

# ST VINCENT DE PAUL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022

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

## **DATES FOR DIARY:**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov – Children in Need Day

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parents’ Coffee  
Morning Key Stage 2 Reading (Yr3-6)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Children’s Santa Dash &  
School Council Enterprise Fayre & Tombola  
(Parents welcome from 2pm)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2:30pm Nursery  
Christmas Performance

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – **2pm** School Nativity  
Performance (Rec – Yr3) in St Vincent’s  
Church.

**7pm** – EYES DOWN FOR CHRISTMAS  
BINGO (ADULTS ONLY)

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** – SANTA VISITS St  
Vincent’s (more information to follow)

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – 11am Golden  
Assembly, school closes at 12pm.

## **HEADTEACHER’S WELCOME**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share with you our Autumn newsletter, this is a lovely way to showcase all the activities, projects and visitors that the children have participated in this term so far – I hope you enjoy the read!

## **PARENTAL COFFEE MEETINGS**

This term it was lovely to launch our school Parental Coffee Meetings to be run regularly throughout the year. There will be a different focus/activity for each Coffee Morning or Afternoon informing you about school subjects, policies and how you can further support your child at home. Also, we will have the occasional guest speaker attending to talk on specialist subjects. So far, we have had lots of positive feedback with parents/carers saying that this is a good way to keep everyone informed in a positive and constructive manner. It is also a lovely opportunity to meet other parents/carers over a hot drink and biscuit.



### **EYFS COFFEE AFTERNOON**

To welcome our new parents/carers Miss Kendrick (Early Years Lead) organised and led an EYFS welcome meeting. This was a great opportunity to explore the importance of the EYFS 7 areas of learning and how to further support them at home. To be introduced to our new sharing platform OPAL which houses the children’s learning journals and to talk to the classroom teachers on a 1:1 basis. Thank you to all the parents/carers who supported this meeting.

### PHONICS & EARLY READING COFFEE MORNING

Miss Parkinson led our RWI phonics workshop; this included ways to support the children's learning, parental advice and support links for parents, also a live lesson to aid understanding of the fast paced phonics lessons. Thank you for all who attended and the feedback given.

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*"Really good workshop to help me understand phonics and how I can further help my child progress"*

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### ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to all our parents/carers who attended this coffee morning organised by Mrs Pickavance (Attendance Lead). We were delighted to welcome Mr. Charlie Breen our EWO who delivered a very valuable session, feedback was very positive and we hope to invite him back next term for the parents who were unable to attend.

### RSHE WORKSHOP

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended Mrs Foy's RSHE workshop, this was a very informative session as it shared the lesson contents, gave a chance for parents/carers to view materials and an opportunity to ask questions.

### KIVA ANTI BULLYING WORKSHOP

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended our 'Kiva Anti-Bullying' workshop this week. This is a very effective programme that focuses on three main elements: prevention, intervention and monitoring. The goal is to provide school and the children with solution-focused tools on how to put an end to bullying.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CELEBRATION



On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022, Father Ferdinand led a beautiful mass in school for our patron saint's feast day. We celebrated Saint Vincent de Paul and all of the wonderful work that he carried out for the sick, the poor and for young children in need. Saint Vincent de Paul also followed the message of... 'Kindness is the key to open our hearts'. This is something we all strive for in our school and it is even reflected in our school rules of 'Ready, Respectful and Kind'.

### ANTI-BULLYING LIVE LESSON FILMING OPPORTUNITY

We were delighted to be approached by the BBC, working in partnership with the Anti-Bullying Alliance, to take part in the Anti-Bullying Live Lesson which was aired this week. The BBC film production team visited school and worked with the children, they were delighted with their knowledge and articulate responses.





By joining The World Reimagined Learning Programme your school can become part of a major step-change in how schools engage with a more multi-dimensional view of our shared history, empowering a new generation to make racial justice a reality.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As part of Black History Month, the children of St Vincent de Paul met with others from across the city region to showcase our own 'World Reimagined Globe' at St George's Hall. This was an amazing opportunity for us to share the inspiration for our art work and find out about others. Through this project the children have examined the legacy of transatlantic slave trade and we were very proud with how they articulated this to Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram.

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*'As we mark Black History Month, I really enjoyed meeting some of the children who worked so hard to help build our 41 learning globes – more than anywhere else in the country – and hearing what they have learned as part of the process.'*

*Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram.*

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## PATRICK GRAHAM AUTHOR VISIT

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*'I write for fun, but it ain't no joke. Because, what I write – makes the thought provoke.'* Patrick Graham

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We were delighted during Black History Month to welcome back Author Patrick Graham. Patrick's workshop facilitations range from poetry, creative writing and drama skills to local and world history with a focus on African civilisations. Once again, the children thoroughly enjoyed his visit to share his new stories, inspirations for them and his storytelling. Patrick has very kindly sent the message below about

his visit.

