

# ST VINCENT DE PAUL SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



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

## TERM DATES 2024 - 2025

### Autumn Term:

**School Starts:** Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Sept (Yr 1 – 6)

**Nursery/Reception Start:** Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

**Ends:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

**Half Term:** Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov

**INSET DAYS (Staff only):** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept

### Spring Term:

**School Starts:** Tues 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Ends:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Half Term:** Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb

**Easter Break:** Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Apr – Mon 21<sup>st</sup> April

**INSET:** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (Closed for pupils)

### Summer Term:

**School Starts:** Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**Ends:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

**May Day:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Half term:** Mon 26<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> May

**INSET:** Mon 21<sup>st</sup> & Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Staff Only)

## HEADTEACHERS WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, as the school year comes to a close I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication throughout the year. Your involvement and partnership have played a crucial role in the success of our pupils and the overall growth of our school community.

I am delighted, once again, to showcase all the activities, projects and visitors that the children have participated in this term so far – enjoy the read!

## CURRICULUM CAROUSEL



The Curriculum Carousel for parents was an interactive event organised by our Subject Leaders to provide parents with an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum followed in St Vincent's and the changes that have been made to strengthen it. Our Curriculum Lead opened with a general overview then parents rotated through different stations, each led by a subject leader, who provided information and insights into the curriculum content, teaching methods and showcased examples of children work. The Curriculum Carousel was aimed to help parents better understand what their child was learning at school and how they could support their learning journey. Thank you for all the parents who took part and for your positive feedback, this collaborative partnership will continue to enable us to work together to support the education and development of all our children.

## HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION



Our summer term began with our WYA group of Year 4 children finishing their preparation sessions before they made the sacrament of First Holy Communion in the month of May. There were 18 children altogether who completed their preparation by also making the sacrament of first Reconciliation. This happened on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May in our parish Church of St. Vincent de Paul. Father Terry led this service along with Fr Charles.

The First Holy Communion masses were celebrated on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024, both at 10am. All children and their families are to be commended for showing the utmost respect throughout the service highlighting the importance and reverence of this special occasion in their child's life.

We are truly thrilled for all children involved as they have grown spiritually and religiously throughout this memorable journey.

## CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF MARY

We began the month of May with focused prayer and liturgy gatherings to honour Mary, the Mother of God. Mary is celebrated at this time as this is the height of spring in all of its beauty, which ties in wonderfully to Mary, our Mother.

Beautiful prayer and liturgy celebration worship were held for both KS1 and KS2. This special focus in May allows the children to deepen understanding of the importance of Jesus's Mother. The reflection and stillness interwoven throughout these spiritual times was moving.



## YOUNG PEOPLE DEMAND CHANGE



Our KS2 children experienced an assembly led by a CAFOD volunteer on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. The assembly was all about inspiring our wonderful children to believe that they can be part of changing the world around us, even at a young age. The focus of the assembly was around the following two questions: 'How can you make your voice heard?' 'How can we change the world together?'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and felt empowered to be part of this wonderful focus as we move forward in our world. The CAFOD representative also suggested the wonderful idea of our KS2 children creating artwork around this focus, which is something we are certainly going to do, in order to inspire others.

## LIVERPOOL SCHOOLS' PARLIAMENT VISIT

Our Head boy, Head girl and other representatives for our Year 6 took part in the second 'Schools' Parliament Visit' this time the focus was on 'Growing up in Liverpool'. The children represented the opinions of our whole school community, so before the visit they discussed key questions with other pupils. Such as:



1. Thinking of all the ways you can answer this phrase: 'My future could be healthier and happier if...'
2. Think of where you currently live....is there anything you would change and why?'
3. How can we make our city a place where everyone feels welcome? What things do we need to change or add?

A big thank you to our school representatives who communicated the opinions of themselves and others so eloquently.

