

ST VINCENT DE PAUL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

**‘SERVING WITH
LOVE, STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE’**

**A LOUD MESSAGE
FROM THE CHILDREN
OF ST VINCENT’S.**

HEADTEACHERS WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to update you on what has been happening this Autumn term. The children have taken part in many exciting educational opportunities and we now have many pupil voice groups in school. Throughout the year, we will be reporting back on the great work that they will be leading. The voice of the child is so important, as it is through this platform that the children are able to think, plan and act on their ideas, providing excellent opportunities for pupil leadership.

THE EYES OF THE WORLD CAMPAIGN

Our children have been actively taking part in the CAFOD ‘The Eyes of the World’ campaign. In September, our Year 6 children arranged an awareness march from school to the Pier Head, with their own hand made posters. At the Pier Head they met with CAFOD representative Siobhan Farnell, Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram and joined representatives from Broughton Hall Catholic High School. The children spoke articulately about how they can use their voices to make a positive change for future generations, and the importance of this campaign ahead of the COP26 conference. A loud message was sent from the children of St Vincent’s...

“The eyes of the world are watching and so are we.”

FASHION FIX PROJECT

Following on from the ‘Eyes of the World’ campaign, the children have been able to join a new school project that is being led by the Liverpool World Centre and Faith4Change, focusing on fashion/textile waste and climate change. Fashion Fix aims to reduce the amount of textiles going to landfill by engaging pupils, teachers and parents in understanding how to reuse, reduce and recycle.



*Year 6 Campaigners with Metro Mayor
Steve Rotheram*



MOCK UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

On Thursday 4th November, representatives from our Year 6 took part in a mock UN Climate conference at 'The Authority Chamber'. The children used their research and debating skills in the Chamber to actively embrace the style of the UN conference with a focus on the fashion and textile journey. Representing the countries of Vietnam and Italy, they prepared and spoke at length about the importance of the textile industry to their country, how they are currently reducing their carbon footprint and how they would continue to do this in the future. They also elaborated on their countries new ideas for sustainability. Well done Year 6.

TEN TONNE CHALLENGE

In response to the 'reuse, reduce, recycle' message, our school council has organised a fund raising event for school, in partnership with Faiths4change and Liverpool World Centre.

The school council are calling on pupils, families and teachers to take up this challenge. On **Monday 13th December** our school community is being asked to take part in the Ten Tonne Challenge. Textiles are the 4th biggest contributor to climate change; affecting nature and humans alike through their impact on water, biodiversity, pollution and the human right to safe, fairly-paid work.

Message from the school council....



"We can make a positive change in St Vincent's by choosing how we get rid of our things..."

MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER – School Council Fundraising Event



Please send into school good quality items for **RE-USE:**

Men's, ladies & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts and accessories.

Please place in a black bin bag.

(NO UNIFORMS, WORKWEAR, UNDERWEAR, PILLOWS, DUVETS, BED LINEN, CURTAINS, TOWELS, SOFT TOYS OR PIECES OF FABRIC PLEASE)

POPPY PROJECT

In conjunction with St Luke's Bombed Out Church, all our children took part in the Remembrance Recycling project, using their resourcefulness, the children created their own Remembrance poppies and helped to fundraise for the Royal British Legion. All poppies have been planted in St Luke's memorial garden and will be open for viewing by the general public, Friday – Sunday at 10am-6pm. We encourage you all to go and see the children's hard work.

YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Our Year 6 children have participated in various training opportunities this term to support their leadership skills across the whole school. The training has been focused in oracy skills, citizenship and coaching, supporting our children to become agents of change and impact positively on our school community. Please find more information below.

READING REVOLUTIONAIRES TRAINING



Reading Revolutionaires is an innovative course run by 'The Reader'. Twelve of our Year 6 children have attended this training. This course enables schools most powerful advocates – the children themselves – to inspire younger children to develop a love of reading through a shared 'buddy' reading scheme. After attending the training, which focused on equipping the children with the knowledge, skills and confidence in reading aloud with their younger buddy. The Year 6 reading buddies have supporting our Key Stage 1 children every Friday, showing real dedication, care and leadership. Well done Reading Buddies.

