

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Email: admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk
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26 November 2021

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

ADVENT – WEEK 1 HOPE

The first Sunday of Advent in 2021 will be Sunday 28 November. After a tumultuous year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season in which we celebrate Christ's birth. CAFOD have produced a lovely family Advent calendar filled with reflections, scripture and family activities you may want to use. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Families/Family-Advent-Calendar>

The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of **hope**.

PRAYER FOR HOPE

God of hope,
we look to you,
for your renew the face of the earth.

Through the gift of your Son,
our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.

Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other
and all creatures
back to your open arms.
Amen.

ADVENT

Please find our Advent Newsletter attached with the events happening over the next few weeks. We are really pleased to be opening up some events to parents. We have carefully considered the benefits and risks and have planned activities to take place in the safest way possible.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Our Year 3 children are preparing to start their Sacramental Programme. The children and their families will be attending Mass on Sunday to become enrolled on their sacramental journey. Please join us in praying and supporting the children and their family on their special journey.



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PASTORAL DROP-IN

The next drop in for parents is on **Tuesday 30 November** from 1:30 to 3:30pm. You can sign up for a call with Mrs Gee by following the details below. Please visit <https://stvincentscatholicprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments.

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR: THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 3:30 - 6PM



Preparations are now well under way for our after school Christmas Fair. Miss Hobday's choir and the Sunshine Club children have been practising their festive songs to get us in the mood and a group of Mini-Vinnies have been busy making reindeer food to sell on their stall. Father Christmas' elves are dusting off their outfits and our teachers, teaching assistants and PTA helpers are planning fun games and activities for the children to take part in. As well as all of the traditional tombolas, 'The Orchard Spa' will be open for nail and glitter body art and there will be a snowman treasure trail on the school field. In the junior hall we will be serving refreshments such as Irish coffees, mulled wine, mince pies and hot dogs. For those wishing to stay outdoors, there will be a pizza van and a coffee van selling hot drinks and cakes.

We know that it's cold and wet this time of year, but we will have our gazebos out and our hats and warm coats on, ready for any weather! We hope that you can all join us.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY: THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER



To ensure we are all feeling extra festive, Thursday 2 December will be a Christmas jumper day for all children.

READING CURRICULUM - PHONICS SCHEME UPDATE

We are excited to announcement that we will be introducing a new phonics scheme to support the teaching and learning of early reading and phonics in our school. The name of the scheme is 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'. There is a 'For parents' section on the website if you would like to have a look for more detail here: www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/



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Parents will be receiving more information shortly about the scheme, the resources and the reading aspect. There will also be phonic information sessions for parents to attend. We are very impressed with the new scheme, and the new books and resources our children will enjoy. Our new scheme will ensure our children continue to acquire systematic phonic skills and apply them in their early reading and writing.

MINI VINNIES 'BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR'

The Mini Vinnies collaborated with the Year 6 Sports council in a whole school project for the local charity 'Home Instead'. The challenge was to resource and make as many Christmas cards for the 'Be a Santa to a Senior' appeal, to spread some festive cheer to the lonely, elderly and isolated in our community. The cards were collected last week from the Charity, who were delighted with the response of our school to this vital project.



We are also pleased to share that our Mini Vinnies are on the front cover of the Mini Vinnie magazine attached. Please do take a look at the good work all of the Mini Vinnies have been working on.

#SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Following on from the work we have been doing in this area, we have included below information for parents from UNICEF about how to talk to your child about racism. Some parents worry about exposing their children to issues like racism and discrimination at an early age. Others shy away from talking about something they themselves don't feel comfortable discussing. Yet others, especially those who have experienced racism, simply do not have such choices.



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Studies have shown that by age 5, children can show signs of racial bias, such as treating people from one racial group more favourably than the other. Ignoring or avoiding the topic isn't protecting children, it's leaving them exposed to bias that exists wherever we live. Children who encounter racism, can be left feeling lost while trying to understand why they are being treated a certain way, which in turn can impact their long-term development and well-being.

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT RACISM

The way children understand the world evolves as they grow, but it's never too late to talk to them about equality and racism. Here are some age-appropriate ways to start that conversation and explain that racism is always wrong:

UNDER 5 YEARS

At this age, children may begin to notice and point out differences in people they see around them. As a parent, you have the opportunity to gently lay the foundation of their worldview.

Recognise and celebrate differences – If your child asks about someone's skin colour, you can use it as an opportunity to acknowledge that people do indeed look different, but to point out things we have in common. You could say, "We are all human, but we are all unique, isn't that amazing!"

6-11 YEARS

Children this age are better at talking about their feelings and are eager for answers. They are also becoming more exposed to information they may find hard to process. Start by understanding what they know.

Discuss the media together – social media and the internet may be one of your children's main sources of information. Show interest in what they are reading and the conversations they are having online.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Parents are children's introduction to the world. What they see you do is as important as what they hear you say. Take every opportunity to challenge racism, demonstrate kindness and stand up for every person's right to be treated with dignity and respect.

TRAFFORD SUNRISE PASTORAL WORKSHOPS

Please see below the upcoming December free online parent workshops. Flyers are attached for the upcoming workshops and included in the details below. Please note that there are a limited number of spaces, so register early to ensure you can get a place by clicking the links below/in flyers attached.



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Please let Trafford Sunrise know if any families would benefit from having an interpreter at a workshop. The workshops will promote the emotional wellbeing of children and families with particular emphasis on cultural diversity and social justice.

Age 5-12 December Workshops

- Anxiety Tuesday 7 December 2021 10:00am - 11:30am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=register/tZ0kcO-ugTstGtAePuSeUg0HXrxsAfnjMdiY>

- Behavioural Difficulties Wednesday 15 December 2021 10:00am –11:30am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=register/tZYlceiqgD0tH9SPm5Yw1o5JJ42GedMI6iHn>

PARENT CHAMPIONS

Are you a parent who speaks an additional language to English who can offer support to another parent with limited English?

Can you offer your time on a flexible basis – this could be by telephone or via remote means e.g. Zoom, Teams

Are you a parent who would like support from a speaker of your home language in understanding school communications or to help you support your child's learning?

We would love to hear from you! We are looking to set up a register of parents who are willing to support other parents. We are going to call this group our **Parent Champions**

Last year we asked parents to contact us about supporting other parents with limited English. We are hoping to re-launch this soon and ask any interested parents to email the school FAO Mrs Tiernan giving your details, naming the language offered and your availability. Thank you in advance.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The winter issue of Raring2go! Altrincham & Sale magazine is now available and has lots of local information for families about festive days out, children's clubs and classes, tutoring services, crafts, recipes and much more. We hope you will find it a useful resource.

The link is <https://bit.ly/R2GAltrincham-Winter21>

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

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



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Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Reception Mrs Lawrence's class 99.33%
Highest junior class attendance	Y3 Mrs Jennings/Mrs Needham's class 99.33%
Overall school attendance	96.78%

*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

