

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop, MEd NPQH

6 October 2017

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

### HARVEST TIME ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you for all of your harvest donations this week. Your donations were transported to Cornerstone Day Centre and Timperley Foodbank today. They wanted to pass their thanks to you all for your generosity. Thanks also to the parents who helped to drop the donations off.

**For CAFOD Harvest Fast Day the children wore their own clothes in exchange for £1 to support the theme, Brighten Up This Harvest.** With your kind donations we will be supporting communities in El Salvador. With support, farmers are learning sustainable farming techniques, women are setting up small businesses so that they can escape poverty and transform their lives so that families have enough food and children can go to school and have an education.

### ST VINCENT'S HARVEST BAKE OFF

This year we will be hosting a harvest bake off. All of the details are attached. Please take a minute to read and join in our harvest fun.

### DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

'No Pens Wednesday' was a great success. The children enjoyed lots of different activities from painting, drama, performing poetry, PE, textiles and computing. It was wonderful to see many more speaking and listening opportunities and lots of practical learning taking place. We also welcomed a colleague from another Trafford school to look at our dyslexia friendly provision. They were very impressed with our practice and have lots of ideas to take back to their school.

You may have seen an article about us on the Altrincham Today site about our provision. The same article has also been published in the Sale and Altrincham Messenger. It is wonderful to be described as a trailblazer!  
<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?pbid=6c6c204f-3a6c-430e-86e2-efec0db5082>

### ST VINCENT'S TWITTER ACCOUNT

You may have seen all of our wonderful events, reminders, photographs and videos on our school Twitter account. We will be developing our use of Twitter further by focusing on particular year groups over the year. Next week we will focus on our reception classes. You will see a tweet each day about their wonderful educational opportunities at school. It is really easy to join twitter and follow our school. Follow us on @StVincentPr



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## BABY BLESSING

It was wonderful to welcome so many families to St Vincent's school on Sunday for a baby blessing. Babies who had been baptised during the year came together for a special blessing. We are looking forward to welcoming the babies to our school in the coming years.

## TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND LOCAL RESIDENTS

Unfortunately, this week a distressed local resident contacted me to complain about the conduct of one of our parents on Osborne Road.

The resident explained that the parent had parked directly across their driveway and completely obstructed the access to it. The resident explained that this is a common occurrence. When the resident asked the parent to not park across their driveway they said that the parent was verbally abusive towards them. In addition to being upset about the abuse received, the resident went on to explain that due to their disability it is essential that they can access their drive. It is disappointing that a parent of our school chose to behave in such a disrespectful way to our neighbours and is certainly not in keeping with the values we hold in our catholic school community. Please can I ask that parents treat our neighbours and local residents with consideration and respect. The neighbours have informed me that they will be giving photographs and registration numbers to our local policing unit as it is an offence to obstruct a driveway and also block the highway.

I understand that driving children to school is seen as the most convenient choice for parents with busy lives. Many parents take the view that by driving their children to school they are keeping them safe. Yet the combination of each individual decision means an increase in traffic and congestion particularly at the school gates. This means that children miss out on the opportunity to develop vital road safety skills with their parents on the way to school. Children miss the opportunity to build up confidence and learn the ability to manage risk walking around their local community. Walking can improve overall fitness levels in children and adults. It is a cheap low impact way to exercise. I realise that there are some parents who have no alternative but to drive their children to school, however, many are driving short distances where walking is a real option. Even those who have to drive to school can play their part by parking away from the school entrance and walking for part of the journey. As you know, Tesco welcomes parents to park in their car park and our wonderful walking bus is also a service our parents work hard to provide for our children. Here are some ways you can help. It is important that we all play our part in improving this situation.

## SCHOOL ENTRANCES

We have four entrances to school you can access on foot:

1. Orchard Road.
2. Osborne Road.
3. Balmoral Road (accessed by Oakfield Street at the back of Blessed Thomas Holford; an ideal entrance for those parking at Tescos).
4. Stockport Road public pathway (next to the golf course).



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## YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Walking to school
- Park and stride to school
- Respecting our residents
- Keeping your speed low near school
- Always letting your child out of your vehicle on to the pavement - never on to the road
- Checking for pedestrians and cyclists before you or your child open the car door

## PLEASE DON'T:

- Block the road - emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- Park on the pavement, roundabout, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways
- Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds.

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT?

- The health benefits of walking one or more days a week
- Joining our walking bus with other parents and the school
- Car sharing
- Parking nearby and then walking the rest of the way

These changes make a real difference to the congestion around schools, making the school run less stressful and far safer for everyone. Not only that but they will help your child's education. Research has shown that children who walk to school are more receptive to learning at the start of the school day than those who travel to school by car. Please help us to be a part of the solution.

## PTA

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM this week, it was good to see some new faces and exchange some great ideas about future events and ideas for the upcoming year. Over the coming weeks we will be giving you some information about how you can get involved and support our school in raising extra funds for the children.



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## TONIGHT! RECEPTION PARENTS' SOCIAL EVENING

The Reception Parents' Social Evening is tonight at The Ivy League in Altrincham from 7:30pm. Thank you to all who have booked a place. There are a few places left so if you find yourself free tonight pop along and you can pay on the door.

## ANNUAL QUIZ

The Annual PTA Quiz is back again this year on 17 November. This is a great night out! You can form your own team with friends or we can match you in a team if you would prefer. Please see the attached letter for more details. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 16 October via ParentPay.

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

It's only 7 weeks until our Christmas Fair! Please look out for more information next week on how you can help make sure we organise the best Christmas Fair yet. There is a planning meeting at 7:30pm on 16 October at Westleigh if anyone is able to help on the day or with the preparations. All help is greatly appreciated.

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Y1 Miss Slater and Y2 Mrs Robinson both 100%
Highest junior class attendance	Y4 Mr Kerigan 100%
Overall school attendance	97.7%

\*Please note that disability related absence 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 based in the junior department), Mrs Tiernan (deputy head teacher based in the infant department), and I are very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A Harrop (Mrs)

Headteacher