“I really enjoy reading with the children, making the stories interactive, enjoyable and a shared experience.” Arta Year 6



PLAYGROUND LEADERS TRAINING

During this training, the children learned how to plan, lead and review activity sessions for our key stage 1 children. They reflected on their organisation and communication skills, worked collaboratively and demonstrated real innovation and self motivation. The children have thoroughly enjoyed putting this training into practice, providing the younger children with excellent role models.

“It’s been so much fun because we get to interact with the younger children, this means a lot especially as I’m in my last year. Also I really enjoy the responsibility of helping, organising and playing the different games. Jake Year 6

BOOK CLUB

Book club has been taking part in the ‘Fantastic Book Awards’, this is an annual book event designed to encourage children to read for pleasure. Each week the children meet, discuss and share views about their reading in the school library. Over the course of the term the children will read many story books and consider which they believe to be the best, through a range of creative activities. As a special treat the book club children will be attending the Playhouse Theatre to watch the pop musical ‘Fantastically Great Women who changed the World’.



SCHOOL CHOIR

Our school choir meets once a week and is ran by Mr Borrows and Miss Rogan. This term they have accepted an invitation to sing at the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation’s Christmas event at Liverpool One. The Christmas preparations and rehearsals have meant that the corridors have been filled with harmony and joy! The choir is really looking forward to their upcoming carol performance and can’t wait to show all of their hard work, talent and dedication to the public and fill some hearts with festive cheer!

CHILDREN'S ROSARY CLUB

The Children's Rosary Club is a beautiful way of encouraging children to pray and grow in faith. The Rosary club meets every Friday and it is led by the children themselves. We pray that the Children's Rosary, their families, those associated with the Children's Rosary including our priests, our Bishop and our Holy Father Pope Francis may be the extended hands of Our Blessed Mother and her Son in this World.

CODE CLUB

Code Club is a space where our children have the opportunity to practice their computer coding skills as they work through projects to create games, animations and web pages, using a variety of coding languages. They will get to learn, build, and share their ideas with fellow peers in a cyber-safe environment designed to help our children become the computer programmers of tomorrow. Mr Borrowes is leading this club every Friday.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As part of our Black History Month, the Mandela8 organisation gifted a collection of books in memory of Angela Holligan, an activist who was born in Liverpool 8. This scheme has been launched to increase understanding of diversity within schools and 'empower, encourage and educate' all children in the City Region about diversity and inclusion.

Our Year 5 and 6 children had the amazing opportunity to join a webinar with Chris Lubbe. Chris was Nelson Mandela's bodyguard for 8 years, he is an internationally acclaimed keynote speaker and storyteller. In his talk to the children he drew upon his incredible story of resistance against 'apartheid', keeping the children spellbound as he described his journey of discovery. Most importantly he finished his talk leaving the children inspired to take action to bring about change, stepping beyond limitations and taking action to become the best version of themselves. Chris's story contained themes such as fear, determination, courage, love and forgiveness, all in the face of blatant racial discrimination.

