



Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year and I hope you had a restful and relaxing summer. It is great to welcome the children back looking energised and ready to learn. Welcome to our new Reception and Nursery children and their families who I know will settle in really well. We wish all our new families a special St Vincent's welcome, and we hope they will continue to enjoy their time at St Vincent's School.

Attendance

St Vincent's is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and I am writing to remind you that we expect children's attendance to be at 97% - this is in line with government and Central Bedfordshire expectations too. Currently, we remain below this and need your continuing support to ensure we hit this important mark.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high. THANK YOU for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures. Your child's attendance at school is really important, there is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances. If your child is absent then you MUST phone the school office by 8.40am.

All children who achieve 100% attendance will receive a weekly sticker and a reward of a non-uniform day if they achieve 100% over half a term.

Family holidays and term time leave

Parents/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time.

Parents/carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first requested a leave of absence in writing from the Headteacher.

All requests for authorised absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances.

If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice.

Dates for this Year

Please check the school website (www.stvincentshr.org). Go to "Dates and Newsletters" and then to "Diary Dates"). Or ask for a copy at the school office for dates and events planned across the school year.

- Upcoming event: 'Meet the Teacher' on Wednesday 25th September from 3.30pm
Please do come along and find out what the year ahead holds and the exciting topics your children will be learning. The Year 2 and 6 class teachers will also be giving a short presentation with more detailed information regarding SATs etc. Please access the school through the doors that your child uses to enter the school in the mornings.
- There will be a separate Parent Information Evening for Year 6 parents: date to follow shortly.

Parents' Evenings

The dates for Parents' Evenings this term are as follows so please put them in your diary to ensure you are able to attend:

- Monday 14th October, 4.00 - 6.30
- Wednesday 16th October, 4.00 - 6.30

You will be contacted nearer the time about making appointments so please do not call the school until this time.

School Mass

We will be celebrating Mass with Fr. Tony and the parish on Thursdays at 10am. If you are able to, please join us.

Autograph Catering

A note from the kitchen, dinners for children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are free under the governments' Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme. Years 3 & 4 are priced at £2.05 and Years 5 & 6 are £2.15. Meals for the week must be paid on Monday mornings. If you wish to pay monthly or termly please contact the kitchen office on 01582 861094.

Uniform

It is lovely to see so many children returning to school, looking so smart in their school uniform. It always makes me smile, so below is just a reminder of how to keep this up throughout the school year:

Years N and R: Blue sweatshirt with school logo and white polo shirt. (Rest of uniform is same as KS1/2).

Years 1 – 6: Both boys and girls are required to wear a white shirt (can be a blouse for girls) and school tie. For PE, navy blue shorts are to be worn with a polo shirt in the colour of the house they belong to; a navy blue or black **plain** tracksuit can be worn after the Advent half term until the Easter break; Black plimsolls are needed for indoor PE and Trainers for outdoors. Please ensure you write your child's name on all uniform and PE kit.

Boots are not permitted. Footwear should be flat black shoes.

There should not be any patterns shaved into children's hair and long hair should be tied back, using school colours.

Jewellery is not permitted with the exception of plain gold or silver stud earrings, which must be removed before PE or swimming lessons. We will strictly be enforcing this.

Water bottles

Please can you ensure that your child uses a school logo'd water bottle and that only water is to be filled in the bottles.

If your child loses their bottle a new one can be bought from the school office for the cost of £2.



We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. Remember we operate an open door policy – feel free to book an appointment with your child's class teacher if you have concerns or need support, help or advice.

Once again, it is wonderful to see the children back to school and I know you will continue to work with us, so your child can grow in confidence and faith.

Kind regards

K Armstrong
Head Teacher

Thursday 5th September 2019