

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQH
Orchard Road
Altrincham
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14th March 2025

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

LENT

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful



As we journey through the season of Lent, we take this moment to reflect on the importance of this sacred time in the Church calendar. The second week of Lent invites us to deepen our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During Lent, we are encouraging the children to grow closer to God as we prepare for Easter.

This week, the children are focusing on daily prayer and acts of kindness. We have all set goals for giving up something special, such as sweet treats or extra screen time. We are also continuing our Lenten charity project, where our children are busy planning their Lenten fundraising for charity.

As part of our journey through Lent, parents are welcome to join us for the following Masses and services:

- Infant Lenten Liturgy on Wednesday 19th March at 9:15am in the Infant Hall
- Junior Lenten Mass on Thursday 20th March at 9:15am in the Junior Hall
- Year 1 Easter Liturgy on Tuesday 25th March at 9:15am and Wednesday 26th March 9:15am in the Infant Hall

PARENTS' EVENING

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Bookings are now open to book a Parents' Evening meeting which takes place on Thursday 20th March. We encourage all parents to attend Parents' Evening. Please book a slot to speak with your class teacher. In addition to the meeting, we encourage parents to go to their child's classroom to look through their workbooks. Their books



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will be left out in the classroom for parents to look through. Please book your parent meeting via the School Spider app or via Parent Login on the school website.

MATHS WORKSHOPS

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Mathnasium recently visited our school to run an exciting and interactive maths workshop for children in Years 1 to 6. The session was filled with energy as children rotated through five different activity stations, each designed to develop key mathematical skills in a fun and engaging way. Working in small groups, they tackled hands-on challenges that focused on problem-solving, number fluency, logical reasoning, and mental arithmetic. From puzzles to practical maths games, each activity encouraged teamwork and critical thinking, making learning both enjoyable and rewarding.

Throughout the session, the children were fully immersed in the activities, eagerly discussing strategies with their peers and celebrating their successes. The atmosphere was lively and engaging, making maths feel less like a subject and more like an exciting adventure. One of the highlights of the workshop was the prize wheel, which the children had the chance to spin at the end of the session. The excitement and anticipation added an extra layer of fun, leaving everyone with big smiles and a sense of accomplishment.

A huge thank you to Mathnasium for delivering such a fantastic experience, the children not only strengthened their mathematics skills but also gained confidence and enthusiasm for the subject!

EXAM TUITION

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Did you know that we offer exam tuition to Year 4 and 5 pupils? We have partnered with Learn Northwest Tutors to provide tuition lessons after school that parents are able to purchase. The lessons take place after school in groups of 15 and are taught by qualified, experienced teachers.

We have also planned summer tuition days for the current Year 5 over the summer break. Please contact info@learnnorthwest.com if you have any questions.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK

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This week, we celebrated British Science Week. We have been thinking about how the world is changing and how we can adapt to those changes. We have looked at the theory of evolution and how animals and plants adapt to their surroundings. We have performed experiments, held workshops, had expert speakers in all areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and thought and behaved like scientists and engineers of the future.

The experiments the children performed at home were wonderful and were greatly enjoyed by all. These included examining how language has developed over time, developments in technology, the growth of crystals and reversible/irreversible changes in state. Thank you to all the parents who were able to share their knowledge of science and how they use STEM in their jobs.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

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Have you heard of the Smart Free Phone Initiative? In the UK, there is a growing movement towards simplifying mobile phone usage for children under 16, with parents turning towards smart free phones. This trend has led to the emergence of devices and initiatives aimed at reducing digital distractions and promoting healthier tech habits for children.



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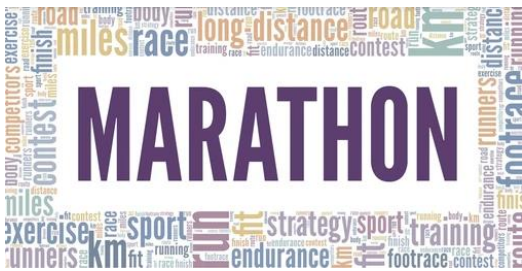


The Smartphone-Free Childhood Campaign has gained significant traction, amassing over 100,000 signatures since its launch in September 2024. The initiative advocates delaying smartphone access for children under 14 and suggests limiting social media exposure until the age of 16.

Smart free phones are marketed as one of the world's simplest mobile phones, they only allow users to make and receive calls. It omits features like a camera, internet access, and text messaging, appealing to individuals desiring a minimalist mobile experience. Find out more about this movement by following this link: [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

MANCHESTER MARATHON

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On Sunday 27th April the Manchester Marathon will be returning to the streets of Trafford and Manchester. The event is a 26.2 mile road running event which will involve some road closures in the area.

Last April 32,000 people took part in the adidas Manchester Marathon, which raised over £3.8 million for over 724 local and national charities. The event also saw a £29 million boost to the local economy. This April will see 36,000 participants taking part, many of them raising vital funds. The official charity partners of the event this year are Alzheimer's Society, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and The Christie.

For further information regarding road closures and an interactive map please visit <https://www.manchestermarathon.co.uk/route/road-closure-info/>

SPRING 2 DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Tuesday	18 - 24 March	Neurodiversity Week	
Wednesday	19 March	KS1 Lenten Mass: 9:15am	Infant department hall



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Thursday	20 March	KS2 Lenten Mass: 9:15am	Junior department hall
Thursday	20 March	Parents' Evening 3:45 - 7pm	Both department halls
Monday	24 March	Y1 Easter Liturgy dress rehearsal	
Tuesday	25 March	Y1 Easter Liturgy: 9:15am	Infant department hall
Wednesday	26 March	Y1 Easter Liturgy: 9:15am	Infant department hall
Thursday	27 March	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05am: Led by Y4 Mrs Gerrard/Miss Kirk's class	Junior department hall
Monday	31 March	Whole School Photo	-
Tuesday	01 April	KS2 Lenten Service: 6:30pm	Holy Angels Church
Thursday	03 April	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05am: Led by Y4 Mrs Durkan's class	
Friday	04 April	PTA Easter Eggstravaganza	-
Friday	04 April	School closes for Easter	-
EASTER BREAK			

We offer an open door to parents. If you have any questions about school life, please liaise with your class teacher. Mrs Farrell (infant deputy), Mrs Sutton (junior deputy), and I are also available to work in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher

