

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQH
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25 March 2022

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

LENT

Today the children took part in a Mindfulness session as part of our Lenten fundraising. Thank you for your donations of £1 for this activity. Next **Friday 01 April**, the Class Appeals event will be taking place. Each class has decided on their chosen charity and will be participating in the activities below.

Each year group have chosen a charity they will raise funds for:

Year Group	Charity	Activity Suggested donation of £1 to wear the following to school ...
Reception	Ambitious about Autism	Sponsored obstacle course
Year 1	Unicef	Crazy Hair Day
Year 2	The Sunflower of Peace	Crazy Tie Day
Year 3	The British Red Cross	Silly socks
Year 4	UNICEF	Danceathon
Year 5	Red Cross in Ukraine	Cake sale and Limbo contest
Year 6	Team Felix	Bring and Buy Book Sale

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), 21 March, is a global awareness day, which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The date for WDSD, being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome. For World Down Syndrome Day 2022, Down Syndrome International is asking, 'What does inclusion mean?' #InclusionMeans.

Together we can empower people around the world to advocate for full inclusion in society for people with Down Syndrome and disabilities, and indeed, for everyone.

World Down Syndrome Day <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/about-wdsd>



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BBC Teach Alexandra's Story:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/pshe-ks2-downs-syndrome/znfb92p>

21 March is also International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The day commemorates the lives of those who died to fight for democracy and equal human rights for all and empowers people around the world to fight racism. Our work in school and in particular our work on Rights Respecting Schools encourages us to think about our rights and the rights of others.



PARENT MEETINGS

We are pleased that we have been able to welcome parents on site for parent meetings and for parents to see all of the hard work in books. Some parents were unable to attend due to covid. As we aim for 100% attendance, please can parents who were unable to make appointments contact the class teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - HAVE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED?

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are offered a free and healthy school lunch, known as Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) whether they are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or not. Even if your child receives UFSM, it is still important for the school to know whether eligibility exists for FSM as this may lead to additional school funding. Children in school years 3 to 6 will also be offered a free lunch if they meet certain criteria for FSM.



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Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed part of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as your annual gross income is £16,190 or less and you don't get Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit run-off after you come off Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit that you applied for on, or after, 1 April 2018. As long as your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax, not including any benefits

Registering for Free School Meals could also raise an extra **£1,320** for your child's school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above; please contact admin if you want any more information.

MINI VINNIES – EASTER CHICKS

The Mini Vinnies will be selling Easter Chicks across the school. The chicks (with crème egg) will be on sale for £2 each and all proceeds will go directly to Francis House Children's Hospice.

SPRING 2 DATES LIST

DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Thursday	31 March	Reception Miss Turnbull's class parents to attend 9:05am	Infant department hall
Friday	1 April	Easter Extravaganza	Infant department playground and hall
Tuesday	05 April	Junior Lenten Service: Year 5 to lead. 6.30pm Y3-6 Children and parents	Holy Angels Church
Tuesday	05 April	Y1 Lenten Liturgy 9:15am – Y1 parents only	Infant Hall
Wednesday	06 April	Y1 Lenten Liturgy 9:15am – Y1 parents only	Infant Hall
Thursday	07 April	Infant and Junior Mass in each dept. for all children and staff only	Department Halls
Friday	08 April	Parent's Reflection: 10am	St. Vincent's School
EASTER HOLIDAY			



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

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Rec Mrs R Lawrence's Class 99.3%
Highest junior class attendance	Y5 Mr J Kerigan's Class 100 %
Overall school attendance	96.5 %

*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

