

# ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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21 January 2022

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

### YEAR 3 RECONCILIATION

Over the next few weeks our Year 3 children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please pray for our children on their faith journey.

### A PRAYER FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

Dear Lord,  
When we go astray,  
Jesus, our Good Shepherd,  
always welcomes us back with joy  
and makes us new again.  
On your First Reconciliation  
may you know God's  
love and forgiveness  
that He has for you  
and for each and  
every one of us.  
Amen

### MINI VINNIES

Thank you to everyone who has sent in washed crisp packets for our Mini Vinnie charity. We are hoping to gather enough crisp packets to recycle into survival items for the homeless.

### 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 25 January** 2:00pm-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.

### TERM DATES

As part of the national celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are making plans to mark this very special occasion. The late May Bank Holiday weekend has been moved to Thursday 2 June



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2022, with an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June. This will see a four-day weekend to celebrate the Jubilee. This is when schools are on the whit holiday half term.

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on last year. Due to these new national regulations, schools have reduced the minimum number of sessions.

In line with all other schools, the number of teaching days for this year has been reduced from 190 to 189. This means that the finish date at the end of the summer term 2022 has been amended to reflect the reduction in the required number of teaching days. Therefore, the last day of term will be Monday 25 July. Please refer to the revised [term dates](#) on the website.

During the summer term we will be marking the occasion with lots of exciting activities. Some of which include learning about the monarchy, planting trees and joining in the platinum pudding bake off competition.

## BIRD BOX DONATIONS

We are delighted to be working with Altrincham Golf Course on an ECO project. Our ECO leaders will be involved in the project and they are asking for everyone to help.

Altrincham Golf has launched an exciting campaign to encourage more birds to the area through installing bird boxes. The project consists of members of the golf course and the public donating bird boxes. These are then installed in certain places around the golf course before the birds nesting season in March. This project has been really successful in the past and helps encourage more wildlife to the golf course. Once the boxes have been donated, children from St Vincent's are going to decorate and install the bird boxes around the area.

This year the golf course is also working partnership with Biora to introducing a wider range of boxes that could attract different types of birds, owls and bats. Two of the boxes will have cameras installed in so the children can watch the birds during their nesting period.

If you would like to donate a bird, owl or bat box towards this initiative please could you drop it off at the infant or junior office. The deadline for donating a bird box is the Monday 21 February.

As mentioned above, the children from St Vincents are going to be helping design, paint and install the bird boxes. We are also going to run a competition across the school to create the designs for the bird boxes. The entries will be judged by the school Eco Team and the 10 winners from across the school will get to paint and install the bird boxes. The top three will also get to visit the golf course with their families to have a go on their driving range!



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To enter children will need to create a design on the design sheet, which is available from their class teacher, and return it to school by Friday 4 February. Winners will be announced the following week.

## PTA UPDATE

## PTA Co-CHAIRS

At our PTA AGM, Annalise Pantin had agreed to become the co- chair for the PTA this year. Due to her exciting new arrival due later this year, Annalise has asked to step down but will still be involved in school events. We are now asking for a volunteer from our parents to be a co-Chair to work with Caroline Hetherington in leading and co-ordinating the PTAs events. No previous experience is needed as you will be part of an experienced team and have full support from the school. Contact us on [stvincentsPta@gmail.co.uk](mailto:stvincentsPta@gmail.co.uk). If you want to have a chat about the role, please email your number so we can chat about it. This is a really exciting opportunity to become more involved in school life.

## PTA EVENTS

We have some exciting ideas for activities this term. If you have any suggestions or would like to organise an event please get in touch on [stvincentspta@gmail.co.uk](mailto:stvincentspta@gmail.co.uk).

## ATTENDANCE REMINDER

As part of our safeguarding procedures, we monitor attendance and punctuality. Research shows that there is a direct correlation between attendance and attainment and that absence not only affects attainment, but also wellbeing and wider outcomes. If attendance of a child falls below 90% this is deemed persistent absenteeism. We recognise that families may go through difficult times and this may affect attendance. We are here to work with you to ensure children continue to have high levels of attendance. Should persistent absenteeism be identified, we will contact you to discuss so that we can support you. We will contact you by phone or letter. If you would like to talk with pastoral or senior staff, please join one of the regular drop in sessions or make an appointment via the school office. Please [read more](#) on the school term dates page about the impact attendance can have on outcomes.

We ask that families avoid scheduling routine medical appointments for children during the school day.

## PUNCTUALITY

We ask that all children arrive at school to start the day on time. Children who arrive a few minutes late can start the day feeling anxious and may not make a positive start to their school day. Children can also miss out on key messages and learning.



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In order to facilitate a punctual start to the day, children can access their class 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please see the times below for each department.

Department	Doors open	School starts
Reception, Year 1 and 2	8:45am	9am
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	8:50am	9:05am

As children can arrive at school within the 15 minute period, they are able to complete the morning activity until registration. The activities range from number bonds, timetables, handwriting and reading. This extra study time can help support your child's progress.

Should punctuality support be needed, we will contact you by phone, letter or chat at the gate once your child has gone into school. If you would like to talk with pastoral or senior staff, please join one of the regular drop in sessions or phone school to arrange an appointment.

## KEY DATES FOR SPRING 1

Thursday	27 January	Sacrament of Reconciliation Y3 Mrs McDuff's class: 6:30pm	St. Vincent's Church
Thursday	27 January	KS2 Class Assembly 9:05am: Y6 Miss Kirk's Class	Junior department hall - class parents only
Thursday	03 February	KS1 Class Assembly 9:05am: Y1 Mrs Wormall/Mrs Gerrard's Class	Infant department hall - class parents only
Thursday	03 February	Sacrament of Reconciliation: Y3 Mrs Needham/Mrs Jennings's class: 6:30pm	St. Vincent's church
Monday	07 February	Children's Mental Health Week	School activity
Tuesday	08 February	Safer Internet Day	School activity
Thursday	10 February	KS2 Class Assembly: Y4 Mrs Bullock's Class	Junior department hall - class parents only
Friday	11 February	Parents' Reflection: 10am	Zoom
Friday	11 February	School closes for half term	

## 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	Year 1 Mr McCann's class 99.7%
Highest junior class attendance	Year 4 Miss Campbell's class 100%
Overall school attendance	97.4%

\*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 vappy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher

