

Advent Term 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my great pleasure to write my first newsletter as Acting Head Teacher of our wonderful school, St Vincent's, this month. I've spent my first weeks here getting to know the staff and children and being welcomed in such a delightfully warm and caring way that I feel I am already part of the St Vincent family. It has been lovely catching up with some of you at the end of the day, and at our special Macmillan's Coffee Morning last week.

I have been impressed by the way the children have settled in with their new teachers. I am pleased to report that learning is well and truly under way with our new learning initiative, Growth Mindset with Mojo and Katie, teaching us all about how our brain is like a muscle and to succeed all we need to do is work at things, reflect and ask for help and that all children now expect to be challenged in every aspect of their learning.

We've welcomed Miss Best who has joined us as Year 3 teacher and Miss Khalid who joins us in Reception as part of the support staff team, also Mrs Bisset who you will have met in our office; along with the new children in Nursery, Reception and in classes across the school.

Our term began with a beautiful Mass to celebrate St. Vincent's Day where we reflected on how our saint can influence us in our lives and the children received a blessed prayer card to take home with some inspirational words from St Vincent: 'May you be forever a beautiful tree of life bringing forth fruits of love.' We also celebrated the special day with a variety of craft activities and a dance workshop, your child will have created a mask relating to a topic in their class and some classes brought home a sweet treat too. Our kitchen provided us with specially decorated biscuits with our school logo.



We are continuing with our 'Statements to Live By' assemblies and our statements this month have been: 'I can say one good thing about myself.' and 'I can live and have fun.' Our celebration assemblies on Friday have been full of joy and accomplishment with children celebrating how they have lived out that statement in the week.

We will continue to celebrate Mass with Fr. Jimmy and the parish on Thursdays at 10am. If you are able to, please join us:

- Thursday 6th October – Year 6
- Thursday 13th October – Year 5
- Thursday 20th October – Year 4

Open Evening High Schools

Open Evening at John F Kennedy School is 4th October 6.30 – 9pm

Open Evening at Cardinal Newman School is 5th October 5.30-9pm

Open Morning at John F Kennedy School is 12th October 9.30am-12pm

Information regarding transfer to high school has been sent home with you child(ren).
Please pay particular attention to the deadlines dates as these are very important.

Uniform

It's been delightful to see how smart all the children look in their new school uniforms, however it has come to my attention that a small group of children are not wearing appropriate footwear or the correct PE kit. Please ensure that your child(ren) comes to school wearing black shoes and that the shoes are suitable for all the activities that your child(ren) will do throughout the day (reserve 'fashion' footwear for times outside the school day). Please can you also ensure that they bring their correct PE kit on Monday and take it home on Friday so that it can be washed. Also we request that children do not come to school with 'fashion' haircuts, while this is an expression of individuality, it draws unnecessary attention to them and we need to spend all our time focusing on learning above all else. Please refer to the website for further details or a list can be obtained from the school office.

Music

Music lessons have commenced in Years 3, 4 and Year 5. I am really looking forward to hearing our new musicians perform. The children in Year 3 are learning the ukulele, Year 4 African drums and Year 5 are learning the clarineo.

Clubs

If you would like your child(ren) to join any clubs please enquire at the school office.

Macmillan Cancer Research Coffee Morning



We supported the Macmillan Cancer Research 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' last Friday and raised a superb total of £268.64; this provides over a day's care helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support. It is a charity that is very close to my heart because, as a family, we received support from Macmillan nurses at the end of my father's life. Thank you so much for your kind generosity in providing the cakes (we have some amazing bakers) and for buying them.

Eden Catering

A note from the kitchen, dinners for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are free under the governments' Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme. Year 3 and Year 4 are priced at £2.00 and Yr 5 and Y6 are £2.10. Meals for the week must be paid on Monday mornings. If you wish to pay monthly or termly please contact the school office on 01582 861094.

Cool Milk

Children under 5 receive free milk, if you have children over 5 and you want your child(ren) to have milk please register and pay at www.coolmilk.com.

Food Bank Donations

We are supporting the food bank effort to assist people in our community who are in need. We are told that there is ever greater demand each year, particularly during and after school holidays. We therefore ask that you please purchase an additional item of food (tins, jars or packets) when doing your shopping and bring into school by Thursday 20th October. We will present these to the church and they can be delivered to the food bank. Thank you.

Parent Consultation Evenings

We will be holding this term's parent consultation evenings on Monday 7th and Thursday 10th November 4-6.30pm, you can contact the school office from Monday 3rd October to make an appointment, please call in and speak to Mrs Patricia Coskeran. Our parent support worker, Denise Bond, will also be available on that day and she will also be in for a drop-in session from 9-10.30am and from 2.15- 3.45pm in the hall, on Monday 3rd October.

Admissions

Starting school, 2017 information has gone out to all the relevant families, if you have not received it or if you require support completing the application, or know of anyone that would need help, please contact the school office.

Our next newsletter will be out on Friday 21st October and will continue to come out on the last Friday of the month. They will be available on the school website: www.stvincentshr.org along with the diary dates under the 'News' tab. If you require a paper copy, they are available from the school office.

I wish you many blessings for the coming month of October, which we dedicate to Our Lady and the rosary.



Miss Hass

Friday 30th September 2016