



11 March 2022

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

UKRAINE: DESPERATE HUMANITARIAN NEED

We will have seen the intensification of fighting in Ukraine, which has brought essential services to a halt, created huge upheaval, loss of life, and separated families. According to UNHCR, more than 2 million people have left Ukraine in recent days. The situation is incredibly tense, dangerous, and distressing. Some of the most vulnerable are the hardest hit, including children, people with disabilities and medical conditions. People now lack the most basic supplies such as food and water. We want to help support the people of Ukraine by donating funds to The Red Cross Humanitarian Appeal.

Your donation will be used to reach people in urgent need, including:

- Providing food, first aid, clean water, shelter support, warm clothing, hygiene parcels and medicines
- Supporting hospitals and healthcare facilities
- Supporting fire fighters and civil protection units
- Training people in life saving first aid
- Helping families stay in contact with each other
- Educating people on the risks of explosives
- Repairing vital infrastructure
- Helping to repair homes, healthcare centres, schools and community centres

Please follow the link to donate if you can. <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

Please refer to the guidance sent earliest this week for tips on how to answer questions children may have.

LENT

Today we marked CAFOD Lenten Fast Day with our '40 laps in 40 days' challenge by launching the 40 laps of the daily mile track wearing our silly socks to raise money for CAFOD's campaign 'Walk Against Hunger'. Thank you for your donations of £1, which will go to CAFOD.

Next week on Friday 18 March a special 'Boot Camp' session will take place across the school. A suggested donation of £1 donation will go to the Good Shepherd Appeal.



ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

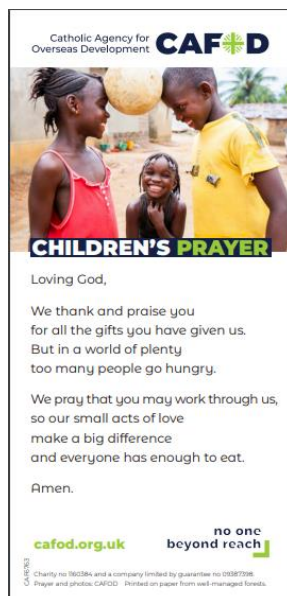
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Money may be donated via ParentPay using payment item Lenten Fundraising 2022.

Classes have started visiting the Stations of the Cross in the Junior Hall during a time of quiet reflection and prayer. Children have also been joining with their buddy class to say the rosary. Please follow the link to the CAFOD Lent 2022 Prayer: Small Acts of Love <https://vimeo.com/680487747>



STAFFING

I want to inform parents that after 15 years of deputy headship at St Vincent's, Mrs Tiernan will be leaving at Easter to run the family business. Mrs Tiernan has been a key part of the success of St Vincent's and I want to thank her for her dedication and commitment to the school. We will be sorry to see her move on but we wish her the very best in her exciting venture.

Mr Nicholls will also be leaving at Easter to join the leadership team of an infant school. I would also like to thank him for his commitment to St Vincent's over the past 8 years and for all he has contributed to St Vincent's. We wish him well in his new school.

Following a period of recruitment, Mrs Farrell has been appointed Deputy Headteacher and she will work with Mrs Sutton as Deputy Headteacher. In addition, Mrs Burke and Mrs Sheldon have been appointed Assistant Headteachers. I am pleased to share that as part of our succession planning, all of the positions have been filled with existing staff who know the high standards we have.



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STAY AND PLAY

We were delighted this week to welcome Reception parents in to school to join a 'Stay and Play' session in our outdoor area. This half term our topic is 'Animals and Pets' and the learning outdoors is focused on this in the different areas. We look for as many opportunities as possible to make our learning environment literate and numerate. Thank you for the wonderful feedback.

"It has been lovely to see all the different activities the children do in their school day. Thank you for having us."

"It was lovely to see my son with his friends and get some insight on the school work they are doing."

"I loved seeing the children so happy. Thrilled to be invited, thank you!"



RECEPTION AND YEAR 1 PHONICS MEETING

There is an opportunity for parents to find out more about our new phonics scheme 'Little Wandle' on Monday 14 March from 6-7pm in the Infant Hall. Mrs Burke our Phonics Lead and the Reception and Year 1 class teachers will take you through the scheme and share some of our fantastic resources.



Early reading and phonics is a key area of our curriculum and our teachers have received extensive training on the new scheme. We have also been able to support other schools who are developing this area and provided an opportunity to demonstrate our excellent practice. Please do come along if you are a Reception or Year 1 parent and find out about all of our exciting developments.



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SCIENCE WEEK 11 – 18 MARCH

British Science Week is an annual celebration of scientific knowledge and understanding across science, technology, engineering and maths. The theme of this year's British Science Week is on Growth, looking at ideas of buildings, eco-friendly behaviours, plants and animal life and even how we can grow plants on Mars!

British Science Week aims to share the knowledge and excitement of this area with the children and we will be celebrating British Science Week next week. The children will be conducting experiments, researching scientific areas and hearing expert speakers. We will be running a poster competition where there will be prizes for the best and most effort shown.

OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS DATES

We will be holding two open mornings on Tuesday 15 March and Wednesday 16 March for prospective parents to have a tour of the school. In order to stagger visitors, they are by appointment only. Please contact the school office to book a place. The tour can also include a visit to the nursery if you wish.

If you have any questions about a nursery place, please contact office@stvincentsnursery.com

PASTORAL DROP IN

Do you want to have a chat with our pastoral staff? Mrs Robinson and Mrs Gee are available to talk about any aspect of home or school life. The next drop in for parents is on **Tuesday 22 March** between 2pm and 3:30pm. You can sign up for a call by following the details below. Please visit <https://stvincentscatholicprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointment. Mrs Gee will also be available at Parents Evening on Thursday 24 March.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Thank you to Year 4 Miss Campbell's Class who led a wonderful assembly this week on the theme of International Women's Day. International Women's Day (IWD) celebrated on 8 March is a celebration of the achievements made by women throughout history and signifies a continued mission for gender equality. First celebrated over a century ago, the day is now embraced globally to collectively champion the successes of the world's great women, both past, present and future.

For International Women's Day 2022, the theme is [#BreakTheBias](https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/2022/03/08-international-womens-day-2022), a global call to arms to tackle discrimination, celebrate our differences and forge an equal future.

Throughout history, there have been many women who have considerably impacted the world as we know it today. From individuals such as the Suffragettes claiming the vote for women to Marie Curie



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founding the science of radioactivity and Rosalind Franklin discovering the structure of DNA, women have continually impacted social, cultural, economic and political developments over the course of history. In a world where there is still gender bias and discrimination, it is more important than ever to appreciate such achievements.

Here is a link to BBC Teach resources to celebrate International Women's Day <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2DfK5X4Xt1sptY3lphC6YZD/international-womens-day> and from CBBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/international-womens-day> both of which have been shared with the children.

PUPIL DEVELOPMENT

As a forward thinking school we continually look for ways to develop our practice further. Pupil development is incredibly important and there are many ways in which we strive to support pupils in this area. We have many groups within both the Infant and Junior departments that demonstrate wonderful leadership skills from the children and their contribution to our Catholic ethos in thinking about our mission statement to 'Let Our Light Shine'. These groups include our JLT (Junior Leadership Team), Wellbeing Champions, Prayer Leaders, School Council and much more.

We have been thinking about and celebrating ways in which we raise money for charity both in school and outside of school. The children's empathy and kindness are two things that we as a school are very proud of. Alongside this we have been looking at our broad curriculum and extra-curricular clubs that help us to develop work skills, make us aware of financial elements of life and how we can make improving our personal and local environment an important part of our lives. These things are demonstrated through learning aspects such as Science Week, Eco Warriors, Young Enterprise and our participation in the Natwest 'MoneySense' scheme from Reception all the way through to Year 6.

We are working towards an excellence in pupil development accreditation and look forward to sharing more of this with you in the coming weeks.

MINI VINNIES – EASTER CHICKS

The Mini Vinnies will be selling Easter Chicks from next Wednesday (16 March) across the school. The chicks (with crème egg) will be on sale for £2 each and all proceeds will go directly to Francis House Children's Hospice.

PTA EVENTS

Our disco and film night tickets are selling fast. If your child would like to attend either event please log on to Parentpay.



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Friday 29 April	Year 2 Disco	6:30pm - 7:45pm Infant Hall
	Y5 & Y6 Film Night	6:15pm – 8:00pm Junior Hall
Friday 6 May	Year 1 Disco	6:30pm - 7:45pm Infant Hall
	Y3 & Y4 Film Night	6:15pm – 8:00pm Junior Hall
Friday 8th July	Reception Disco	3:45pm – 5:00pm Infant Hall

We are asking for volunteer parent helpers for the Y1 and Y2 Disco and the Y3 and 4 and Y5 and 6 Film Nights. If your child is attending one of the year group events, we would be grateful for your support as a volunteer alongside staff at the event. Please email PTA admin at stvincentspta@gmail.com if you can help.

SPRING 2 DATES LIST

DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday	14 March	Science Week	
Tuesday	15 March	Open Morning	St Vincent's School
Wednesday	16 March	Open Morning	St Vincent's School
Thursday	17 March	Y3 Miss Slater's Class Y3 Miss Slater's class parents to attend 9:05am	Junior department hall
Thursday	24 March	Parents' Evening 3:45-7:30pm	Face to face
Thursday	24 March	Y3 Mrs McDuff's Class Y3 Mrs McDuff's class parents to attend 9:05am	Junior department hall
Tuesday	29 March	Class Photos	St Vincent's School
Wednesday	30 March	Class Photos	St Vincent's School
Thursday	31 March	Miss Turnbull's Class Rec Miss Turnbull's class parents to attend 9:05am	Infant department hall
Friday	1 April	Easter Extravaganza	Infant department playground and hall



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Tuesday	05 April	KS2 Lenten Service: Year 5 to lead. 6.30pm Y3-6 Children and parents	Holy Angels Church
Tuesday	05 April	Y1 Lenten Liturgy 9:15am – Y1 parents only	Infant Hall
Wednesday	06 April	Y1 Lenten Liturgy 9:15am – Y1 parents only	Infant Hall
Thursday	07 April	Infant and Junior Mass in each dept for all children and staff only	Department Halls
Friday	08 April	Parent's Reflection: 10am	St. Vincent's School
EASTER HOLIDAY			

Each week we report attendance. Please note we do not authorise holidays in term time.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

Each week we report attendance. Please note we do not authorise holidays in term time.

Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Year 2 Mrs Dreniw's class 98.67%
Highest junior class attendance	Year 3 Miss Slater's class 100%
Overall school attendance	95.28%

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

We work in partnership with parents. Mrs Tiernan (deputy head teacher based in the infant department), and Mrs Farrell (deputy head teacher based in the junior department), and I are very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher

