



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Summer 2023

**'SERVING WITH LOVE,
STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE'**

DATES FOR DIARY:

Autumn Term 2023

INSET Day: Friday 1st September - school closed to pupils.

Autumn Term Begins:

Monday 4th September (Years 1 – Year 6)

Thursday 7th September (Nursery & Reception)

INSET Day: Friday 29th September - school closed to pupils.

Half Term: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

Autumn Term Ends: Friday 22nd December

Spring Term 2024

Spring Term Begins: Monday 8th January

Half Term: Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

Spring Term Ends: Thursday 28th March

Summer Term 2024

Summer Term Begins: Monday 15th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

INSET Day: Friday 24th May

Half term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

INSET Day: Monday 3rd June & Monday 22nd July

Summer Term Ends: Friday 19th July

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share with you our Summer newsletter, what an amazing year we have had – I hope you enjoy the read - possibly on a sunny beach!

STAFF GOODBYES AND WELCOMES

In September we will be welcoming new teachers to our team – Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Cotter, both teachers bring a wealth of experience and we are very excited to welcome them to St Vincent's. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Spence formally on to our teaching team.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Samuels. Mrs Samuels has been a dedicated teacher at our school for 9 years (although she was a student with us for a year too). She has taught in both key stage 1 & 2, and has been responsible for leading Science across our school with great enthusiasm and success. She will be greatly missed by all at St Vincent's and we wish her all the best for her new role, as she embarks on a new full time teaching position. Also, Mrs Dunne from our Reception Team who will be retiring after her 10 years of dedication and service to the children, parents and staff. Again she will be greatly missed and we wish her a restful retirement.

ARCHAEOLOGIST VISIT

"THE STONE AGE TO IRON AGE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE"

Our Year 2 and Year 3 children were delighted to welcome Dr John Hill an archaeologist and lecture in Archaeology from the University of Liverpool. The children attended two workshops; during the first session the children learnt about and handled real genuine artefacts and animal bones from the very start

of the “stone age” otherwise known as the Palaeolithic (or Old Stone Age). They started with “Homo Habilis” (Handy Man) who dated back to over 2 million years ago the children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about their lifestyles.

Then, moving a “mere” one million years forward in time, the children were introduced to the life and times of our next ancestor – Homo Erectus (Upright Man). Homo Neanderthal (Family Man) followed, who appears on the ancestral timeline at about half a million years later. Finally, the incredible story of the evolution of our ancestors ended with the appearance of modern-day man, Homo Sapien (Wise Man). The children learnt all about these most prominent ancestors – as well as having the opportunity to handle real, genuine artefacts from each of these respective ancestors.

The second teaching session consisted of fun learning stories relating to the North-west of England from the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers (10,000 years ago); the Neolithic farmers (6,000 years ago); the Bronze Age metalworkers (4,000 years ago) and finally, the Iron Age celts (2000 years ago). Again the children were able to handle real artefacts from each of these periods. A very enjoyable and learning time was had by all!

“The Stone Age to Iron Age Classroom Experience”



EUROVISION PEACE GARDEN

We were delighted to receive an invitation from Liverpool Councillors Steve Munby and Hetty Green inviting our Year 5 pupils to be part of the Eurovision Peace Garden Project. The garden was to be built in the Baltic Green between St James Street and Jamaica Street in the lead-up to Eurovision. This was to acknowledge the fact that Eurovision should have taken place in Ukraine, so the design was influenced by key plants and hard landscaping features as highlighted by the Ukrainian focus group in Liverpool.

The garden, however, was also going to have a strong focus on peace and tranquillity. As part of this, the children were asked to design and create 30 peace posts, which would be incorporated along a path leading to and within the garden. The children worked with garden expert Pia and created the most beautiful posts. We were then invited to a wonderful opening celebration with Vitalli Mykolenko as the guest of honour, all children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and I encourage all parents/carers and community friends to stop and have a look at their amazing work.





HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION

On Sunday 21st May, Father Ferdinand led our Holy Communion mass for our Holy Communicants. It was lovely to see a full church as family members and friends came to join in the celebration. All the children looked beautiful and they were very excited to receive their First Holy Communion. Thank you to all the families who have supported the children through the programme and a very special thank you to Fr Ferdinand for his leadership and guidance.

YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 PHILHARMONIC TRIP

Musical Stories: Gaspard's Foxtrot & Peter and the Wolf

Alongside the classic *Peter and the Wolf*, our Year 1 and 2 children joined Gaspard the friendly fox and his furry chums in a warm-hearted adventure, performed by their creator Zeb Soanes with live on-stage painting from the series illustrator, James Mayhew. Accompanied by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, this was the perfect way to introduce children to a live orchestra through images and storytelling. What an amazing concert!



