

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop, MEd NPQH

24 February 2017

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the half term break. We have lots of exciting events planned for this half term.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

We are now in the liturgical season of Lent. Lent is a special time of prayer in preparation for the celebration of Easter. To help our pupils and families prepare during this important time in the Church's Liturgical Calendar, we are organising a range of special events.

MASS AND LITURGY

There will be a liturgy led by Deacon John and the children from Mrs McDuff's class on **Ash Wednesday 1 March** and class parents are welcome to attend. There will also be an Ash Wednesday Mass celebrated by Father John in the Junior department where all parents and families are welcome. Both services start at 9:05am.

There will be a Lenten Mass on **Wednesday 29 March** at 9:05am in the Infant Hall and **Wednesday 5 April** at 9:10am in the Junior Hall.

There will be a Lenten Prayer Service on **Tuesday 11 April** at 6:30pm at Holy Angels. This is a key stage two activity and will be led by key stage two pupils. Key stage two parents are welcome to attend.

Year 1 will present an Easter Liturgy on **Wednesday 12 April** at 9:30am and Year 1 parents are very welcome to come along.

PURPLE WEDNESDAY

Each Wednesday will be 'Purple Wednesday'. Pupils will be encouraged to wear an item of purple clothing or accessory. This could be an accessory such as a **belt, bobble, hairband, bracelet/loom band, socks or tights**.

Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the colour associated with royalty and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

LENTEN PRAYER TRAILS

There will be a Lenten prayer trail where pupils will visit prayer stations and reflect on the journey that Jesus made. Each prayer station will have a different focus and children are encouraged to think, pray and respond as they become closer to Jesus during this time. As part of this trail, each child will make a very special Lenten promise.

SCHOOL NURSE REMINDER

Our school nurse was in school yesterday for our first drop-in session of this academic year. Following the success of this drop-in session we will be arranging for her to come in to school again in the summer term. These sessions can be used for any non-urgent health needs ranging from diet, sleep, continence and general well-being matters.

RECEPTION PARENTS - 'STAY AND PLAY' SESSIONS

We will be hosting a series of 'Stay and Play' sessions in Reception. These sessions will take place on Tuesday 7 March, Thursday 16 March and Tuesday 21 March between 9:10 and 10:15am. There will be 30 places available for each session across the whole year group to allow a parent or grandparent from each family to attend. If you wish to attend you can sign up now via the surveys and forms tab on the school website by choosing the appropriate date and by clicking 'Send your form back to the teacher'.

To give everyone a fair opportunity to attend, we ask that you book on to one session only. The Reception teachers and children look forward to seeing you at the sessions.

WORLD BOOK DAY

It is World Book day on Thursday 2 March. As usual, the children are asked to come to school dressed as a character in a book. Please help your child to assemble their costume from items you already have at home. It is not necessary to purchase or hire costumes. Homemade costumes are always the best.

During the day the children will work on book activities and storytelling with their class teacher. The junior children have been writing personalised books for the infant and nursery children, and these will be presented on 2 March. Each child will receive a £1 World Book Day token to spend at participating bookshops or at our School Book Fair. Our school chef has also designed a special 'Roald Dahl' themed menu for children on hot dinners which you will find attached.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations we have invited the Scholastic Book Fair to the Junior Department on the following dates between 3:30 and 3:45pm:

- Thursday 2 March
- Friday 3 March
- Tuesday 7 March

This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your children to a wide and varied range of good quality books. The commission earned from books sold will enable us to purchase new books for the school.

PARKING

This is a reminder that parents who use the junior playground to park must drive at a maximum of 5mph. Drivers must also ensure that cars do not cross the white line as this is where families walk as their safe pathway in this area. It is critically important that parents ensure our community is safe at all times if we are able to continue this arrangement.

This week I have received communications from two residents regarding parking on Osborne Road. They have complained that parents are parking across driveways. Sadly, one of our parents was abusive to the resident and the resident was very shaken up by this. This is not in the spirit of our school values and mission, and results in our school being seen in a negative way. Please support us in thinking of our residents when parking in order that we maintain our positive relationships with them.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Attendance Percentages	
Best infant class attendance	Mrs Jennings 99.15 %
Best junior class attendance	Mr Sands 100%
Overall school attendance	96.2%

Please note that disability related absences are not taken into account when calculating best attendance.

PTA - UPDATE AND PLANNING MEETING

Thank you to all the parents who have donated old jumpers and cardigans for the used uniform sale.

The infant disco and junior film night raised over £1600 in total for the PTA. Thank you for your support in making this possible.

There will be a PTA planning meeting on Wednesday 1 March at 8pm in the junior staff room. We will be planning upcoming events, discussing possible future events and reviewing events we have held so far this academic year. If you want to get more involved in the work of the PTA or have any ideas of possible events/activities please come along. We would love to see you and you will be made to feel most welcome.

PTA - THE EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

This year's Easter Extravaganza will be on 7 April, straight after school in the infant hall/playground. We are looking for a team of parents to help plan and run the event. Any feedback on last year's event and any new ideas for this year's event would be very welcome. Either email the PTA on stvincentspta@gmail.com or catch Sarah White or Anna Leslie for a chat

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

