

# ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQH  
Orchard Road  
Altrincham  
WA15 8EY

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17 September 2021

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

### WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN AIR MASS

On Thursday 23 September, we will be celebrating our first whole school Mass of the school year. Weather permitting, the Mass will take place outside on the junior playground at 9:30am and parents and family members are very welcome to join us.

### PRAYER REFLECTION DATES

Our first parent and grandparent reflection will be on Friday, 1 October, at 10am. This will be an online reflection with hope to meeting face to face again throughout the year; please see our school website for future dates:

<http://stvincents.trafford.sch.uk/page/parents-and-grandparents-reflection/47643>

### SCHOOL PRAYERS

As a Catholic school, we pray with the children throughout the day. If you would like to learn more about our school prayers, please follow the link below. It is useful for our Reception parents to read through the prayers with the children so that they can become familiar with how to say them.

<http://stvincents.trafford.sch.uk/page/school-prayers/56888>

### MINI VINNIES APPEAL FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

Thank you so much for all of the donations for the Afghan refugees. We will be dropping the donations off this weekend. We have been offering our prayers to those affected.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities begin next week until the end of half term. Further information will be sent out today with details regarding the pick-up arrangements for each club. Information about the clubs for this half term can be found by following the link below:

<http://stvincents.trafford.sch.uk/page/extra-curricular-activities/22752>



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## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER



This year we will be raising money again for Macmillan Cancer Support at our coffee morning on Friday 24 September. In order to keep safe, we will be selling cakes and coffee in the junior playground between 9am and 10am; it will be a pleasure to see you and for you to stop by on your way through the school grounds to join us. If you would like to kindly donate cakes for us to sell, please can they be sent into school on Thursday or before 9am on Friday. We appreciate your support for this extremely worthwhile cause.

## ALLOTMENT GROUP

Did you see our entry for RHS Tatton Flower Show? This is one of the ways we enrich our curriculum for our pupils. We are keen to develop our gardening skills and would like to develop our allotment.

Over the last year, the gardening club have enjoyed working on the allotment. They have grown vegetables and plants and this culminated in presenting them in the Tatton Park Flower Show garden. This year we are planning to continue to use the allotment for gardening club and to support the wider school curriculum.

Over the summer, the allotment has become overgrown. We are hoping to start using the allotment again soon and would appreciate some support to get it ready for planting.

On Friday 15 October, we have planned a gardening morning where parents and grandparents are invited to attend school and help organise the allotment for the new academic year. It will include turning over the soil, fixing the wooden beds and clearing out the shed; any help would be really appreciated. If you can offer some time to help, please email [admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk) with the subject line '**Allotment**' **FAO Miss Jamieson**. Thank you in advance for your support.

## GOOD TO GROW INITIATIVE

Morrisons supermarkets have launched a campaign called 'It's Good To Grow', in all of its stores. The campaign will donate gardening equipment to school children across the UK in the hope of educating children about where their food comes from. For every £10 spent in store or online, the school can redeem vouchers to get equipment such as gardening tools, composting bins and seeds to get growing. Last year, the school gardening club enjoyed growing plants in our allotment and would appreciate new resources to support our growing this year.



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In order to gain the 'It's Good to Grow' tokens, you need to create a 'My Morrisons' account via the app or website and link our school to your account. To link the school to your account you will need to search the word 'Vincents' in the search bar and scroll down until you find our school. When you start spending in store, the school's account will get credited with the vouchers; please let family and friends know about this so they can help too.

## DATE FOR THE DIARY – REMOTE ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Childnet will be delivering a remote session designed specifically for primary aged children on Monday 20 September at 6pm.

The Childnet parent and carers sessions provide insight into some of the things that children are currently experiencing with regards to the internet and technology.

The topics include the themes: screen time, digital wellbeing, digital footprints and gaming, social media, cyberbullying, misinformation, keeping personal information safe, online friendships and inappropriate content. The session lasts approximately one hour and joining details are below:

- Topic: Online Safety Session (Parents & Carers) - St Vincent's Only
- Time: Sep 20, 2021 18:00 London
- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86029823548?pwd=U1I0UXQ3MkoyeUgxcXhPSlVHdTUxQT09>
- Meeting ID: 860 2982 3548
- Passcode: 276998

## BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

You will have noticed that we have some building work onsite. We are excited to be installing a walking/running track. This will provide the children with further physical development opportunities. We hope to have this work complete in the next few weeks.

Over the summer we started to replace our flat roofing; phase 1 is nearing completion and will be ready in the next couple of weeks. We also replaced our cabling; this is part of our digital strategy and will further enhance our digital infrastructure.

You will know that we have wanted to replace our Year 4 classrooms for a while. We hope to replace them this academic year to offer state of the art classrooms for the children; more details will be shared in the coming weeks.

We are committed to improving our internal and external environment so that the children can experience the very best conditions for teaching and learning.

We are also pleased to share that our outdoor area in the nursery is being developed. We are looking forward to offering our youngest children exciting and stimulating outdoor provision; this should be completed early October.



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## PARENTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DIOCESAN SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

Thank you to those parents who have already managed to make their voluntary contribution to the Diocesan Building Fund. Families are asked to make a contribution of £105 per child whilst at St Vincent's (or £15 per child per year).

For those who have not yet had the chance, please log on to your ParentPay account to the following items to make your contribution:

- For reception - Diocesan Building Fund for 2021 Intake
- For year 1 - Diocesan Building Fund for 2020 Intake
- For year 2 - Diocesan Building Fund for 2019 Intake
- For year 3 - Diocesan Building Fund for 2018 Intake
- For year 4 - Diocesan Building Fund for 2017 Intake
- For year 5/6 - Diocesan Building Fund 2021-2022
- All years - Diocesan Building Fund Extra Voluntary Contributions 2021-2022

St Vincent's has benefitted from a programme of repair and refurbishment funded by the Diocese over the past few years and all contributions are gratefully received.

## HAVE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED?

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be offered a free and healthy school lunch, known as Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) whether they are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or not. Even if your child receives UFSM, it is still important for the school to know whether eligibility exists for FSM as this may lead to additional school funding. Children in school years 3 to 6 will also be offered a free lunch if they meet certain criteria for FSM.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals; your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed part of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as your annual gross income is £16,190 or less and you don't get Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit run-off after you come off Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit that you applied for on, or after, 1 April 2018. As long as your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax, not including any benefits



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Registering for Free School Meals could also raise an extra **£1,320** for your child's school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

## WALK TO SCHOOL

'Wow', the walk to school challenge, is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they are rewarded with a badge. We have been doing this over the last eighteen months, even in the colder, wet weather!

New parents to the school can watch the following video to find out more about our walk to school challenge and how we track this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=op0zWJw1Hs0>

This week the data for active travel is:

**TOTAL ACTIVE TRIPS: 1,801    TOTAL NON-ACTIVE TRIPS: 380**

Let's try to improve this next week!

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Reception Miss Hollins, Y1 Miss Hutton and Y2 Mrs Dreniw all 100%
Highest junior class attendance	Y3 Miss Slater and Y5 Mr Kerigan both 100%
Overall school attendance	98.6%

\*Please note that disability related absence is not taken into account when calculating best attendance

We aim to be a listening school and offer an open door to parents. Mrs Farrell (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,

Mrs A Harrop  
Headteacher