YEAR 4 URBAN FARM VISIT 'ROOTS AND SHOOTS'

We were delighted to be given the opportunity, following on from our STEM Live webinar in the Spring term, to visit the Urban Farm based in the Baltic Triangle. The children we welcomed by the Urban Farmer's in Liverpool's Underground Farm and took part in different workshops learning all about how to growing healthy food in the city, the benefits of vertical farming, the science behind it, and what makes it sustainable for the environment. The children and teachers were amazed at how an artificial habitat can support the plants' needs through the entire life cycle. The children also had an opportunity for a hands-on Produce Pod workshop. Many thanks to the team at Urban Farm for a very informative visit!

YEAR 2 STORYTELLING SESSIONS WITH RICHARD O'NEILL

Our Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed their storytelling session at Liverpool Central Library with Richard O'Neill. Richard O'Neill was born and brought up in a large traditional Romani family in the North of England. He is a sixth-generation storyteller who tells his stories in schools, museums, libraries and theatres throughout the UK. Richard is also a children's author whose books are inspiring and inclusive with strong themes of identity and community. Richard shared stories with our Year 2 children that explore themes of belonging and hope as well as showing how music and celebration can help to bring us together. The children were captivated and enthralled!



MERSEYSIDE POLICE VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKSHOP

Our Key Stage 2 children welcomed Officer Russ Wills, who delivered a 'violence prevention' workshop exploring: violence through a lens; how we can develop leadership to combat it; adopting the right bystander approach; recognising the scope of violent behaviour; and challenging victim-blaming. The children had many fruitful debates and discussed the ability to support and challenge their peers in a safe way.

RESONATE'S ISING 2023

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children were delighted to take part in Resonates iSing 2023 to celebrate an exciting year of Eurovision. This event was held at the Philharmonic Hall. Our children had been busy learning new songs and arrangements in preparation for the iSing event. On the day the children really did sing their hearts out, they also had the opportunity to hear Liverpool's secondary schools' choir "100 Voices United", and experienced live massed singing performances featuring world record breaker beatboxer Testament. It was definitely a day to be remembered!

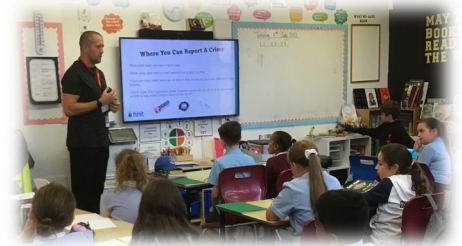


DIGITAL CYBER CHOICES WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

We were delighted to welcome the *Regional Cyber Crime Prevent Officer* Con Gareth Jones into school this term to work with our parents, staff and children. *Cyber Choices* promotes the following to children;

- Explaining the difference between legal and illegal cyber activity
- Encouraging individuals to make informed choices in their use of technology
- Increasing awareness of the Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Promoting positive, legal cyber opportunities

The positive Cyber pathway understanding is extremely important to our children however it is vitally important that both our staff and parents understand how we can safeguard in this area. The training that Con Gareth Jones delivered to the parents and staff was invaluable, we hope to welcome him back next year to continue to update us on Cyber Safeguarding.



Y2 AFTERNOON TEA CELEBRATION

Year 2 invited their families to celebrate the end of Key Stage One Assessment Week with a picnic in the Forest School. The children worked incredibly hard during the month of May, showing such resilience as they completed their 'quizzes'. We are very proud of their efforts!

PEOPLE WHO HELP US

Our Early Years and Year 1 children were delighted to welcome into school the local Fire Brigade and our local Police Officers. This fitted in beautifully with our EYFS theme this term of 'People who help us'. The police spoke to the children about how they keep our community safe, they had time to share a story and most importantly the children were able to explore the police vehicle!

The fire brigade also visited school with the fire truck! The children thoroughly enjoyed using the hose and exploring the inside of the truck!



YEAR 6 TRANSITION VISITS AT KIND

A very big thank you to all the Staff at KIND for inviting our Year 6 children to their transition support programme. The children come together with other schools to explore friendship, well being, healthy choices and positive mindsets. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities; they have learnt so much, grown in confidence and have gained further skills to equip them for their new schools.



YEAR 2 FARMER TEDS VISIT

Year 2 had a wonderful trip to Farmer Ted's to round off their learning in science this year. It was wonderful to see the children handle the animals in such a caring manner and showing bravery when look closely at some of the "scarier" animals!

