



St. Mary's and St Vincent's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus



Message from Mrs Dowling

As we come to the end of another busy and successful academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together as a school community and to say how incredibly proud I am of our children.

This has been a year filled with learning, growth and countless achievements. It has been a privilege to spend time in classrooms, look through the children's work and celebrate their successes with them. Their enthusiasm, determination and pride in their learning continue to inspire us all.

The past few weeks have been particularly significant for our school family, with Ofsted inspections taking place at both of our schools. While inspections inevitably bring an added level of pressure, I could not have been prouder of the way our children, staff and wider community responded. The inspectors witnessed what we see every day, children who are happy, respectful and eager to learn, supported by dedicated staff. I would like to thank everyone - staff, governors, parents and, of, our wonderful children, for their support, encouragement and commitment throughout this process.

Due to the timing of the inspections and the summer holiday, the final Ofsted reports will not be published until September. I know many of you will be keen to read them and I very much look forward to sharing the outcomes with you as soon as they are available at the start of the new academic year.

As we prepare for the summer holidays, we also take time to thank God for His guidance and blessings throughout the year. We are reminded of the words from St Paul's letter to the Colossians:

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17)

These words remind us to be grateful for the opportunities we have shared, the friendships we have built and the many ways in which we have grown together as a community.

To those families who are moving on, particularly our Year 6 pupils, we wish you every success and happiness as you begin the next stage of your journey. You leave us with our prayers and very best wishes and we know you will continue to flourish.

I hope that the summer holidays provide you with an opportunity to rest, spend precious time with family and friends, and create many happy memories together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Thursday 3rd September**, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital to your child's success at school. Every day in school supports not only academic progress, but also children's confidence, friendships and overall wellbeing. Even small amounts of missed learning can quickly add up and have a significant impact over time.

We are committed to supporting all families to ensure children attend school regularly and on time. Our Attendance and Welfare Officer plays a key role in this work, monitoring attendance closely and working with families where there may be concerns. Their role is to offer support, guidance and, where needed, early intervention to help remove any barriers to attendance.

Attendance St Mary's <u>The class with the best percentage attendance last term was Year 4 with 96.5%.</u>	Attendance St Vincent's <u>The class with the best percentage attendance last term was Year 3 with 97.16%.</u>
A Term Full of Learning, Creativity and Community This final term of the academic year has been filled with a wonderful range of enriching experiences for our pupils, providing opportunities to learn beyond the classroom, embrace new challenges and create lasting memories. It has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, resilience and excellent attitudes that our children continue to demonstrate in everything they do. One of the highlights of the term has been our programme of educational visits, with every class enjoying an exciting trip linked to their learning. From exploring the rich history of Verulamium to discovering the animals and countryside at Mead Open Farm, these visits have brought learning to life and provided invaluable opportunities for children to develop their curiosity, independence and understanding of the world around them. We are incredibly grateful to all of the staff and parent volunteers who helped make these experiences possible. Our Year 6 pupils have enjoyed a truly memorable Activity Week as they celebrated the end of their primary school journey together. Throughout the week they embraced a variety of exciting new challenges, including ice skating, Go Ape and many other adventurous activities. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another, stepping outside their comfort zones and demonstrating the resilience, teamwork and confidence that have become hallmarks of this fantastic year group. We hope these experiences will remain treasured memories as they prepare for the next stage of their education. Our faith has continued to be at the heart of school life this term, and we have been delighted to welcome Fr Biju to both schools on a number of occasions to celebrate Mass with our children. These celebrations have provided valuable opportunities for prayer, reflection and thanksgiving as we have come together as a school community. Most recently, Fr Biju celebrated our Year 6 Leavers' Mass, a special and poignant occasion where we gave thanks for the children's time with us, celebrated all they have achieved and asked for God's blessing as they prepare to begin the next stage of their journey.	
Polite reminders We have seen a recent increase in the number of late collections. Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day or after-school clubs. Our staff have commitments after school, and your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. We also ask that all parents and carers continue to drive safely and be considerate when parking near the school. The safety of our children and community is of utmost importance.	

New Nursery Provision at St Vincent's

We are delighted to share that our brand-new nursery provision at St Vincent's is now complete and ready to welcome its first children. We are excited to announce that the nursery will officially open on 3rd September. Our nursery will offer a warm, nurturing and high-quality early years environment for children from the term after their second birthday, helping to give them the very best start to their educational journey.

If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in a nursery place, please contact the school office for further information. We would be delighted to answer any questions and arrange a visit to showcase our wonderful new provision.