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*'Giving a child a voice is one of the most powerful tools we can give.'*

*Dr Karyn Purvis*

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## CHESS IN SCHOOLS

We were delighted to raise funds to enable our Year 4 and 5 children to take part in the 'Chess in School's' project. This was such a worthwhile project as the benefits of playing chess promote both key academic skills and social skills. It also supports the children to think logically, solve problems and develops sportsmanship and resilience.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed both the lessons and the opportunity to join the afterschool club. Big congratulations to the children who were selected to represent our school at The St Georges Hall Annual Chess Tournament – Ruddy, Sage, Megan, Cortez, Kemi, Jack, Kristians, Paco, George, Andreas, Ishmael and Annabel.

If families would like to find out more information about chess, you could join this year's ChessFest on 21 July at Chavasse Park 11am – 4pm. This free activity day will feature:

Free chess lessons for adults and children

Social games of chess

Giant chess

Blindfolded chess

Simultaneous displays – take on a chess master

Blitz chess tournament

Topple the King demonstration

Plus, local chess experts will also carry out displays, giving visitors the chance to watch the masters in action.

ChessFest is the perfect day out for the family, and is free of charge!



## EYFS PEOPLE WHO HELP US VISIT

During the EYFS visit on the topic of 'People Who Help Us,' both the Police and Firefighters played a significant role in educating our youngest children about their important roles in our community. The visit began with the children eagerly gathering around to listen to the police officers and firefighters as they explained their duties and responsibilities.



The police officer shared insights into their job of maintaining law and order, ensuring safety, and helping people in need. The explained the importance of following rules, being respectful, and understanding the role of the police in keeping the community safe. The children were very excited to see the police officer's uniform, equipment, and even got a chance to sit in the police car, which sparked their curiosity and imagination.

The EYFS visit provided a memorable and educational experience for the children, fostering their understanding of the roles of police officers and firefighters. It not only instilled a sense of respect and appreciation for these professions but also inspired the children to consider careers where they can make a positive impact on their community.

## EYFS WHEELATHON

The EYFS Wheelathon sponsorship event was organised with the aim of raising funds for a new slide and climbing pyramid for the children's outdoor play area. The event saw children and teachers enthusiastically participating in various wheeled activities such as cycling, scooting, and rollerblading. (Well done Miss Harris!)

The sponsorship event created a sense of excitement and motivation among the children as they eagerly collected pledges from family and friends for their wheeled endeavours. The enthusiasm was contagious, and the entire EYFS community came together to support this worthy cause.

The funds raised through the Wheelathon sponsorship were dedicated to purchasing a new slide and climbing pyramid for the outdoor play area. These additions would not only enhance the children's play experience but also promote physical activity, coordination, and social interactions. The slide and climbing pyramid will provide endless opportunities for imaginative play and exploration, fostering the children's physical and cognitive development.

The EYFS Wheelathon sponsorship event was a tremendous success, surpassing the initial fundraising goal. The children were thrilled to see their efforts translate into something tangible that has enhanced their outdoor playtime. The new slide and climbing pyramid has become a symbol of their collective achievement and the school community's support for their growth and development.

Overall, the EYFS Wheelathon sponsorship event was a fantastic initiative that brought the community together, fostered a sense of unity and purpose, and provided the children with an exciting new play area. It showcased the power of collaboration and highlighted the importance of investing in children's well-being and development. Thank you to all the families who supported this!



## MY SCHOOL MY PLANET

My School, My Planet project has been led this year by Learning Through Landscapes and supported very ably by Mrs Cotter. The children took part in exploring their cultural and natural heritage, particularly in the context of climate change. The project enabled our children to develop ideas, leading to positive practical changes that will benefit nature within our school grounds and community sites. Our children have worked so hard, finding out about the wildlife that is native in our area, the plants we need to grow to support them, as well as the importance of soil science, nature conservation and the impact of climate change. They designed enhancements for our Forest School Area and work tirelessly to implement them at times collaborating with our Mini Vinnies to promote environmental awareness. A big thank you to Mrs Cotter whose enthusiasm and passion has continued to spur the children on. We look forward to seeing what future developments they will inspire next year!