SCHOOL CLUBS

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the variety of clubs that have been on offer this term:



Stem club

Year 3 STEM club has been very well attended and the children have loved exploring the different materials they could use to create their superhero capes. The children had to decide - what are the properties of an effective superhero cape? Does it need to be strong? Light? Flies well? They also had to ensure it was a fair test! Then they had to explore decorating their cape. Will the decorations affect the cape's performance? Which decorations work best? Lots to explore, lots to find out about and most importantly lots of FUN! Thank you to Miss Spence for delivering this after school club.

Athletics club

This year, members of Year 5 and 6 took part in the Liverpool District Athletics' Championships at Wavertree Track. The girls and boys competed in the Long Jump, High Jump, 75m sprint, 150m sprint, 800m race and the relay. They had received athletics training earlier in the year from the Liverpool Harriers during PE lessons, and used these skills, as well as race skills developed during after-school running club, to approach these activities with skill and determination. The children did incredibly well and showed amazing resilience and team spirit throughout the competition. The children enjoyed their time so much that we have decided to create an official Athletics Club for Year 5 and 6 next academic year, held by Miss Spence and Miss Brie during the Spring and Summer terms, in preparation for next year's Championships.

Once again, a huge congratulations to Layah, Jacob, Alex, George, Lacey-Anne, Jessica, Sophia, Maysam and Saud for competing and showing such impeccable sportsmanship!



Growing community roots gardening club

The Growing Community gardening club started in May and was led by Anya from ACE. ACE is a non-profit organisation working to bring social, educational, and environmental benefits to the local community. It introduced KS1 & KS2 pupils to the benefits of gardening, teaching how to plant food and edible flowers and sharing the benefits of being a healthier and environmentally friendly place to live. A variety of outdoor and indoor activities were explored:

Outdoor Activities:

- Understanding soil & Compost
- Making compost, digging, clearing weed roots and stones, raking, sieving, and collecting soil samples.
- Propagation - making new plants Seeds, bulbs, and corms
- Sowing into prepared soil in position,
- Planting containers

Indoor Activities:

- Dear Diary Entries/ journals/scrapbooks/ photos/drawings/
- ICT to research information about plants and pollinators
- Soil and plant experiments under a magnifying glass
- Sow seeds into seed trays to transplant into the school's polytunnel
- Design/Artwork – Make labels and signs, paint pots and containers

A very big thank you to Anya for her care, dedication and hard work in bringing such a lovely club to our children; we hope to work with her again soon.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACORN FARM VISIT

All the children were very excited to welcome the Animobile which is a mobile farm visit to school. They had a lovely opportunity to learn about farm animals and food production in a variety of different ways. They also had a chance to have hands-on contact with them too! A big thank you to Mrs Samuels for organising the visit and to the children for being excellent St Vincent ambassadors.



BIG CONVERSATION AND EXCLUSIVE LEGACIES OF TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY WORKSHOP

The Big Conversation was a whole school community project that we had the honour to be a part of. Hosted by the National Museum of Liverpool, the initiative brought together the local community and our parents to discuss and input to the redevelopment of the International Slavery Museum, Maritime Museum, and the surrounding areas, including Canning Dock. This was a pivotal conversation and we were delighted to be able to contribute. This also meant that we were able to hold an 'Exclusive After School Student Opportunity' for ALL children and parents focusing on the 'Legacies of Transatlantic Slavery'. The Big Conversation was embraced by all our community – children, parents and locals. It was lovely to learn about the future of our museums and Waterfront and help to shape it! A big thank you to National Museum of Liverpool and their staff.



WHOLE SCHOOL HEALTH WEEK

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Health Week! We believe that a whole school approach is essential in building a resilient community. We had a very busy week which included, meditation, stretching and mindfulness, dance, gymnastics with coach Joey, healthy cooking with Chef Seth, outdoor play, gardening and discussions about how to keep ourselves healthy. Thank you to all the staff who made this

week so enjoyable, especially our PSHE leaders Miss Kendrick and Mrs Crane.



YOUNG MARKETEERS

Young Marketeers brings together children from local primary schools to produce and market their own delicious fresh fruit and veg. Along the way the children learn all about food surplus and, once the fruit and veg has been picked, engage their enterprise skills to sell their produce at a local market.

All proceeds from the Young Marketeers sales go to a local food charity – which reduces food waste and redistributes food to people in need. This year, our Young Marketeers became market traders for the day and sold their veg in aid of FareShare at Liverpool One. Well done to Year 3 who thoroughly embraced this project and our Young Marketeers – Daniel, Megan, Harley, Tav, Lucas, Sage and Kendall!



