

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SPRING NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



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

TERM DATES:

Spring Term

School reopens: Monday 8th January

Half Term: Monday 12th to Friday 16th Feb

Spring Term Ends: Thurs 28th March

Summer Term

School reopens: Monday 15th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

INSET: Friday 24th May (Closed for pupils)

Half Term: Mon 27th to Fri 30th May

INSET: Monday 3rd June (Closed for pupils)

INSET: Monday 22nd July

Summer Term ends: Friday 19th July

HEADTEACHERS WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

CAFOD SOCIAL TEACHING ASSEMBLY AND WORKSHOPS



Early in our Spring term we hosted a whole school CAFOD Social Teaching Day. What a lovely way to begin the New Year!

Three CAFOD volunteers came to school on 15th January 2024 and worked with each class individually. The focus was upon everybody being responsible for making the world a better place. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and came away with many actions to help where they can.

The Mini Vinnies and School Council were also inspired to lead The BIG Lent Walk (more information about this later).

LIVERPOOL SCHOOLS' PARLIAMENT VISIT

We want the children within St Vincent's to have a direct and authentic involvement in making the decisions that affect them. This year we have been delighted to join the series Liverpool's Schools' Parliament events, where our children meet with other school representatives and discuss important themes that have or will inevitably impact them. These are themes that have already been identified via the 2023 Oxwell Children's Survey. Our Head boy, Head girl and other representatives for our Year 6 had the marvelous opportunity to visit the Town Hall join the discussions. The 4 sessions focus on:



1. Children's priorities in Education.
2. Your Mental Health Matters.
3. Where do you find belonging?
4. Decided by Schools' Parliament.

The Liverpool Schools' Parliament is a fantastic opportunity for our children to be part of an inclusive and fair environment where all students are represented. Also to enable them to learn how to effectively communicate the opinions of themselves and others. The role of the group is to be the link for our school and to feedback to school council and Senior Leaders. The children are thoroughly enjoying these opportunities where they are firsthand experiencing politics in action, having their voices heard, helping to inform decisions, and learning more about democracy. If you haven't already head over to our Twitter account and listen firsthand to our Head boy.

'This is a good way for our voices to be heard and now that we have the schools' parliament, we can talk about what really matters and what's on our minds' Eric Yr6

RE PARENTAL WORKSHOPS

Mrs. Foy (RE lead) has led workshops for parents/carers around the content of RSHE this term. On 23rd January 2024, a workshop was held for Rec to Year 4 parents/carers. On 30th January 2024, a second workshop was held for Years 5 and 6 parents/carers. All content is posted upon our school website for families to refer to if necessary. Families were all given the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the sessions. Once this was complete, each class teacher taught the three planned 'Journey in Love' sessions to their class.

A Journey in Love is a resource created by Sister Jude Groden. It is the recommended programme for Catholic schools for Sex and Relationship Education and has been written as a progressive scheme of work that supports the Religious Education, PSHE and Science curricular taught within the school.

Central to our work within the school is learning about our faith, understanding ourselves, our position in the community and how we develop as human beings – our spiritual, social, emotional and physical development. This is how A Journey in Love fits into the school's curriculum. The scheme permeates through all levels of learning throughout the school. It focuses on friendship, family, community, relationships and spirituality.

A Journey in
LOVE

*A developmental programme
for children in the primary years*

LENTEN SERVICE

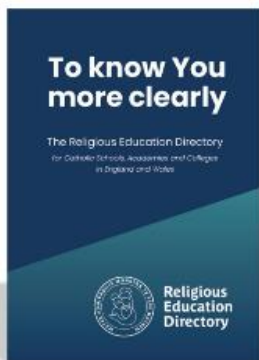


Our Year 5 children led a Lent service with Father Terry on 20th February 2024. The Year 5 children were exemplary during our service and so too were Years 2, 3, 4 and 6 who joined us to mark this important time of year. Parents/carers of our Year 6 children were invited to this special event and so 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 particularly in the three practices of prayer, penance, and almsgiving. Miss Wenton, Miss Brie and the Year 5 team along with Father Terry put together a wonderful service and the children delivered it beautifully. Well done to all involved.

As we journey through Lent together, may we open our hearts to God's transforming love and grace, allowing it to guide us towards greater spiritual growth and a deeper commitment to living out our faith in all that we do.

Let us pray for the strength and courage to embrace this season of Lent wholeheartedly, trusting in God's mercy and grace to sustain us on our journey towards Easter.

TO KNOW YOU MORE CLEARLY



To Know You More Clearly is the new Religious Education Directory (RED) which will be used from 2025. The framework will be progressively rolled out and we will embark on our RED implementation journey with the help and support of the Archdiocese. Our EYs and Year 1 classes have been to their launch days and have begun to trial the new curriculum and the new way of planning. The Liverpool Archdiocese are being instrumental in leading the year group launches. This involves the class teacher joining an extensive group of practitioners (in the same year group) to discuss how to plan, what to plan and resources to support. The RE Lead then supports the teacher's implementation in school to ensure that everybody is supported and



to ensure that everyone is following a consistent approach.

The story of stories



Summer term 1 will see the launch of Year 2's planning and teaching and learning taking place, with the Year 3 launch shortly after this. The remaining year groups, 4, 5 and 6, will embark on this journey in the new academic year, 2024/2025.

180 YEARS SVP CELEBRATION



Our Mini Vinnies were invited to join the 180 years celebration of the St. Vincent de Paul Society on Friday 15th March 2024. Mrs Cotter along with our Mini Vinnies visited the Metropolitan Cathedral to show their support and celebrate with everyone gathered for this momentous occasion! The children thoroughly enjoyed updating the Senior SVP members about their ongoing charity ideas, fundraising events, and the continued development of the Mini Vinnie Allotment Area. They are currently working with our School Council to raise the awareness of the shortage of toiletries at our local foodbank (St Vincent's Church) the children will soon be sending out a video appeal on our Dojo platform. Well done Mini Vinnies!



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

A statement from the SVP Society themselves:

‘Our commitment to helping never ends, as SVP founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam said: “The work of St Vincent de Paul never grows old: who would not wish to continue it.”’

BIG LENT WALK

Our Mini Vinnies group along with the School Council have organised for the whole school to be part of ‘The Big Lent Walk’ as part of CAFOD’s focus: ‘Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.’

The children have been instrumental in raising money for this important cause and have encouraged each other in both rain and shine!





'My Voice Matters'

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

In February, we started Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of 'My Voice Matters'. The focus was upon validating feelings and being able to speak about how you feel. 'Daily Express' sessions were held virtually throughout the week for our KS1 and KS2 children. The focus this year was providing children with the tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our well-being. Children who feel their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. We want children of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and well-being.



INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Internet safety is a top priority for our school to ensure our children stay safe and are responsible online.

With this in mind, we started the day with an E-Safety Safeguarding Whole School Assembly - the children were keen to show their knowledge on how to keep safe. Then each class spent Internet Safety Day learning about a different aspect of staying safe online, using the excellent Project Evolve resources. KS1 discovered the importance of secure passwords and never sharing personal information online. LKS2 learnt about how to safely use a search engine, voice activated searching and how the internet can be used to buy and sell things, with a focus on in-app purchases and influencers. UKS2 investigated online advertising, how to spot a bot and how information online isn't always true, why it is important to make our own opinion about content online and searching social media channels for information. The Year 5 and 6 children also began completing the Safe Skills survey, to support us in understanding their use and knowledge of the internet and how the school can further support our children as they get ready to High School.

To continue to support our parents we were delighted to post on our Dojo site the first of our monthly Online Safety Newsletters in January, we have been delighted with the feedback from parents around this. Also, we were able to organise on Wednesday 31st January an 'Online Safety Information Session' which highlighted current trends, understanding the risks, what can you do? and further support services. The added benefit from this session was you could simply register and if you were not able to make it the recording it was subsequently shared, so parents were able to watch it back at a time convenient to you. We really hope this is another way to continue to support and update parents/carers about the important subject of Online Safety, so we ensure we keep our children safe!



