

# ST VINCENT DE PAUL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023

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

## **TERM DATES:**

### **Spring Term**

School reopens: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Half Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

Spring Term Ends: Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer Term**

School reopens: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

INSET: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May (Closed for pupils)

**Half Term: Mon 27<sup>th</sup> to Fri 30<sup>th</sup> May**

INSET: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (Closed for pupils)

INSET: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Summer Term ends: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

## **HEADTEACHERS WELCOME**

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

## **QUIDDITCH SCHOOL EVENT DAY**



We began our Autumn term with a whole school Quidditch Event Day this was a lovely way to launch our new school year with the focus on team building, communication skills and supporting each other. The children were sorted into teams during a special *School of*

*Magic* sorting ceremony. Teams were built across friendship groups, classes and key stages. This was a full day of activity and the children were able to win points for good behaviour in class and for winning quidditch games against their classmates. Each team worked together to score goals through the hoops with each type of ball. Every team member got a chance to throw, catch and block goals so by the end of the day, they've had a chance to work on each skill. The children had a magical time!

## **YEAR 5 ROCKET RESILIENCE CHAMPIONS TRAINING**

Our Year 5 children participated in this one-day, interactive course aimed to enable them to become ROCKET resilience champions within our school.

The role of the group was to look at what our school already does to promote resilience, but also identify where the areas for improvement are regarding resilience and how the resilience champions can improve on these. There was also a focus on what mental health is and how the children can support their mental health and others. The key messages were around bullying, resilience and mental health.

ROCKET stands for **R**esilient, **O**pen, **C**aring, **K**ind, **E**qual, **T**ogetherness. Our ROCKET champions created a plan for how they will be resilient in school, spread kindness, support themselves and others, and show others that they are ROCKET resilience champions! Well done Year 5.



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*‘Kindness is the key to open our hearts’ St Vincent de Paul*

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## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CELEBRATION



Our Patron Saint Feast day was celebrated on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Saint Vincent de Paul’s message of **‘kindness is the key to open our hearts’** is something we all strive for in our school and it is even reflected in our school rules of ‘Ready, Respectful and Kind’.

This year our Mini-Vinnies is being led by Mrs. Cotter and they have truly embraced this message. They meet on a weekly basis to discuss school matters for their attention with the theme of ‘seeing, thinking and doing’ - what do they see in today’s community? What do they think about it? And what can they do to further support their school/local community. With the future in mind, they have been using their talents to help and support each other to build a better school environment for others to use. The Mini Vinnies are currently working together to organise, plan and develop our school ‘Mini Vinnie Allotment.’ They are working hard to design and create

an area which will further support our school learning curriculum, wildlife and the opportunity to grow fresh tasty organic vegetables and beautiful flowers. They have laughed, been covered in mud and creepy crawlies but it has not deterred them! Demonstrating that, as Mini Vinnies, “we live our faith through action and we can achieve anything” - even hard things... Watch this space for more to come, as our 'Mini Vinnies Allotment' takes shape and the Mini Vinnies take ACTION.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As part of Black History Month this year, the children of St Vincent de Paul participated in British Black History workshops and drama activities. The workshops covered :

- What is meant by the term 'cultural heritage'
- Matching influential figures with their achievements, finding out more about them and celebrating these astounding accomplishments (such as Marcus Rashford, Nicola Adams, Walter Tull and many others)
- Learning about the people - Exploring the different people who lived in Britain since the 4th Century and what daily life was like for them (from the Ivory Bangle Lady and Peter the Saracen to Malorie Blackman and Stormzy)
- Timeline of events - which introduced more discussion and exploration of what life has been like for a range of people, this included role play and hot seating exercises.



Notable figures in Black History were explored by each class:

Y1 Eniola Aluko

Y2 Bernie Grant

Y3 Learie Constantine

Y4 Claudia Jones

Y5 Mary Prince

Y6 Olaudah Equiano



The children then prepared exhibition pieces that they will share in the Spring term to revisit and retell how these inspiring individuals have helped shape the world in which we live.



### THE ERIC LYNCH MEMORIAL SLAVERY WALKING TOUR, FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ERIC SCOTT LYNCH'S PIONEERING WORK

Our Year 6 children took part in the “**Eric Lynch Memorial Tour**,” dedicated to the Liverpool-born historian and activist who educated people about the city’s connections to the slave trade. This walk served as a powerful educational tool, allowing our children to gain a first-hand understanding of the city’s history and commitment to fight for justice. The children then worked with the ‘Writing on the Wall’ team to further explore ‘Why it is so vitally important to still talk about slavery today?’





This was part of the WoW's Black History Month programme and the children even made it onto Granada Report News. Well done to Jacob, Siyona and Adrian who spoke so eloquently in their interviews and to all the children who took part in the writing project. Your voices will continue to make a difference.

If you haven't seen the Granada Reports news report find the link below.

<https://youtu.be/7Q6xIoMChEk?feature=shared>

## CAKE AND CUPPA EVENT

To raise monies for our 'Mini Vinnie Allotment' the Mini Vinnies led a community 'Cake and a Cuppa' event what a fabulous opportunity to eat cake, drink tea, and have a good natter. We were delighted to see so many of our families and community members coming along to support this event. Our cake stalls were magnificently manned by our Year 6 children and the raffles were a great success. Thank you to Mrs Cotter and the Mini Vinnies for all their organisational skills and for creating such a warm environment topped with 'chat, cuppa and a cake'.





## MY SCHOOL MY PLANET

We are excited to be involved in the My School My Planet project. This project looks at building the children's knowledge in regard to themes of biodiversity loss, climate crisis and soil degradation on a local level. The project began with the children looking closely at our school site and our local issues, they then thought about how this could be improved and got busy planning the improvements for our school/community outdoor spaces. This passionate KS2 group meets once a month to taking part in this project and it is providing the children with valuable opportunities to get up close with nature, begin to understand the importance of making a place for wildlife to flourish and get active! Each week the children have learnt something about the natural world, environment and conservation, enabling them to begin to develop a clear and sustainable vision for our school grounds. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this time to connect with nature, be more active, and improve our school grounds. The next part of the project will be to work with local organisations to make their vision a reality. We will bring you updates as this project evolves, definitely exciting times to come!

## KS1 DANCE CLUB

After school Dance Club has been a great success this Autumn Term. The children have been learning lots of dance styles and fun packed routines. A big thank you to Miss Sophie who has been leading this club this has been a fantastic element to our after school provision.

## REACH OUT CLUB – CHARACTER, CONFIDENCE, CHANGE

We have been delighted to bring back our KS2 ReachOut Club. This club covers character building activities, Maths and English curriculum activities and a focus on preparing for world opportunities. At the heart of the club is the development of Character, Confidence and Change, as the children are empowered to create wider positive change in today's society.

## 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 2023 -24:

Headboy - Eric

Headgirl – Beatrice



Deputy Headboys – Lincoln and Adrian

Deputy Headgirls - Poppie and Maisy



## SVP E-CADETS

We are delighted to introduce our team of eCadets who will be working with Mr Moffitt this year to support other children to be safe online. The team of eCadets will also be responsible for promoting online safety behaviours and best practice across the school and community. They will be receiving specific training and then setting challenges for their peers to complete - involving the entire school. With each challenge they receive a training so that their classmates can go to them with questions

about the internet, online games and social media. The first challenge they set was for the best E-Safety poster these posters need to be packed with practical tips, attention-grabbing and outline essential rules for safety on the Internet. The eCadets will be judging the competition and then the winning poster will be distributed around the school.



## NSPCC WORKSHOPS SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE

The whole school participated in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme this term. Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities, alongside we welcomed a NSPCC volunteer who led face to face workshops for some year groups. The content was delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. In the Spring Term our School Officers will be working to update the children's Safeguarding noticeboard with the 'Speak Out.Stay Safe' message so it is revisited by all classes.

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*'We really enjoyed the workshop, it was informative and reassuring. It was delivered in a sensitive and unintimidating way.'* Eric & Beatrice Yr6

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**NSPCC**  
*Speak out. Stay safe.*



## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

In November, we started anti-bullying week with Odd Socks Day to celebrate difference, and each and every one of us being special and unique. The week's focus was upon kindness and how we should 'make a noise' around bullying so that we recognise it and talk about it. All children were thoroughly engaged with the week and took away the key message of kindness, which is also one of our school rules. We ended the week with the Children in Need themed day, raising money for this wonderful charity. We raised £150!



## CHOIR VISIT

Our school choir has been visiting our local community to spread the Christmas joy. A very special moment was when our choir visited the local Care Home. It was a lovely way to share their time and talent especially at this special time of year. The residents and staff were so complementary about the children's behaviour and performance. We are very proud of you all.

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'This really brightened up our day! Thank you to all the children'

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## ADVENT ASSEMBLY

Our Year 6 children led an Advent service with Father Terry on 30th November 2023. The Year 6 children were exemplary during our service and so too were Years 2 through to Year 5 who joined us to mark this important time of year.

Parents/carers of our Year 6 children were invited to this special event and so we had a wonderful combination of people representing our school community coming together to remember why we need to gather ourselves moving into this time of year... Advent. Mr Allen and the Year 6 team along with Father Terry put together a wonderful service and the children delivered it beautifully.





## CAFOD ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to welcome CAFOD representative, Ann, in to school on Monday 4th December to speak with both key stages about 'World Gifts', which included how we can gift others with our kind actions and words but also in the form of donating essentials like food and water to those who need it most around the world. But then also thinking about how in turn we can expect that respect and kindness from others. This starts the season of Advent for us in such a spiritual and reflective way.

As a Catholic school, we are always extremely keen to keep others at the fore of everything that we do, and we continue to try to do as much as we can to support those in need, both where we live and within wider places worldwide.

One example of this then, as a way to show support to such a remarkable charity, CAFOD, we held an own clothes day on 1st December to raise money for the work they do to help those in need around the world. We raised £100 to go towards their wonderful work for those in great need.

We also continued our fundraising by having a Christmas Jumper Day on 7th December for the charity 'Save the Children'. We would like to thank ALL the families and community members who have so generously sent in monies to support the above charities. Your generosity was gratefully received. Thank you.



## HOLY COMMUNICANTS

Our Year 4 Holy Communicants have started the 'With You Always' journey led by Fr Terry and the church Catechists. This began with the exciting treasure hunt in St Vincent's Church, which 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.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Our Reception class led our Harvest festival celebration before half term, which was a wonderful moment of the kindness as all of our families' made donations to those in need. Miss Parkinson led the celebration and the Reception children and staff delivered it beautifully. The food donations were taken up to our parish church by Miss Parkinson and our Year 6 school officers, where there is a food bank every Tuesday.







## ENTERPRISE FAYRE

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Enterprise Fayre. All the children were busily involved in the designing, making and packaging of products that would be sold on the day and the setting of prices. A big thank you to the parents who came along to help set up, run stalls and tidy away.

## VISIT FROM A ROMAN GOVERNOR

Our KS2 had a visit from Marcus Trebellius Maximus, the new Roman governor of newly conquered Britain. He taught the children Latin, Roman numerals, and helped them understand what life would be like under Roman control. The children were then visited in class and were able to ask him lots of questions about the Roman Empire.

Some of the questions included, "What do the Romans eat?" Hedgehogs, flamingo tongues, and fish guts were some of the delicacies he told us about. The children asked about Roman inventions, such as roads and aqueducts. They were curious to learn about the Emperors and if the stories about how mean and cruel they were were really true.



They also asked about some of the wars that the Romans had fought and were eager to find out where the Romans hoped to conquer next. It was a great and engaging morning that truly consolidated, enhanced, and highlighted the children's learning and understanding about Roman History.



## SANTA DASH

A big thank you to our School Council who arranged this year's Santa Dash. As in previous years, the Santa Dash is all about having fun and raising funds whilst being active. The children definitely had a lot of fun! Well done School Councillors.

## NATIVITY AND EYFS CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

This Christmas, the joy of the nativity story was shared by our Key stage 1 children and the Year 5 and 6 choir. What an amazing performance! We had beautiful singing, narrating, acting and some fabulous dance moves. A very big thank you to Mrs Cotter who has worked so hard to put this Nativity together.

Not forgetting the memorable performance of our EYFS children and the Year 3 and 4 choir, who performed their actions confidently and sang beautifully a remix of traditional and new songs. What a talented group of children, a stand-out performance from all – thank you for spreading the Christmas JOY!




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*'Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than  
our whole world' CS Lewis*

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## CHESS CLUB

Our Year 4 and Year 5 children enjoyed this lovely opportunity to test a chess lesson and chess club led by 'Chess in School and Communities' Regional Co-Ordinator Rob Steele. This was such a successful day and we are hoping they will be able to bring this amazing opportunity to school very soon – we await the next move!

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*Chess is everything – art, science and sport' Anatoly Karpov*

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## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



This year we have introduced a Potato Head in each class as an attendance reward system. The children have been really excited about this! With sustained or improved attendance each week, classes can earn a new part to their Potato Head. When all the pieces are in place and Potato Heads are complete, classes will receive a treat. Ask your child about our Potato Heads and how their class attendance is doing!

Remember, 'Make a good start to earn a new part!'



## HEADTEACHER'S WORD OF THANKS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and send my deepest gratitude for joining us in our Christmas celebrations this year. Our school is a wonderful community and our strengths come from our parent/carers, our governors, our amazing staff and especially our children! May the peace of Christmas be in your hearts and families this season and throughout the coming year. *Mrs Salters*

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*'God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.'* Pope Francis

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