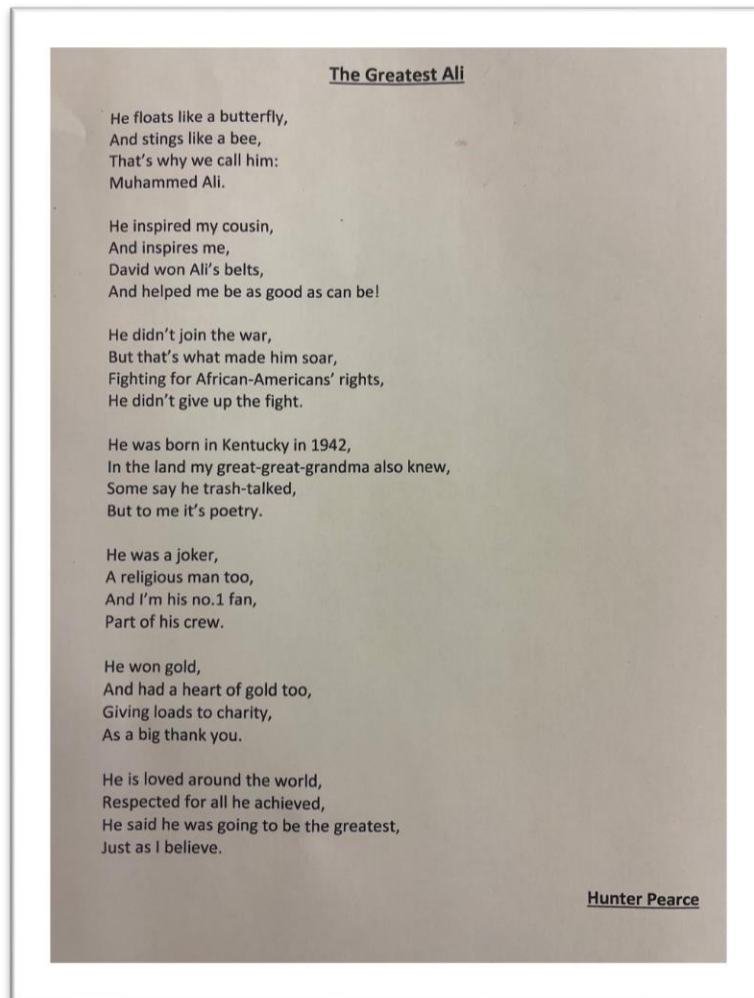
"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears." Nelson Mandela

Our Key Stage 1 children thoroughly enjoyed the live streamed storytelling performances from award winning storyteller Usifu Jalloh. Usifu engaged the children on an imaginative journey around Africa to celebrate Black History Month, teaching them about African culture and heritage, as well as the value of embracing diverse cultures.

Our Year 3 children celebrated the work of inspirational black artists, focusing on Alma Thomas whose artistic practices extended to every facet of her life – from community service and teaching to gardening and dress. A trailblazer, Alma was the first Black American woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1972. The children were very inspired by her beautiful, abstract paintings and created their own beautiful mosaic collages.

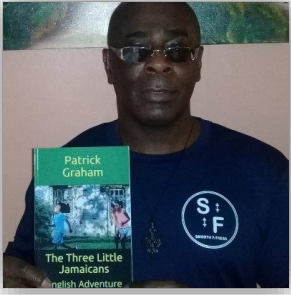
Our Year 4 children celebrated the work of British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman Mary Jane Seacole, focusing on her medical work in the Crimean war and how she combated the racial prejudice she experienced in her lifetime.

Our Year 5 children focused on many inspiring black historical and present figures. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Amanda Gorman and Marcus Rashford – celebrating and acknowledging their achievements and the impact that they have had in our society today. Linking with their World War 1 theme, they discovered all about Walter Tull, the first black officer of the British Army. During the half term the children completed a challenge to research further and I am delighted to share an amazing poem created by Hunter (Yr5).



We also arranged a Key stage 2 author visit from Patrick Graham, whose son was a former pupil of St Vincent's. Patrick is a UK Liverpool based poet, writer, actor and workshop facilitator under the logo 'Black out Productions'. He has also performed at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre, The Unity Theatre as well as Community Centres in education and historical plays. Patrick read his published story 'The Three Little Jamaicans' to the children and was able to provide the children with a preview of an his new upcoming book - still in development. The children were thoroughly captivated by both stories and Patrick has vowed to return in the Summer Term with his completed book.

I was delighted to receive the below feedback from Patrick after his visit.



'Just like to thank you for inviting me in to read extracts of my books to the children.

Also, would add that the experience was most inspiring to me as a writer, listening to the thoughts and feelings of the children who offered very good feedback that will help me in my work and gave me greater confidence in my storytelling.

They articulated their feedback in a clear and concise manner and asked many questions showing their desire to know more about me and my writing making it a thought provoking and engaging experience for myself, the teachers and of course themselves.

It will benefit greatly the comments they gave and their willingness to speak about my writing and even their own, as I welcomed the opportunity to share why I write, some of my practices in developing stories and offering advice to those who stated that they are writing stories and comic books.

