends, not say anything that they wouldn't like to hear themselves, and always stop or stand up for others if someone gets upset.

We expect our children to:

- Hand in their phones to their class teacher **at the beginning of the day** and under no circumstances keep them in their bag or elsewhere in school
- Think carefully before sending any content. Is this something I would not mind my parent seeing? Do we check what our children are sending/sharing?
- Never exclude other children from a group and not to say negative things
- Be open with parents about what is shared/sent
- Always behave responsibly and with consideration for the feelings of others



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As parents, we encourage you to check your child's phone and internet/online use regularly to ensure that they are not watching or sending anything inappropriate (e.g. some YouTube content). We would also encourage parents to remove devices from bedrooms and not allow use late in the evening.

It is really important children get the opportunity to chat to friends. We are sure that this will continue over the holidays, so please help us reinforce some key messages about appropriate behaviour to keep everyone safe and happy. Please find some reminders about how to be kind online attached.

We are appreciative of your support in this matter which helps us to safeguard our children from harm.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

This week was Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Growing Together. We have been encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. We had a special assembly and throughout the week, we focused on the 5 ways to wellbeing by doing the '**5 ways in 5 days**'. Here are some of the activities we chose from:

- **Monday: Be Active** - physical activities during the day, Joe Wicks, Yoga, Daily Mile on the new track, 5-a-day, GoNoodle, Cosmic Kids Yoga
- **Tuesday: Connect** - Safer Internet day - how do we connect safely with others via the internet?
- **Wednesday: Learn** – we learnt a poem or a new word from the dictionary
- **Thursday: Take Notice** - mindful activity during the day, a mindful walk, a Jigsaw PSHE lesson, mindful colouring, an activity from Cosmic Kids
- **Friday: Give** - Do a household chore, help a sibling with their schoolwork, do a good deed for someone

Please find information for parents and carers on supporting children's mental health here <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

As a Catholic school we promote the Gospel values of love and forgiveness. We are an inclusive school and welcome and value everyone, celebrating and valuing our differences, our uniqueness and that we are all equally loved by God.

To ensure that our children are taught to live out these values, the school has adopted the 'No Outsiders in Our School' text based approach, through which our children learn about equality and diversity. This is one aspect of how we teach children about equality and diversity through the curriculum.



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We believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by those who learn, teach and visit here. We encourage all of our community to 'let their light shine'.

Teachers use 'No outsiders in our school' as a resource using a quality text. These beautiful picture books are used to explore themes and further information is given in the long term plan on our website [here](#). This resource will be used to enrich further our PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic Education) curriculum, where children are taught to recognise and celebrate diversity and difference in their own community and in the wider society. The programme looks at using one picture book per half term, which is used to deliver one aspect of the Equality Act. Many of these books you may have already shared at home.

THERAPY DOG VISIT TODAY

We had such a wonderful time today with our therapy dog, Shakespeare. He visited each of the infant classrooms with his owner Diane and we think he was so impressed with the children at St. Vincent's that he can't wait to come back again after the half term holiday to see our children in KS2.



PTA EVENTS

Our PTA and school staff have been working behind the scenes to plan for a return to our fundraising activities for children, parents and families. We are delighted to confirm the following:

Friday 1 April	Easter Eggstravaganza from 3:15pm Whole school event taking place in the infant hall and playground with Easter themed games and refreshments
Friday 29 April	Year 2 Disco from 6:30pm - 7:45pm - Infant Hall Y2 children only Y5/6 Film Night from 6:15pm - 8:00pm - Junior Hall Y5/6 children only
Friday 6 May	Year 1 Disco from 6:30pm - 7:45pm - Infant Hall Y1 children only Y3/4 Film Night from 6:15pm - 8:00pm - Junior Hall Y3/4 children only
Friday 8 July	Reception Disco from 3:45pm – 5pm - Infant Hall Reception children only



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Tickets will be available to purchase on ParentPay after half term. We will notify parents when they go on sale.

We are asking for volunteer parent helpers for the Y1 and Y2 Disco and the Y3/4 and Y5/6 Film Nights. If your child is attending one of the year group events, we would be grateful for your support as a volunteer at the event. Please email PTA admin at stvincentspta@gmail.com if you can help.

FEBRUARY

The PTA has arranged another exciting fundraiser for the half term. Further information is attached and can be found below. We would love to see pictures of the children completing the challenge on the PTA Facebook page. We hope you enjoy this fun challenge!

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Challenge You to raise £20.22 in 2022

SOME IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING INCLUDE...

BAKE SALE	SPONSORED SWIM	CAR WASH
SPONSORED RUN	READATHON	TOY SALE

You could fundraise as an individual or as a family.
How you fundraise is completely up to you!

BEST OF LUCK!

We ask all children to return their sponsorship form and funds on Tuesday 1st March 2022.

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Please see the link below for some exciting half term activities.

<https://raring2go.co.uk/altrincham-and-sale/articles/whatson/february-half-term-fun-for-the-whole-family>



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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	Reception Miss Hollins and Y1 Miss Hutton both 100%
Highest junior class attendance	Y4 Mrs Bullock 100%
Overall school attendance	95.95%

We break for half term today and return on Monday 21 February. I hope you enjoy a good half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher

