

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop, MEd NPQH

3 March 2017

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

MASS AND LITURGY

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Y1 liturgy and the Ash Wednesday Mass. It was wonderful to have so many parents in attendance.

OPEN MORNING

We will be holding our open morning on **Wednesday 8 March between 9:15am – 11:45am**. This morning is for prospective parents and children. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the school in action and tours will start from the infant department on Orchard Road. The nursery will also be open so please do tell friends, family and neighbours about this opportunity.

WORLD BOOK DAY

What a wonderful World Book Day once again! We are so grateful for the time and effort children and parents put in year after year to make the day such a success. It is evident from the fantastic costumes that there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to bring the children's wildest imaginations to life! There was a real buzz in the school as we took the time to reflect on the books and characters that have stolen our hearts and made us giggle through the years! The children paraded their costumes in style and made it very difficult for the teachers to pick winners for the costume competitions.

The children then spent time enjoying drama and other book themed lessons in class. Throughout the day the junior children read their personalised books to their paired infant child. The younger children loved receiving special books that included their name and favourite thing! Some of the younger children told their authors 'it is the best book I have ever been given' and they 'will keep it forever'.

While your child is feeling really enthused about reading please join us in the school library for our school book fair where you can choose from a fantastic selection of books, redeem your book token and raise money for new books for our school! The school book fair will be on the following dates:

- Friday 3 March
- Tuesday 7 March

FAIRTRADE FRIDAY

Over the next fortnight the Mini Vinnies will be talking to their classmates about Fairtrade products; about how simple shopping choices can give farmers a better deal and lead the dignified life that everyone deserves. Some of the junior children will be visiting each infant class to talk to them about what they have been learning.

For more information visit <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/what-is-fairtrade>

All children in the school are invited to join in the St. Vincent's "Fairtrade Friday" on 17 March. At break time on this day, there will be a Fairtrade fruit juice carton and Fairtrade banana available for children to buy for £1. We hope that everyone will join in with the event and appreciate how good Fairtrade products taste.

PARENTS' EVENING

Parents' evening will take place on **Wednesday 22 March 3:45 - 7pm**. You can book your appointment using our on-line facility. Please see below for instructions:

- Enter the school website and click on 'PARENT LOGIN'
- Enter you username and password.
- Click on the Parents' Evenings tab and select the time slot you require
- Note that if you have a more than one child at the school you can select a different child by clicking in the top right hand corner

The slots are available now to book.

EASTER CHICK APPEAL

If you can knit then we need your help! We are leading a whole school "Knit a chick" appeal during Lent. The knitting pattern link is copied below and there are also paper versions in both school offices. The Mini Vinnies plan to sell the finished chicks and donate all proceeds to Francis House. Please help if you can, returning donations to your child's class teacher by Friday 17 March. This is a great way to get parents and grandparents involved in knitting for a very worthy cause. <http://www.francishouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Chick-knitting-pattern-instructions-2017.pdf>

MINI VINNIES NEWS

This year we are introducing the notion of Fair trade to the children. We will be supporting national fair trade fortnight and we will be teaching the children about the difference fair trade products make to plantation workers.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Attendance Percentages	
Best infant class attendance	Y2 Mrs Jennings 100%
Best junior class attendance	Y5 Mr Sands 99.65%
Overall school attendance	96.55%

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

PTA

Thank you to all the people who attended the PTA planning meeting, we had some interesting discussions about upcoming events and possible future events.

The Easter Extravaganza this year will be on Friday 7 of April, straight after school. We are looking for a team of parents to help support and run the event. Either email the PTA on stvincentspta@gmail.com or catch Sarah White or Anna Leslie for a chat.

We also need people to get more involved and are hoping to start to delegate certain tasks within events to specific years and classes, for example volunteers from one class would run the Name the Bear competition at the Easter Extravaganza. We do have a list of PTA class reps but it needs updating and there are some classes without reps, if you have already agreed to be a rep for the PTA or would like to step up and be the rep for your child's class, please email the PTA on stvincentspta@gmail.com. The role of a rep would involve spreading information about the PTA events and helping to organise volunteers for events. We understand time is short for most people but this would only involve the odd message being sent, conversations outside the classroom with other parents and if possible a few hours helping at events.

SAVE THE DATE The PTA Summer Social is taking place on Friday 16 June at Kings Court, Altrincham. More information and tickets will be available over the next few weeks.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

There will be an evening to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Westleigh, St. Vincent's Church on Friday 17 March arriving at 7:30pm to start at 8pm. There will be a 2 course meal of Irish stew or vegetable pie, colcannon mash, pickled beetroot and cabbage followed by chocolate and Guinness cake. Bring your own drinks. Tickets are £16 each and available from the Presbytery office at St. Vincent's Church.

DO YOU HAVE THESE SKILLS?

The Vineyard Publication team, St. Vincent's parish magazine, are seeking additional help in publishing the magazine. If you have any experience in journalism, editing, publishing or photography they would love to hear from you. Please phone St. Vincent's parish office on 0161 928 1689 to register your interest.

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