ONLINE SAFETY NOTIFICATION FOR PARENTS



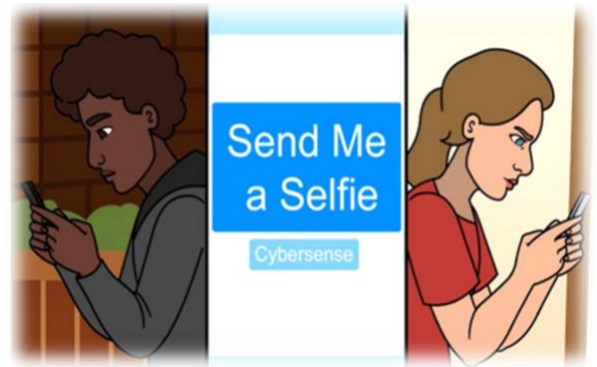
We will be holding a PARENTAL ONLINE SAFETY MEETING just before our KS2 Golden Assembly Tuesday 26th April 2pm. In this meeting our IT provider MGL will update and support parents around the parental control app 'Qustodio' which supports you in protecting your child from inappropriate content.

It can be tough to keep up with digital trends as a busy parent, so they will be there to help with that too. Their research-backed knowledge and advice makes it easier for parents/carers to navigate the digital world with your children.

SEND ME A SELFIE

As a continued focus on Online Safety we have been delighted to work with Ariel Trust and Liverpool John Moores University this year to access face to face workshops (led by Ariel Trust Forum Theatre Practitioners) focusing on a 'Send Me a Selfie Whole Community Approach'.

Year 5 have taken part in this exciting new PSHE module focused on sharing images online and the repercussions online decisions can have on an individual. The lessons have allowed the children to focus on the pressure they might feel to share images and the consequences if they do. The children also discussed how to talk to trusted adults about problems they face online and how keeping secrets about online behaviour can be dangerous. The class have used a range of strategies such as discussion, forum theatre and videos to support their learning, all designed to enable pupils to rehearse positive communication strategies. The children showed great maturity throughout the topic and were inquisitive about the topic. We are also excited to deliver a parental workshop in our Summer Term to further support our parents – more information will follow on our school Dojo platform.



NSPCC NATIONAL NUMBER DAY

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT.

We were delighted to take part in the NSPCC's Number Day. Everyone in school had the chance to enjoy number games and Maths activities, all to raise money to help the NSPCC. Doing this also helped to promote a positive 'can do' attitude towards Maths and numbers! The children thoroughly embraced the Dress up for Digits theme and all the fun 'number activities' planned by the class teachers.

Thank you for all your support and fundraising.





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

To coincide with International Women's Day and World Book day, we were delighted to welcome Everton players Clare Wheeler and Justine Vanhaevermaet to St Vincents to speak about International Women's Day with the theme 'Inspire Inclusion'. Our Year 3 children had the pleasure of the ladies leading the story time session and equality talk and our Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the Q & A session. Check out the short video on our Twitter page. Big thank you to the Everton Women's Team. #HerGameToo

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year's World Book Day took place on Thursday 7th March and launched our Reading Month at St Vincent de Paul.

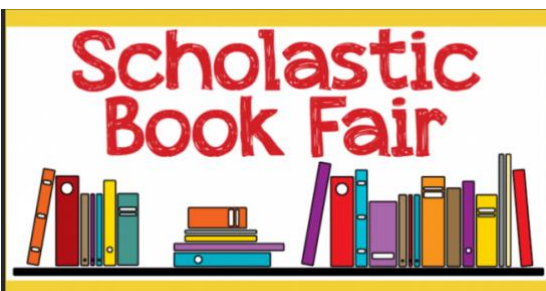
We have lots of fun activities planned in school for this month and it was lovely to see the children take part in the dressing up and the staff too!

Our reading buddies paired up with the younger children and had such a fun time picking books to share and discussing their favourite characters. We definitely have some natural story tellers!

Like last year's World Book Day, we challenged our families to think creatively to reduce waste and cost. A big thank you to all parents/carers who supported our 'Costume Swap Shop' this was a lovely way to demonstrate sustainability to our children.



The Book Fair has arrived...



Don't forget to support the SVP 'Book Fair' this pop-up celebration of reading enables us to put the very best books directly into our children's hands, all while raising rewards for school to top up our very important school library. Your support is very much appreciated.

AUTHOR VISIT

A big thank you to Christian author Matthew Thompson who visited our Year 5 class on World Book Day to discuss his moving novel, *Through the Arched Window*. The children found the action and drama of the book very engaging and shared such insightful ideas and opinions with Matthew. They discussed the attributes of each character, before moving on to the idea of prejudice and discrimination. The children showed great care and sensitivity while talking about these topics, particularly relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Matthew was very impressed with the knowledge the children had, thanks to our recent Geography topic on migration, and he commented on their thoughtful responses and questions. It was a delight to welcome Matthew into our school and we thank him for his time and generosity, donating a set of books to the school for all classes to enjoy and discover the wonder of this story.

POET VISIT BILLIE DEEN-OWENS

A selection of Y5 pupils have been working with Creative Writing student and Writing on the Wall (WoW) volunteer on a series of poetry workshops focusing on confidence and esteem building.

Additionally, the whole Y5 class have been working with Miss Brie participating in virtual WoW sessions for the Spoken Word Power project. We can't wait to see them showcase their poems in our school Poetry Slam.

RAINBOW SMILES VISIT



On Thursday, March 14th, Year 4 had a wonderful visit from Rainbow Smiles. They brought an amazing workshop all about accepting differences and learning to appreciate our unique qualities. The children had a great time and found it incredibly helpful. This workshop emphasised the importance of not judging or making assumptions about others. It encouraged us to welcome everyone from different backgrounds and cultures. This experience will support them in continuing to follow our school values of kindness and respect for everyone.

EARLY MUSIC AS EDUCATION



We have been delighted to welcome EMAE into St Vincent's to support our Ks2 music provision. Early Music as Education (EMAE) is a registered charity based in Liverpool that promotes the cultural, social, and economic value of Early Music through regular educational, recreational, and scholarly activities. Its mission is to: 1) educate music students; 2) train professional musicians; 3) reach out to new audiences; 4) promote musical research. In the long term and against all odds, EMAE aims to fill the increasingly wider gap in the public funding of music education and support many children to access musical training. From the outset, the overall learning objective has been to develop the children's self- and musical awareness through motor, perceptual, temporal, and spatial teaching activities, exercises, and games. A big thank you to the tutors and Dr Alberto Sanna for bringing this opportunity to St Vincent's.

SCIENCE WEEK



From Friday 8th March to Sunday 17th March, it was National Science Week the theme was TIME. We have been celebrating all things Science, conducting experiments, learning about famous scientists and embarking on an epic whole school competition.

EYFS have been learning about what a seed needs to grow and the life cycle of a butterfly. They have thoroughly enjoyed the new addition to their Science Investigation area- a curiosity cube! The children are currently trying to predict what might grow in their cube.

KS1 and KS2 have been learning about the famous scientist, Charles Darwin. We have been looking at his life and how his theories changed the scientific world. Each year group was tasked with learning about different stages of Darwin's life. We also learnt about and discussed Darwin's Theory of Evolution through natural selection recognising it is a process of changes in a species over time to suit their environment. We have created a whole school display about what we found out.

We have also launched a whole school competition, on which class can grow the biggest sunflower! All class were given a sunflower seed, soil, pot and detailed instructions... I wonder who the winner will be? The winners will be announced in the summer term and award the Sunflower Trophy! Watch this space for updates!



MINI VINNIES UPDATE FROM MRS COTTER

This term Mini Vinnies have certainly put their faith into action! We have continued to work together to develop our school allotment. We have been busy planting, painting and digging! Our biggest project has been designing and creating the school pond. The children have been busy excavating the area and getting the ground ready for the pond liner. We can't wait to welcome the wildlife and frog friends into the 'Vinnies Pond'.

The children have continued to support each other to achieve their shared goal of having the best school allotment! Along with Year 4, the Mini Vinnies have also been busy sowing seeds for the upcoming season. Miss Pia, the resident gardener, has been helping the children understand how seeds grow and what they need to flourish. They have planted up a storm including peas, leeks, tomatoes, potatoes, garlic, cornflowers and marshmallow seeds. We are looking forward to a bountiful harvest in the summer term.

Mini Vinnies have also been sharing their 'Water Stories' with Rachel Hardy from Roots in the City Community Garden. Rachel came into school and invited the children to be part of a new project in the community garden along with raising awareness on the importance of water in our daily lives. The children came up with some fantastic ideas as to how we use water, and they understood the importance of water and how we should value and conserve water.

The Mini Vinnies were invited along to commemorate 180 years of St. Vincent de Paul at the Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral. It was a lovely event and a reminder that, as Mini Vinnies, we play an important role in SVP community empowering our community through compassion, care and action!

We have also been successful in winning the OVO FOUNDATION NATURE PRIZE 2024 for bringing children closer to nature and improving biodiversity. A huge well done to all involved!

Watch this space for more to come, as our 'Vinnies Allotment' take shape and the Mini Vinnies take ACTION.

MY SCHOOL MY PLANET

The My School My Planet group continues to meet after school once or twice a month. This term they have been developing their understanding about recycling, how long things take to biodegrade and climate change. They have also had a visit from a Bee Keeper from B4Biodiversity, to help the children plan for the changes they want to make to our school grounds. We are very excited to be on the next stage of planning and linking up with 'Roots in the City', who will help us to build, make and organise the changes to the school grounds. Keep an eye on Dojo for updates on their progress!



DANCE CLUB

After school Dance Club continues to be a great success this Spring Term. The children have been focusing on dance technique and an ongoing Disney routine. A big thank you to Miss Sophie who has been leading this club this has been a fantastic addition to our after school clubs. Next terms focus will be a mixed key stage club and the possibility of a performance at a local Dance school.

REACH OUT CLUB – CHARACTER, CONFIDENCE, CHANGE

Our KS2 ReachOut Club has continued to support our children to grow in character and confidence. A big focus this term has been on Staying Power, Self-Control, Fairness and Good Judgement. Empowering the children to make better decisions, grow in confidence and create wider positive changes in today's society. The children have also been support in English and Mathematical challenges, and fun character building activities. Well done to all that part and support our children.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Year 5 and 6 runners have performed amazingly well during this year's cross-country competitions. We could not be prouder of the determination, resilience and dedication the children have shown this season. A shout out to George (Y6) and Maysam (Y6) for consistently scoring in the top 20 in each race! The Girls team have placed 16th in the League, and the Boys have placed 22nd. The children compete for the final time on Monday 18th March in the Liverpool Cross Country Championships, and we wish them the best of luck!

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS

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



Update from DfE: *Every state school in England will now share their daily attendance registers across the education sector – including with the department for education. The sharing of daily school registers will form a new world-leading attendance data set that will help schools spot and support children displaying worrying trends of persistent absence or those in danger of becoming missing in education.*

Our school continues to strive to strengthen our school attendance and punctuality by supporting the importance of school attendance, working with our families to support early intervention and individual needs and recognising the importance of 'working together'.

We are delighted to inform you that our current attendance figure is 95.5% and we are 16th in the Liverpool Primary School Attendance table. We continue to strive for 97% our school target. Thank you for all your continued support. REMEMBER, EVERY DAY COUNTS!





Our final week of the term sees a wonderful selection of Easter celebrations.

Our termly Golden Assemblies where we will celebrate our children's achievements especially highlighting the important school values of 'ready, respect and kind' and our school's mission statement 'Serving with love, Striving for excellence'.



Interwoven within our Golden Assemblies this term, we are hosting an Easter bonnet parade with a prize being presented to the best bonnet in each class.



There is also an Easter disco, which is being organised, prepared, and hosted by our amazing support staff team.

And finally, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on our very last day of term, which is being led by a wonderful group of parents who are passionate about raising funds for school and supporting school events.



HEADTEACHER'S WORD OF THANKS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful and joyful Easter break. This term has been short but definitely action-packed! The children have immersed themselves fully in so many learning activities and projects – it has been a joy to witness their enthusiasm and dedication to their studies. May this break provide them, the staff and yourselves with an opportunity to relax and rejuvenate, allowing everyone the time to get ready for the Summer terms exciting challenges!

As we embark on our Easter celebration let us open and invite God's transforming love and grace into our hearts. In the Lenten words of Pope Francis...'For, believe it or not, the hoped-for changes in the world begin with change in me and you. While already on the way, we must choose to keep on going and go further.'

Mrs Salters

'For, believe it or not, the hoped-for changes in the world begin with change in me and you. While already on the way, we must choose to keep on going and go further.' Pope Francis