*"It was a pleasure to be able to read my story to the children, to entertain them in this way and listen to their feedback, which was extremely useful.*

*I particularly liked that many picked different incidents within the story to comment on with well-articulated opinions, testimony to their listening and comprehensive skills.*

*The children were polite and attentive and I would welcome any opportunity to share my work with them to help in development of stories and to see if I'm writing what that age group want to hear.*

*Finally it was great that they were able to help me come up with a better name for the story short I read today and I thank them all for their suggestions. I wish to extend an individual thanks to Kaelum whose choice of name won the vote of the children, and me. Now this story will be called, "The Golden Water and the Enchanted Forest."*

Thank you for inviting me, Patrick.

## CHRIS LUBBE ZOOM WORKSHOP

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***Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world.'***

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Our Year 5 and 6 children had the incredible opportunity to join the inspirational speaker Chris Lubbe as part of Black History Month. Chris has had the honour of working with some of the greatest world leaders including Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, FW De Klerk and Colin La Foy. Chris shared his own story and the unique story of South Africa's transition from 'apartheid' to a democracy with the children. His story is one of determination and resilience and is a tribute to the thousands of South Africans who have given their lives in the pursuit of freedom. The key themes from his message were determination, courage, perseverance, persistence and the power of forgiveness.

Chris says...

"There's an old African proverb which says, *'if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.'* The only way we are going to achieve the dream that Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King had is when we *'come together and work together for a better world.'*

It was only with the help and support of others that Nelson Mandela was able to achieve what he did. In a subsequent interview Nelson Mandela said, *'our struggle for freedom and justice was a collective effort.'* We are not going to achieve a dream of a world free of inequality and discrimination without the help and support of each other.

Let's reflect and commit to working together to bring an end to racism, discrimination and inequality. Let's choose to serve in a way that values humanity.

As was the case with Nelson Mandela, the key to us achieving the impossible is by *'working together.'* Chris Lubbe

## THE B TALES PRODUCTION

Fly me to the Moon! is a new production in association with ESCAL and the Liverpool Diocese. Inspired by the faith and findings of NASA's Katherine Johnson, it is an exploration of Science and faith and how they can work together. We were delighted to welcome the team in to perform for our children during Black History Month.



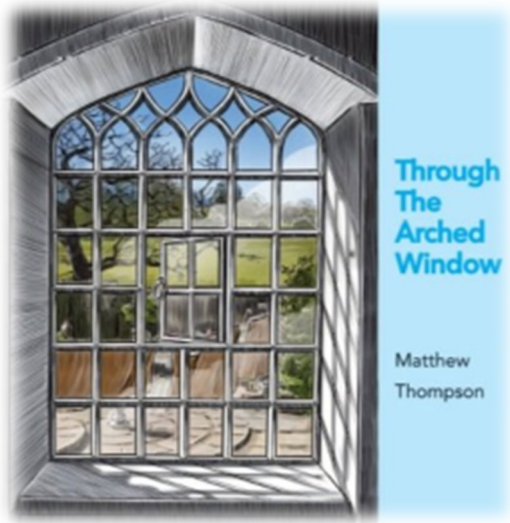


## THROUGH THE ARCHED WINDOW WORKSHOP AND AUTHOR VISIT

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*"I was so impressed by the children's' wonderful understanding, sensitivity and empathy ." Matthew Thompson*

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*Through the Arched Window* is a new children's adventure story for 7 to 12 year-olds. It begins with a Liverpool Primary School's year 5 class outing to their teacher's house in North Wales. It has a multicultural theme and explores issues of friendships and trust that can cross cultural and faith boundaries and also the experiences of being separated from your home and being separated from a loved one.

In the workshop the children heard extracts from the book read by the author and then explored aspects of Ethiopian Christian and Syrian Muslim culture and those themes of friendship, trust and loss.

The children in our Year 5 class loved the story and engaged so enthusiastically in exploring its themes. The author was so impressed by the children's' wonderful understanding, sensitivity and empathy.

## YEAR 3 KIND VISIT

Our Year 3 children had the amazing opportunity to take part in KIND's Living Things & their Habitats Science Programme. The KIND Centre is an green oasis in a busy, urban setting. Eco in nature but with all the necessary hi-tech equipment, the centre and its garden environment is a great place to learn. The KIND gardens and dipping pond have been created with the children's learning experience in mind. Each space is utilised as a teaching tool and there is ample opportunities for all children to explore and learn. A very big thank you to all the Staff at KIND our Year 3's thoroughly enjoyed their time and learnt so much.



## MYSTERY READER

The aim of **mystery reader** is **to show children that adults love reading too**. Throughout the school year we will be inviting parents, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, or other special people to surprise your child by being a 'Mystery Reader!' We were delighted to welcome this term Merseyside Police - PC Paul, PC Olivia and PC Rebecca into school as our Mystery Readers. They very kindly read stories to our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. The children had the opportunity to listen to the stories, ask questions and look at the illustrations. They all thoroughly enjoyed their visit and they can't wait for more visits from Mystery Readers in the future. It may be YOU!



