



St. Vincent's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Message from Mrs Waldram

A very warm welcome back to everyone after the long summer break! I hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable time.

You might notice that I have been playing with the format of the newsletter again – hopefully for the better. Responding to parental feedback from the end of last term, the aim is now to have a separate monthly newsletter for each of St Mary's and St Vincent's. This will allow us more space to focus on the St Vincent's events that matter most to you, and to avoid confusion over irrelevant dates from St Mary's. It will also include a fuller school calendar on the last page that will be amended and added to each month. I'm sure that you will welcome this improvement in home-school communication. We will still continue to use ClassDojo for announcements, so if you don't yet have a login linking you to each of your children's classes, please speak to the class teacher or to the office staff.

At the end of last term, there were also a lot of parental comments regarding PTA events. As the PTA AGM is taking place this Tuesday morning at 9:00am, please do come along and have your say. The PTA relies on your support in order to fund and arrange any events at all.

God bless,

Mrs Waldram

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*Focus virtue of the half-term: **Loving***

### Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA plays a vital role in the life of the school. It is made up of parents who give their time for free, to support the children, staff, school and other parents in many different ways. A lot of what is done is fundraising to give the children extra opportunities they otherwise wouldn't be able to experience. You can help too! The PTA would welcome any support that you can give.

There will be a PTA meeting on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 9am** at school – all are welcome!

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 12:00pm PTA lunch for Reception class parents and carers

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 11:00am PTA coffee morning for Nursery parents and carers

### Sporting events

Miss Azzopardi has again arranged a full sports calendar, starting with swimming. Years 3 – 6 will be going swimming every afternoon from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. You will have received information about this at the end of last term. Please ensure you sign the online consent form and make the payment on ParentMail **by 7<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm**. The link is also here for you: <https://forms.office.com/e/SyyejnmSLy>

## First Holy Communion

If you have any children who will now be in Year 3 or above, **online registration** for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion is now open between 1<sup>st</sup> August and **30<sup>th</sup> September**. Please use the following link to register – <http://www.lutonpastoralarea.org/registration>

## Finance

Please make sure you keep all your monies up to date. Your dinner and EBLO accounts should never be in debt. If you book sessions yourself using the app, you will need to pay for it at the time and we would encourage you to do this. You can put credit onto your account. If you need help with this, please come to the school office. If you have concerns over paying for items at any time, please speak to us so we can make arrangements for you.

If you have an idea for fundraising, please come to the school office and we will put you in touch with one of the members of the PTA.

**We raised £145 from our Bags2School collection in Pentecost term! Thank you for all of your donations. Look out for our next collection!**

## Film Crew at St. Vincent's

The school was visited by an Irish TV crew over the summer. Waka TV were making a documentary about famous Irish author Paul Howard who went to St Vincent's in the late 1970's. He was overwhelmed to be back in the school and had lots of lovely memories. Paul particularly remembered being in the Year 2 and 3 classrooms and the smell of baking bread coming from the school kitchen which was in the central part of the school. The TV series is called Keys to My Life on RTE.



Mrs O'Regan with Paul Howard (Left) and presenter Brendan Courtney (Right)

## Attendance and registration reminder

A reminder that school doors are open **8.45am** for Nursery and **8:50am** for the rest of the school. This means that the classroom doors will be closed from 9:00am for registration. If your child arrives after this time, they will need to come through the school office to be signed in and it will be recorded on their attendance record as late (L sign on their registration certificate). If they arrive after 9.20am, this will still be late but will be unauthorised (U sign on their registration certificate).

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office and leave a message on the absence line. If we have not been informed about why your child is absent, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Please be aware, if your child builds up a number of unauthorised absences, you may be liable to a fine from Central Bedfordshire.

While we do appreciate there are times when being late is unavoidable, this should be the exception rather than the rule. Our School Attendance Office and our Educational Welfare Officer monitor your child's attendance, number of late arrivals and unauthorised absences. You are encouraged to bring your child to school **on time** every day as this is a key way to support them in their education. Thank you for your support of us in this way.

Please remember we have a breakfast club available so you can drop your child off from 7:50am if this is easier for you. The cost is £3.50 per session. Please talk to the office to register for breakfast club.

## St Vincent's School Calendar 2023-24

(All dates are subject to change)

| Date                                                          | Event                                                                                                     | Notes                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 5th Sept 2023<br>8:45 am                              | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Advent Term for <b>all</b> children <b>except Nursery and Reception.</b> | <b>Nursery (and some Reception)</b> home-visit appointments take place in the afternoons this week. Reception children start on the 11 <sup>th</sup> September. |
| Tuesday 5th Sept 9:00 am                                      | PTA AGM at school                                                                                         | <b>All are welcome to attend</b>                                                                                                                                |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept                                  | Start of term <b>Reception &amp; Nursery</b>                                                              | Reception 8:45 am – 12:45 pm<br>Morning nursery 8:45 – 11:45 am<br>(Nursery parents will be notified of start date directly)                                    |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept                                  | Years 3-6 swimming starts                                                                                 | This will be every afternoon for two weeks                                                                                                                      |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept                                  | Parents' meeting – Year 5 residential trip                                                                | 3.30pm and 6pm                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 12:00                           | PTA Reception lunch                                                                                       | For parents/carers of Reception children                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept                               | All <b>Reception</b> start full time                                                                      | Reception 8:45 am – 3:20 pm                                                                                                                                     |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept<br>11:00am                       | PTA coffee morning for Nursery parents and carers                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept                                | St Matthew's feast day                                                                                    | <b>St Matthew's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>blue</b>                                                                                           |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept                                  | Years 3-6 swimming concludes                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> to<br>Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Year 5 residential journey to Green Park                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept                                | Years R-6 flu vaccinations                                                                                | Year 5 date to be confirmed                                                                                                                                     |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 9am                                | St Vincent's Feast Day - Mass at school                                                                   | Parents and carers welcome                                                                                                                                      |
| 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!                        |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 – 6:30 pm                | Parent Consultations                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 – 5:30 pm              | Parent Consultations                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 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>                                                                                            |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 3:20 pm                           | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Advent Term                                                                | EBLO will run as usual.                                                                                                                                         |
| ADVENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                      |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 8:45 am                          | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Advent Term                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 18 <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> |
| 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<br>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. |                                                 |                                                                     |