

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop, MEd NPQH

23 September 2016

Headteacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

New School Year Mass

We celebrated our first whole school mass this week with Father John, Father Martin and Deacon John. It was lovely to welcome our new reception children and to see so many parents join us.

St. Vincent's Feast Day on Tuesday 27 September

We will mark the feast day of St. Vincent by thinking of others as he did and this year we would like to support the work of Trafford South Foodbank by helping people in the local community. We are asking for donations of the following:

- Toiletries - shampoo, shower gel, bath soak, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items, toilet roll
- Baby items - nappies, wipes

Please bring in donations **on Tuesday 27 September** in a bag/container to your child's teacher. The items will be taken to Timperley Methodist Church on Wednesday 28 September. If you are able to help with transportation please contact the office, we would be extremely grateful.

Curriculum Meetings

Curriculum evenings start next week. Please see below for the final reminder:

Wednesday 28 September

- Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents 4:30 - 5:00pm
- Reception Curriculum meeting 5:00 - 6:00pm
- Phonics Workshop for Y1 Parents 5:30 - 6:00pm
- Y1 and Y2 Curriculum meeting 6:00 - 7:00pm

Thursday 29 September

- Y3 and Y4 Curriculum meeting 4:00 - 5:00pm
- Y5 and Y6 Curriculum meeting 5:15 - 6:15pm
- Y6 PHSE Meeting 6:30pm

Dyslexia Steering Group

This year, one aspect of our continuous school improvement will focus on developing dyslexia friendly practice in school. At the end of the summer term we made a request for parents to volunteer to be part of the steering group if they feel that their experience in this area could assist the school.

We have had a good response and will be in touch soon with those who expressed an interest. There is still time to register your interest by emailing the school on pupil@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk, marking it FAO Mrs Tiernan and you will be contacted shortly.

LEGO Therapy Training

This week in school our teaching assistants attended 'LEGO therapy' training delivered by a speech and language therapist. Ground breaking research in this field has been pioneered by innovative and creative researchers who have shown that significant gains can be made in social development through LEGO play for our younger children. LEGO therapy helps children to learn and practise social skills through facilitated, collaborative, group play.

Sessions are structured and rule governed, and children take it in turns to play one of three roles - the builder, the supplier or the engineer. Sessions consist of two parts; working together to build a set with instructions and 'freestyle' building. Children have the opportunity to work towards rewards and an emphasis is placed on promoting positive social behaviour and developing communication skills.

We are developing our resources in this area and would welcome any sets of LEGO (or similar) in good condition. Please can you leave any donations at the school office.

Walking Bus

All information and registration forms for the school's Walking Bus are now available on the school website:

<http://stvincents.trafford.sch.uk/page/the-walking-bus/27905>

Data Collection Sheets

Thank you to everyone who has returned the data collection sheets and detailed medical forms so far. Please can any outstanding forms be returned to the office by **Wednesday 28 September**. We are now also obliged to ask for additional information on first language, nationality and ethnic background. This information has been requested by the Department for Education. Attached is a further form to be completed by all parents and we kindly request that forms are returned by **Wednesday 28 September**. Paper copies are available in each school office.

Attendance

Thank you to the many families who have started the year with excellent attendance and punctuality. This really makes a difference to your children's learning. From now on we will be reporting the best attending class in the infants and juniors and the overall school percentage each week.

Attendance Percentages	
Best infant class attendance	Mr Nicholls 100%
Best junior class attendance	Mrs Kaczmarczyk, Miss Carr and Mr Sands 100%
Overall school attendance	97.95%

In line with our safeguarding and attendance procedures, we monitor attendance and punctuality for each child each day. The government deems attendance below 90% to be persistent absence. For this reason, we are obliged to liaise with families where attendance is below this figure.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Parents are invited to the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September from 9:00 to 11am in the junior hall. Cake donations will be greatly received from **Thursday 29 September**. All proceeds from the morning will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

PTA

This week we held our first PTA meeting of the year. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend. We have lots of new ideas to raise money and we look forward to developing them in the coming year. I would like to thank Sarah Gough and Sarah Liddell who stood down as co-chairs. They have worked tirelessly to lead the PTA and I thank them for their time and commitment in their role. They have kindly promised to help support the PTA so we will still see them at PTA meetings and events. Please see below the committee members:

- Anna Leslie and Sarah White - Co-chairs
- Louisa Regan - Vice Chair
- Sarah Etheridge - Secretary
- Sarah Smith and Jeremy Da Gama Rose - Treasurers

The PTA will be meeting on 20 October at 7:30pm in the infant hall to start planning for the Christmas Fair. If you were unable to make the last meeting, please do come along to this meeting. You will be made to feel most welcome.

Finally, thank you for ensuring the children are wearing their autumn uniform. We ask that all items of uniform are clearly labelled.

We aim to be a listening school and offer an open door to parents. Mr Blain, deputy head teacher is based in the junior department and Mrs Tiernan, deputy head teacher is based in the infant department and both will be very happy to answer any initial questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,



A. Harrop (Mrs)
Headteacher