## SCHOOL OFFICERS

Every year our Year 6 children follow the democratic process of electing our school officers. This is a very important and prestigious time, following a nomination from their class peers, the nominees then stage a school campaign which builds up to their election speeches and finally the whole school vote. All nominees spoke articulately, confidently and with passion, I am delighted to congratulate the School Officers for 2022 -23:

Head Boy - Josh

Head Girl – Jasmin

Deputy Head Boys – GianCarlo and James

Deputy Head Girls - Alicja and Vivienne



## MINI VINNIES



Our Mini Vinnies were invited to play an important part in the St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass held at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. They began by leading the opening procession and read the bidding prayers with poise and confidence. The children were great ambassadors for our school and we were delighted when Archbishop Malcolm came to congratulate them for their eloquent reading and for being exceptional role models. Well done to all our Mini Vinnies.

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### ‘Turning Concern into Action’

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## MINI VINNIES ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to welcome guest speaker Katie from the SVP society, who spoke to the children about the Mini Vinnies and the role they play in making a difference in the world. The Mini Vinnies are quite literally mini St. Vincent de Paul’s. Mini Vinnies are 7 to 11 year olds based in schools and parishes across England and Wales, and in several other countries across the world. They come together to form a part of the [St. Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales](#), a voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms. Mini Vinnies meet to pray, discuss and support however they can to help make a difference in their communities.



Mini Vinnies truly turn concern into action as they use the simple formula of ‘**see, think, do**’ to find people in need and help them. They might help by:

- Writing cards for children in hospital
- Visiting local care homes to sing or play games with the residents
- Knitting scarves for the homeless
- Running food collections for a local foodbank

I know our Mini Vinnies will continue throughout the year to turn their ‘Concern into Action’.



## HOLY COMMUNICANTS

Our Year 4 Holy Communicants have started the ‘With You Always’ journey led by Fr Ferdinand and supported by myself. This began with a Family Mass celebration followed by the first evening session which was an exciting treasure hunt in St Vincent’s Church, this enabled the children and their families to look closely at the many treasures, touch them and appreciate them. The children will now continue with their monthly preparations and I ask you all to keep them and their families in your prayers.



## DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Hindu festival Diwali. Mrs. Seth created a lovely interactive display in our library area, this meant each class was able to spend time quality time exploring the special story of Rama and Sita. The children were also able to explore the decorations, puppets and some Diya Lights. They loved dressing up as Rama and Sita, creating special paper lanterns, and creating their own rangoli patterns. The EYFS children really enjoyed cooking some tasty laddoo treats. Yum!



## THE STORYBARN

Some of our Y6s travelled to the Storybarn to spend an afternoon with authors Lissa Evans and Frank Cottrell-Boyce. The authors talked about their favourite stories growing up, their inspiration for their own characters and about how they develop characters. Later on, they participated in a scavenger hunt where the pupils had to find an item to use as inspiration for their own character development. They then joined in a workshop with the authors and created some very weird and wonderful characters. Later in the term, the class will include them in their own stories.

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*“The visit was amazing, I really enjoyed meeting the authors and creating my own characters” Michael Year 6*

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## BIKEABILITY BALANCE

Our Early Years children are thoroughly enjoying their Bikeability Balance lessons. The lessons help to support self-confidence and self-awareness as the children are encouraged to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. It also supports the progression to pedal cycling. Well done Reception!

## LIVERPOOL HARRIERS & ATHLETICS CLUB

This term we have been delighted to welcome back the Liverpool Harriers Athletic Club organised by the LFC Foundation. Our Key Stage 2 children have continued to enjoy a variety of different sports and have learned a great variety of skills, thanks to the amazing coaches. The running workshops and cross country lessons have spurred many of the children to join our afterschool Running Club led by Mrs Cameron and take part in the local competitions. Congratulations to Jacob from Year 5 who has been chosen to race on a National level for Liverpool.

## COP 27 CONFERENCE

We were delighted to attend the Mock UN Textile and Climate Conference at the Southport Eco Centre. Here Primary school students from six different schools came together to develop their research, critical thinking and negotiating skills through role-play in the style of the UN COP 27 Conference. The conference was an amazing experience and our Year 6 children who represented school, demonstrated their confidence in oracy, debating, collaboration, negotiation, and democracy. The children were also able to take part in climate changing workshops and have a Q&A opportunity with the expert panel. What an amazing experience!



## 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. Once again, 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!



## HEADTEACHER'S WORD OF THANKS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big personal thank you to all, our school is a wonderful community and our strengths come from our parent/carers, our governors, our amazing staff and especially our children!



*Mrs Salters*