MY SCHOOL MY PLANET ASSEMBLY

To celebrate the opening of the 'My school, My Planet' project we welcomed into school our lead project worker Ursula Watson who delivered a whole school assembly. This project is a fantastic environmentally based outdoor learning programme taking place within our school grounds and the local community in and around Liverpool.

The project will work with a committed group of 20 pupils from KS2 until May 2024. The key outcomes include engagement in nature, cultural and natural heritage as well as supporting the environment. I look forward to sharing the future updates with you!



YEAR 3 INSPIRING YOUNG ARTIST PROJECT

We were delighted to be part of the Liverpool Learning Partnerships new exciting project 'Inspiring Young Artists'. This was a visual arts programme funded by the Sister Gwen Appleton Trust. This project meant that we could send one of our classes on a visit to the Walker Art Gallery and Central Library early in the Spring Term for an art focus tour led by the Walker Art Gallery team. The children then worked with a resident artist in school to produce their own artwork for display at a special exhibition held at the Walker Art Gallery. The children were also able to complete a log of their work to be entered for a Discover Arts Award. This was an amazing project and the children all thoroughly enjoyed it, we definitely have 'inspiring young artists' at St Vincent's!

REACHOUT GRADUATION

Our Year 5 and 6 Reachout club members were cordially invited to their graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements this year and the use of the important character strengths – good judgement, fairness, self-control and staying power. We were so proud of all the children, who have excelled in all areas! Well done.



CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

The Children's University is an award scheme for children that encourages, tracks and celebrates their participation in learning beyond the classroom. Stamps are awarded for taking part in clubs, online activities, and other activities done alone, or with the family, at home and in the local area. Children can keep a log of everything they do, and each hour of participation takes them one step closer to their next certificate. We were delighted to take 20 children to the graduation ceremony held at Yoko Ono Lennon Centre – what an amazing achievement!

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

This term we had the privilege to take our Year 6 children to Oakerwood Residential park in Leominster. We had our own camping village which contained our sleeping pods, kitchen & dining hut, a BBQ hut, purpose built camp fire and seating area and our own shower block. We received a warm welcome from the Oakerwood team and quickly began our full packed itinerary which included – zip wire, crate stacking, tree climbing, rafting, camp fire cooking, krypton factor quizzes, bingo, talent show and camp fire songs with hot chocolate and marshmallows! An amazing time was had by all – both children and staff. The children were outstanding ambassadors for our school and we were so proud of all their achievements. A big thank you to all the staff who even gave up their Sunday so we could have an extra day! Thank you to Mr Allen, Miss Wenton and Miss Rowlands, but a really big thank you to the children who were just FANTASTIC!



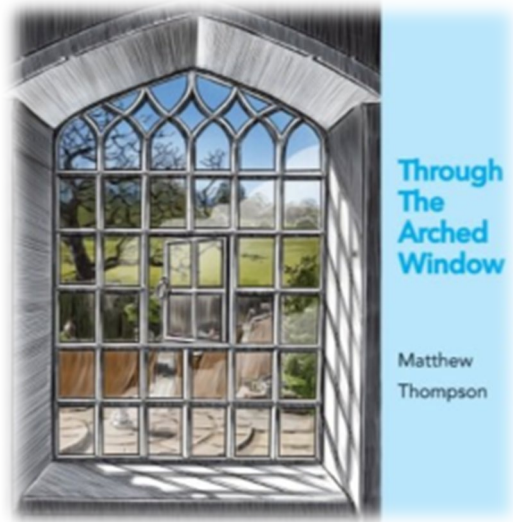
YEAR 6 END OF YEAR PILGRIMAGE

The focus of this year's Year 6 Pilgrimage was reflection and transformation. The children had a day to reflect about - Where they are now? Where they have been? Where they are going? And reflect about the person God wants us to become and the impact we can all make in other people's lives.

The day began with a celebration breakfast, the children then travelled to St Winifred's Well in Holywell where Fr Paul welcomed the children and explained all about this special place. We then visited the Basingwerk Abbey ruins, and had time for a refreshing ice-cream at the local cafe. Finally, we travelled to the Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre in Pantasaph; here the children were able to explore the beautiful surroundings, take part in recreational games and visit the grotto of Our Lady. We ended the day with a reflection led by Fr Ferdinand and Fr Charles. This truly was a day to be remembered and a personal journey for all, where the children reflected on how they can live out the Christian gospel message in the spirit of joy and simplicity. Many thanks to Fr Ferdinand for his support in organising this trip.



THROUGH THE ARCHED WINDOW WORKSHOP AND AUTHOR VISIT



We were delighted to welcome back Matthew Thompson the author of *Through the Arched Window* for our Year 6 children this term. Matthew shared his story which is a children's adventure story beginning with a Liverpool Primary School's 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.

Our Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the story and engaged actively and ardently with the themes explored. Once again the author was very impressed by the children's wonderful understanding, sensitivity and empathy.

LEAVERS MASS

It seems only yesterday that we welcomed our Year 6 children into St Vincent's!

In order to commemorate their time, a wonderful celebration was held on Monday 17th July for our Year 6 leavers, a big thank you for Cardinal Michael who celebrated mass and for all the parents/carers and family members who came along to support the children. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our Year 6 parents and carers your support and involvement throughout the past years - it has been invaluable.

To the children I want to say a BIG THANK YOU for all your hard work and dedication – this has made a real difference to your learning and development. We are all so proud of all your achievements throughout your time at St Vincent's and we have been truly blessed to watch you grow and mature.

We wish you all the best in your new schools, **shine bright** and ALWAYS REMEMBER

You may leave St Vincent's **but** it never leaves you!

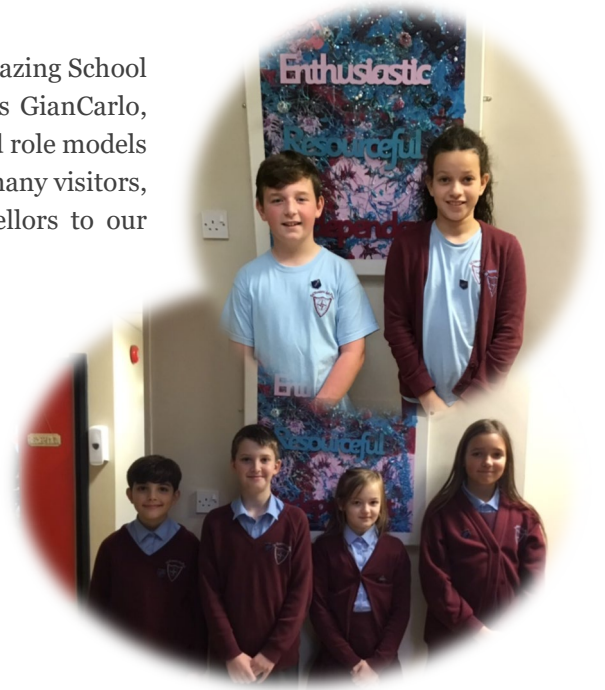
So **always 'Serve with Love and Strive for Excellence'.**



SCHOOL OFFICERS

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to our amazing School Officers – Headboy Josh, Headgirl Jasmin and their very able Deputies GianCarlo, James, Alicja and Vivienne. They have been true assets to our school and role models to all. They have been wonderful ambassadors for our school welcoming many visitors, sharing pupils' ideas with our leadership team and serving as counsellors to our younger students.

I am delighted to congratulate them for their hard work and dedication this school year. Well done!



FAREWELL TO FR FERDINAND

Fr. Ferdinand said “goodbye” to the children, parents, staff and governors, after almost 5 years service as parish priest. He leaves us for Brussels, where he will take up a new mission as assistant Provincial Superior of Europe for the Missionaries of Africa. Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to say ‘goodbye’ and to the children and staff who participated in his leaving assembly. Fr Ferdinand was thrilled! We wish him all the best for his new mission and will miss him dearly!

HEADTEACHER’S WORD OF THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who work at St Vincent’s for all of their hard work this year. To our amazing teachers who teach the children with dedication and love; to our amazing team of Teaching Assistants/apprentices and our Nurture Lead, who provide support for not only the children but the teachers too. The Teaching Assistants also provide supervision at lunchtime and who are out with the children in rain and shine. The Leadership Team, which includes Mrs Foy, Miss Parkinson and Miss Kendrick, who undertake so much work to help move our school forward. To our kitchen staff and head chef who have provided our children with outstanding catering provision. Our Caretaker and cleaners who have done a great job of keeping the school clean and maintained. Also, I would like to mention our School Bursar Mrs Greaves, who ensures an excellent control of the budget and Mrs Campbell, who is head of the ‘Control Centre’ otherwise known as the Reception Office! I am sure that few people fully appreciate the extent of Mrs Campbell’s role – as well as answering hundreds of phone calls, emails and school gates a day, she is also responsible for a range of processes and systems that without, our school would not function properly. Finally our Governors, who take on this role unpaid, but are so dedicated to supporting, challenging and moving our school forward. Thank you to each and every member of staff – they are dedicated to their role, they care for the children and do everything they can to make our school the best place it can be.

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



Mrs Salters