

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop, MEd NPQH

10 March 2017

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to all of the parents who completed the parent RE questionnaire ahead of our RE inspection next week. We have had a very good response so thank you for taking the time to complete it.

### YEAR 3 SACRAMENTAL MEETING

There will be a sacramental meeting for Year 3 parents on Tuesday 14 March at 7pm in the junior hall. This is a very important meeting where we will discuss arrangements for Holy Communion.

### FAIRTRADE FRIDAY REMINDER

All children in the school are invited to join in the St Vincent's "Fairtrade Friday" on 17 March. Each pupil will be able to exchange £1 for a delicious Fairtrade fruit juice carton **and** a Fairtrade banana. We hope that everyone will join in with the event and appreciate how good Fairtrade products taste. All produce will be bought fresh for the day and any surplus monies will go towards the Good Shepherd appeal.

### 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 your 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>

### PARENTS' EVENING

The parents evening slots are filling up nicely. However, there are still a few remaining slots to be taken by parents. Please can parents ensure that an appointment is made for parents' evening on Wednesday 22 March.

### OPEN MORNING

It was good to see lots of prospective children and parents come along to our open day. The nursery was very busy too. Our next official open morning will be in October. If you or your friends or family couldn't make the open day, please do make an appointment to have a tour of the school in action. We are always happy to provide additional guided tours.

### SCIENCE WEEK

This year we will be celebrating British Science Week from Monday 20 to Friday 24 March. This is always a great opportunity to celebrate the best of British science, technology, engineering and maths, encouraging our children to engage with and ultimately be empowered to challenge, enjoy, and influence British science.

Throughout Science week the children will take part in a range of activities based on the theme 'Change'. However, we would like to take the opportunity to promote the many different Sciences in our community and would appreciate any help from Parents who have knowledge of a particular scientific field.

If you are an astronomer, physicist, veterinarian or chemist, for example, we would love for you to share with the children details of your field in an assembly or classroom, in order for them to get an idea of how Science is applied in everyday life. If you would like to take part, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible so we can plan to accommodate speakers.

### **WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 15-19 MAY**

We will be joining thousands of children across the country during this week, celebrating the benefits that walking brings. We know that walking to school makes children feel healthier and happier, while reducing congestion and pollution outside the school gates. Yet, less than half of primary school children currently walk to school.

We will be keeping you posted about events nearer the time but in the meantime we have exciting news about a special competition run by Living Streets who run 'Walk to School Week'. The competition is to design a badge and be in with a chance of your design being made into badges for next year. Winners will also receive free resources for their school for a whole year.

This year the theme is Walk the Americas. From the dramatic landscapes of Canadian national parks, through Brazilian rainforests teeming with life, down to the icy glaciers in Southern Argentina - the Americas have lots on offer. Pupils are being asked to design a badge that captures a specific feature of the region. More information is on the entry sheet and template attached. Entries need to be back in school by Wednesday 15 March at 9am as the closing date is Friday 17 March.

### **YEAR 5 ROBINWOOD RESIDENTIAL AT DOBROYD CASTLE**

Year 5 will go on their residential trip from Wednesday 29 March to Friday 31 March 2017. Important information has been emailed to parents today.

### **PTA NEWS - EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

Planning is now well under way for the Easter Eggstravaganza. Stalls will include 'Name the Chick', 'Sticks in Sand', 'Lucky Dip' and of course the 'Easter Egg Tombola'. To make the event a success we need volunteers to help on the day. If you can help set up from 2pm or at the event from 3:15 pm please contact the PTA on [stvincentspta@gmail.com](mailto:stvincentspta@gmail.com).

### **SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS**

The Sainsbury's Active Kids Voucher scheme is under way, Please bring your vouchers into school. Collection boxes are situated in each of the school offices.

### **GIVING MACHINE**

We have exciting fund raising news. You can now help raise donations for St Vincent's Catholic Primary School without you even leaving your sofa. And it doesn't cost you a penny!

The school is signed up to 'The Giving Machine' which is a fundraising organisation designed to help charitable causes raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via 'The Giving Machine' you will generate a free cash donation for us. With over 2,000 of your favourite retailers, including Amazon, Ebay, M&S, Next, Tesco, Sainsbury, John Lewis and Ocado, you are bound to find what you need and generate a donation. So many of us now use on line grocery shopping so it seems a good idea to re-launch this fund raising option.

In order to start raising free donations please go to [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and follow these simple steps:

- Click 'join as a giver'. It will ask you to search for a cause. Type in St Vincent's Catholic Primary School in the search and then select from the list of results.
- Click join and support and then enter your details.
- You are now signed up.

Make sure you never miss a donation and download the Shop & Give application. <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/shop-and-give/>

It takes just a few minutes to install on your web browser and means that every time you click onto a retailer that supports this scheme, you will get a prompt asking you to donate.

The site does not provide details of any purchasing details of individuals.

Please go to 'The Giving Machine' website to register and pick St Vincent's, Altrincham as your cause. We will be advertising how much we have raised by Easter, so please do try to form the habit of using it. <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/giver/join/>

At the last count there were 94 givers, 1601 donations and £1,359 raised in total. Please help us to double this figure. Thank you in advance for your help and support in raising funds for the children.

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Attendance Percentages	
Best infant class attendance	Y2 Mrs Crook 99.3%
Best junior class attendance	Y3 Mrs Kaczmarczyk 99.4%
Overall school attendance	96.1%

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

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