



St. Vincent's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Message from Mrs Waldram

September has been a hugely busy month and the summer holidays seem like a distant memory. The children have all settled well into their new classes and are now used to their new routines and teachers.

Later this month, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their work so far and how well they are settling. Please put 17th & 18th October onto your calendar now, and look out for the booking invitations when they come out. Lots of other events have been added to the school calendar too.

We welcome a student teacher, Miss Raza, who is working with the Year 6 team. We wish her a happy experience at St Vincent's over the next few months. Congratulations also go to Mrs Dowling on her recent appointment as Headteacher across the Federation from next September.

God bless,

Mrs Waldram

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*Focus virtue of the half-term: Loving*

*This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:12)*

*Focus virtue of next half-term: Forgiving*

*If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:14)*

### Green Park

Our Year 5 children had the fabulous opportunity to go on a residential trip to Green Park, Aston Clinton at the end of September. They had a very enjoyable time, with some of the highlights being rock climbing, abseiling, archery, problem solving, shelter building, fire-lighting and singing around a campfire, as well as eating lots of lovely food and making their own beds!

Mrs Aldorino, Mrs Foster and Mrs Stagg were very proud of the children, and amazed by all they managed to achieve in a short time. Well done Year 5.



## Harvest

*Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

As you will have seen on ClassDojo, we are collecting items for Foodbank during this month for Harvest. **Please bring in any non-perishable items you can spare to the school office by 19<sup>th</sup> October.** Find out more at: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

**Harvest assembly is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9am – all parents/carers are welcome.**

On the same day, we invite you to donate £1 on Parentmail for CAFOD's Brighten Up harvest campaign, in exchange for wearing your own brightly coloured clothes. What a lovely way to end the half-term!

## Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Meet Viki – Chair of St. Vincent's PTA

My name is Viki Kavanagh and I am the new Chair of the PTA. You may know my partner Luke, who is the Site Agent of our school, and I have children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 5. I am looking forward to getting started and we have lots of exciting events for our children coming up. Our new team is hoping to enrich our school community experience.

Thank you to our Nursery and Reception families who came along to our coffee mornings. A letter has gone out regarding PTA WhatsApp groups to help us communicate activities. We are looking for a new logo for the PTA from any creative pupils – entries to be sent in by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Coming soon! PTA Disco – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October & Pop-up Harvest – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

If any of you would like to help or have ideas, please feel free to get in touch in person, or via email on: [stvincentshr.pta@gmail.com](mailto:stvincentshr.pta@gmail.com)

## Attendance

**Thank you all for your efforts in getting your children to school on time each day. Do keep making sure they are through the door by 9:00 am so they can start their learning straight away. This applies also to any Year 5 & 6 children who travel to school independently; if they arrive late, you will be informed and the privilege may be withdrawn.**

We will be displaying each class's weekly attendance in the school hall to encourage the children to get their class up to 100% attendance for the week. Good attendance is so important to support your child with their learning. Please help your child to be in school on time all week, so they can get as close as possible to that magic 100%!

**The class with the best percentage attendance for September was Year 3 with 98.33 %.**

Attendance for the whole school was 95.5%. *Can we get this above 96% this month?*

## Father Tony

Father Tony will be in school this month to help the younger children learn about Baptism. As always, it is lovely to have him come into school and to share our learning with him. Please ask your children about what they have learnt with Father Tony. Please remember you can see Father Tony at St. Mary's church too. Mass times can all be found on the church website:

<https://www.stmarys-dunstable.org/>

## Reading – Accelerated Reader

Our AR *Word Millionaires* and *Multi-millionaires* have been presented with a silver or gold star badge in recognition of their outstanding achievements in reading over the past few years. The badges will identify them as children who are avid readers, and who might be able to offer some good advice on book choices. Well done to Bonnie, Scarlett T, Benjamin B, Stephanie, Noella, Milena, Samuel, Maya S and Eliza!

*Who will be next to join the Millionaire Club? Will it be you?*

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School Reads!

In September 2023, students have read...

**435** Books  
**1,569,288** Words  
for **11** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)



RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader

## Sporting events

Well done to children from Years 3-6 who completed two weeks of swimming in September! Come rain or shine they made it to the pool! Miss Azzopardi was really impressed with all the children and it was great to see how their confidence in swimming increased over the 10 lessons. A huge thank you to Mrs Foster as well who helped by teaching swimming every day as well as her other school duties.

There will be some football fixtures taking place over the month of October. If your child is involved, they will receive a letter. We look forward to seeing how our teams get on.

## School Elections 2023

Well done to all of the children who wrote applications or gave speeches in our recent elections. Here are the results:

### Faith Ambassadors –

Year 1 – Joseph and Niamh; Year 2 – Dre-Juan and Lilliana; Year 3 - Francesca and Maksymilian; Year 4 – Emllet and George; Year 5 – Ilona and Lukas; Year 6 – Carrie and Milena

### School Council –

Year 1 – Jaxon and Shanice; Year 2 – Thomas and Lilly; Year 3 – Karlos and Cecilia; Year 4 – Kairo and Alice; Year 5 – Michael and Joshua

### Year 6 Team Captains –

St Matthew - Eliza (Cap), Prince (Vice)

St Mark - Bonnie (Cap), Lourdes (Vice)

St Luke – Benjamin (Cap), Milena (Vice)

St John – Henry (Cap), Sarah (Vice)

The team captains are also members of the school council.

## Afternoon Nursery

In January we are starting an afternoon nursery. We are now able to accept children the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The afternoon nursery session will run from 12:30 – 3:30pm. Please pass on the news to anyone who might be interested. Applications forms are available on the website or school office.

## Headlice

We have had a few cases of headlice in school recently. Please remember to check your child's head regularly for signs of headlice and treat it as appropriate. Guidance can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

# St Vincent's School Calendar 2023-24

(All dates are subject to change)

| Date                                              | Event                                              | Notes                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 9am                    | St Vincent's Feast Day - Mass at school            | Parents and carers welcome                                                                                                               |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October                 | Year 5 flu vaccinations                            | Parents need to have registered their child for them to take part in the immunisations.                                                  |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | Y3 & Y4 girls' football tournament at Creasey Park | Letters sent out to those involved.                                                                                                      |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct, am                    | Diocesan Schools Mass at St Mary's Church          | Faith Ambassadors will attend, along with representatives from every Catholic school in Northampton Diocese. Full school uniform please! |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October                 | Girls and boys football teams vs Tithe Farm 1.30pm | At St Vincent's                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 9:00              | Mayor Jimmy at assembly!                           |                                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | Fr. Tony in to see Early Years and Years 1 - 3     | Fr Tony will help the children to learn about Baptism                                                                                    |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | PTA Discos                                         | Details coming soon                                                                                                                      |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 – 6:30 pm    | Parent Consultations                               | Booking links will be sent out                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 – 5:30 pm  | Parent Consultations                               | Booking links will be sent out                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct                    | St Luke's feast day                                | <b>St Luke's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>yellow</b>                                                                     |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October                 | Foodbank collection                                | <b>Please bring your donations in by the end of today</b>                                                                                |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Harvest assembly & CAFOD Brighten Up day           | <b>9am start</b><br><b>£1 for CAFOD for wearing your own brightly coloured clothes</b>                                                   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 3:20 pm               | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Advent Term         | EBLO will run as usual.                                                                                                                  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 3:20 pm               | PTA Pop-Up Harvest                                 | Details coming soon                                                                                                                      |
| <b>ADVENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY</b>                   |                                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Staff training day                                 | <b>No children in school today</b>                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 8:45 am              | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Advent Term       |                                                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2:30                | Girls' football team v Thornhill                   | At St Vincent's                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November<br>6:30 – 8:30pm | Dunstable Torch Light Procession                   |                                                                                                                                          |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9:00                   | Advent Mass and Confessions                        |                                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec                       | (Early celebration of) St John's feast day         | <b>St John's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>green</b>                                                                      |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec                       | Christmas lunch                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec                      | Class parties                                      |                                                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec                    | Christmas jumpers<br>Carols around the tree 1pm    | <b>All welcome</b>                                                                                                                       |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br><b>2pm</b>      | End of Advent Term                                 | <b>No Late Owls club</b>                                                                                                                 |

| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                           |                                                 |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024<br>8:45 am                                                                                                                                | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Lent Term      |                                                                   |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 3:20 pm                                                                                                                                         | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Lent Term        | EBLO will run as usual.                                           |
| LENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                      |                                                 |                                                                   |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 8:45 am                                                                                                                                         | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Lent Term      |                                                                   |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>2 pm</b>                                                                                                                                   | End of Lent Term                                | <b>No Late Owls club</b>                                          |
| EASTER HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |                                                                   |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr<br>8:45 am                                                                                                                                     | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Pentecost Term |                                                                   |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr                                                                                                                                               | St Mark's feast day                             | <b>St Mark's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>red</b> |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May                                                                                                                                                  | Bank holiday – school closed                    |                                                                   |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May                                                                                                                    | SATs week (Year 6)                              |                                                                   |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 3:20 pm                                                                                                                                         | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Pentecost Term   | EBLO will run as usual.                                           |
| PENTECOST HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                 |                                                 |                                                                   |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun 8:45 am                                                                                                                                          | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Pentecost Term |                                                                   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July <b>2 pm</b>                                                                                                                                    | End of Pentecost Term and School Year           | <b>No Late Owls club</b>                                          |
| SUMMER HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |                                                                   |
| 2024-25 DATES HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED YET, BUT THE START DATE FOR THE CHILDREN IS LIKELY TO BE EITHER TUESDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> OR WEDNESDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024. |                                                 |                                                                   |