Thanks again, and I look forward to returning in the future to showcase my writing and experiences with the children.'
Patrick.

THE INCREDIBLE, EDIBLE ART CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Monday 15th November, two of our Year 5 children took part in the Edible Art Masterpiece, based on the theme 'Our Planet', the children could look at deforestation, global warming, plastic in the oceans etc. Our team focused on deforestation and the importance of our rainforests.



Using a variety of edible foods they created their own Edible Rainforest and thoroughly enjoyed eating it at the end. Their masterpiece was amazing and they came 2nd in the overall competition. Well done to Vivian and Janel.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 'ONE KIND WORD'

Our whole school took part in our Anti-Bullying campaign with the theme 'One Kind Word'.

"In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying."



The children started the week with 'Odd Socks Day', however there was a serious message behind the fun: as the odd socks were to show that we are ALL unique and different, and how important it is to be kind to each other and respect each other's individuality.

Our children created kindness chains, detailing four characteristics and traits that they admired about their class peers. Daily kindness challenges were carried out in every class, for pupils and teachers. Our Year 5 children created kindness posters, with pull off tabs, written on each tab was random acts of kindness. They carefully placed them around our school to encourage the other children to select a tab, perform that act of kindness then sign it and place it in the kindness basket outside my room. Our PSHE lessons focused on anti-bullying strategies through our KiVa curriculum programme.

BALTIC GREEN UP



Councillor Sarah Doyle contacted us and asked if members of our school would like to become involved in the 'Baltic Green Up' project – this is the planting scheme, that many of you may have seen, along Park Road and Jamaica Street. Our Eco-council thought this would be a fantastic opportunity and nominated members of our Year 5 class. The children took part in an extensive 'bulb' planting workshop, helping to plant over 500 bulbs. Well done to James (Yr5) who won the 'look out' competition and received 250 bulbs for our own school environment. We can't wait to see the flowers in bloom!



PUPILS VOICE

At St Vincent's we strongly believe that our children should be actively involved in leading positive change in our school. Our School Officers, School Council, Mini Vinnies and Eco Warriors have been working hard to organise some amazing initiatives this term.

The School Council has organised the 'Ten Tonne Challenge' and a 'Festive Fun Friday' to raise money for playground equipment. Our Mini Vinnies, as part of the ongoing charity work of the school, are supporting The White Chapel Centre this year with the donation of Christmas Shoe Boxes. These will be given to children who are currently living in family hostels around the city. These will often be some of the only presents these children will get. They have also organised 'Children in Need' day and CAFOD fundraising day. Our Eco Warriors are focusing on reducing our school's plastic pollution, they have organised a recycle opportunity for our white board pens, each class will shortly be issued with a collection pot so that we can actively participate in our 'REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE' theme. Well done to all involved!

HEADTEACHER'S HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAYS

Well done to all the children who have gone 'above and beyond' this autumn term and received a nomination, from a member of staff, for a Hot Chocolate Friday. I have thoroughly enjoyed this lovely opportunity to spend time with the children celebrating their achievements, whilst sharing a hot drink and some chocolate treats!



PARENTAL WORKSHOPS

This term we have been able to invite our parents to a variety of workshops, this has included Parental Wellbeing Coffee Afternoon, Maths No Problem Workshops and Kiva Anti-bullying workshops. Thank you to all parents that attended. If you feel that you would benefit from other specific workshops please get in touch.

RECONCILIATION

On Wednesday 8th December the children preparing for their Holy Communion made their sacrament of Reconciliation, they attended a beautiful service led by Fr Ferdinand and Cardinal Michael. The children participated with reverence and respect throughout the whole service. A very big thank you to all parents/carers who supported the children and are continuing to support them on the 'With You Always' programme.

ADVENT PREPARATION

A big thank you to Fr Ferdinand who led our Advent assemblies to give the pupils an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Advent as well as to pray for guidance in their Christmas preparations.

HEADTEACHER'S WORD OF THANKS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big personal thank you to all – our parent/carers, our governors, our amazing staff and especially the children!

Mrs Salters

