

Dear Parents

Since taking over the headship of St Vincent's I have been very impressed with the way the children have conducted themselves and how they have responded so well to the "high expectations" the staff and myself have asked them to follow. I am already seeing this in the classrooms and in the children's books. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Parent Consultation Evenings after the half term break.

School Uniform

The vast majority of children take great care with their appearance when coming to school. However, there are a few areas of concern for a small number of children so here are some reminders regarding school uniform:

- A school tie should be worn each day.
- Shirts should be tucked in.
- Long hair should be tied back with a band in the school colours. It should remain tied back until through the school gate!
- Flat black shoes – no boots, including ankle boots
- The required PE kit should be worn – blue shorts, house top, plimsolls for indoor activities and trainers for outside. At this time of year a tracksuit can be worn for outdoor activities.

Year R to 4 are to have the blue book bags, as some of the bags are much too big for the pegs and Year 5 and 6 are allowed to have the blue rucksack.

Thank you for your co-operation in regard to uniform and for sending your children in to school so well turned out. This is so important as it makes the children feel they are a valued member of our school.

Sports leaders

Would your child (Year 5 & 6 only) make a good Sports Leader. We want to appoint six Sports Leaders who will help our coaches run lunchtime activities and help look after the relevant equipment. They need to be responsible, reliable and good role models at all times! We have spoken to the children about this role and asked any child interested to write a letter to myself, the headteacher, for the Monday after half term, stating why they think they would be suited for the role.



Multi-skills Activities

After half term we will be running a 5 week multi-skills session before school. We are subsidising this as a school so the cost to parents is only £1-50 per session. A separate letter with full details will come to you shortly.

Packed Lunches

I have noticed recently that some food items that are not allowed are creeping into some of the children's packed lunches. Here are some of the items:

- Foods containing NUTS. It is essential to avoid these as we have a number of children with severe allergies to nuts.
- Chocolate.
- Crisps.
- Fizzy Drinks

If any of the above are brought in then we will send them home unopened. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Changes to Staffing

There are some changes to staffing as we approach the half term break. I have alerted the parents that are directly affected by these but wanted to keep all parents informed:

- **Reception**

On Friday 13th October we said goodbye to Mrs Thornalley as she left for maternity leave and so look forward to the news of her baby in the near future. Mrs Macey will be teaching the class whilst Mrs Thornalley is on maternity leave and she will be joined by Mrs Matusz, a new member of staff, towards the end of November.

- **Year 1**

Sadly we are saying goodbye to Miss Clarke at the end of the week. Miss Clarke was always going to be with us for a short period of time but we will be very sorry to see her go. The new Class Teacher for Year 1 from Monday to Thursday will be Mrs Adams; she currently teaches for two days in Year 5. The class will be taught by Mrs Coca on Fridays.

- **Year 5**

With Mrs Adams moving to Year 1 her replacement on Thursdays and Fridays in Year 5 will be Mrs Zaffer. Mrs Pavlovic will continue to teach the class Monday to Wednesday.

I would like to wish Mrs Thornalley the very best for her maternity leave and we look forward to the news of the birth of her child in the near future. Also, I wish Miss Clarke the very best as she goes forth on her travels.

Faith Ambassadors

Our new Faith Ambassadors represented our school at the annual Diocesan Schools' Mass at St Mary's Church last Friday. This is a special occasion when schools all across the diocese come together in a Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter. The role of the Faith Ambassador is very important as the children take the lead in prayer and reflection during the year and are expected to be excellent role models. Children apply for the role and are chosen depending on the quality of their application and their suitability for the role. Congratulations to the children chosen to fulfil the role of Faith Ambassador:

Year 3: Reece Marshall & Grace Githaiga

Year 4: Lily-Rose Renforth & Kacper Lewandowski

Year 5: Lara Okunrinyo & Rafael Baptista

Year 6: Larry Kagwa & Miranda Murray

School Council

I am pleased to announce that we now have the names of our new School Council representatives. There seems to have been some confusion over whether a child should be appointed or elected and so we have ended up with a mixture of the two. The idea, however, is that the children elect their own representative and so experience democracy in action. As the children have now been informed of their representatives we will keep with those same children for this term. Then, at the beginning of next term, we will hold new elections in the classes where a child was appointed, rather than elected. In other words, if they were elected they will remain in post for the whole year. Apologies for the confusion and here are the names:

Year 2: Sofia Kerdokaite & Oliver Piatek

Year 3: Khanyi Mahoko & Amelia Button

Year 4: Michael Harkin & Carolina Vieira

Year 5: Alan Kurowski & Alexis Goslin

Year 6: Lois Djan, Ervinas Dulinskas & Joshua Renforth

Harvest Festival

This Friday we are celebrating the Harvest Festival during our assembly. Thank you to those that have sent in your donations, all donations will go to the local food bank.



Pupil Forum

Another aspect of the children's "voice" at St Vincent's is the Pupil Forum. We asked the children to let us know about what is working well in the school and what could be improved. We are now in the process of reviewing these and seeing where we can make suggested improvements. I hope, in the near future, to also hold a Parent Forum so, watch this space!

I hope you have a wonderful week with your children during the half term break and I look forward to welcoming them back on **Monday 30th October**.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J P Carroll', written on a light blue background.

J P Carroll
Headteacher

Thursday 19th October 2017