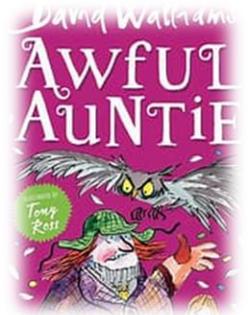
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***Niki Cooke, Project Officer at Learning through Landscapes, said: 'We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children in Merseyside and seeing the ideas that they have had to enhance their environment has been brilliant.'***

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## YEAR 4 THEATRE VISIT

Our Year 4 children were delighted with their visit to the theatre to see "Awful Auntie". "Awful Auntie" is a stage adaptation of the popular children's book written by David Walliams, known for his humorous and engaging storytelling. During the theatre visit, the children were immersed in the captivating world of "Awful Auntie" as they watch the story come to life on stage. Overall, the children's visit to the theatre was an unforgettable adventure filled with laughter, suspense, and the joy of live theatre.



## STONE AGE ARCHEOLOGIST VISIT FOR YEAR 2 & 3



Our Year 2 & 3 classes were delighted to welcome Dr John Hill who is an archaeologist and a lecturer of Archaeology at the University of Liverpool. Dr John delivered 'The Stone Age to Iron Age Classroom Experience' for both classes. This was an amazing experience for all the children.

Firstly, it provided a unique opportunity for hands-on learning and engagement. Dr John brought in artifacts and replicas, allowing the children to see, touch, and explore objects from the Stone Age and Iron Age firsthand. This tangible experience helped to bring history to life and enhanced the children's understanding of the topic.

Secondly, the visit sparked curiosity and inspired a love for learning. The archaeologist shared fascinating stories and insights about the Stone Age, igniting the students' interest in history and archaeology. This encouraged the children to ask questions, spark discussions and develop a deeper appreciation for the past.

## **SAFEGUARDING CURRICULUM COUNTY LINES WORKSHOP**

The county lines workshop for our Upper Key Stage 2 children was led by PC Russell, over two sessions, they were both engaging and educational. The workshops were designed to raise awareness about the dangers of county lines exploitation. During the workshops the children learnt about the concept of county lines, which involves criminal networks exploiting vulnerable individuals, including young people, to transport and sell drugs across different counties.

Through interactive activities and discussions, the children explored the tactics used by criminals to groom and manipulate young people into becoming involved in county lines operations. They also learnt about the potential risks and consequences of involvement in these activities, such as violence, exploitation, and legal repercussions.

The workshop aimed to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to recognise and resist the pressures of county lines exploitation. It encouraged them to seek help and support if they or someone they know is at risk or involved in county lines. By providing age-appropriate information and empowering children to make informed choices, the workshop aimed to prevent any involvement in criminal activities and promote the children's safety and well-being.

Thank you to PC Russell for the taking the time to support our children in this vital area.



## **REACH OUT GRADUATION**

The Reach Out Club was a year-long after school program for our Upper key stage 2 children that focused on developing character, confidence, and promoting positive change. Throughout the year, the club organised various activities and workshops that aimed to empower the children to create a supportive community. The club meetings took place every week, providing a consistent and safe space for children to come together and grow. Through interactive discussions, team-building exercises and activities the club members were encouraged to reflect on their values, set goals, and work towards personal growth. Overall, the club provided a platform for the children to develop their character, boost their confidence, and actively contribute to creating positive change in their lives and the school community. The children were then invited to the Reach Out Graduation event which consisted of a ceremony that celebrated and rewarded the children's progress and hard work across the year. Awards and prizes were given out to celebrate their successes. Well done to all involved we are very proud of you!





## CONDOVER HALL RESIDENTIAL

The Year 6 residential to Condover Hall was an amazing opportunity for our children to access many outdoor activities which provided numerous benefits. Firstly, they offered a chance for the children to engage in hands-on learning and exploration. The activities included archery, rock climbing, water sports and team-building exercises, allowing the children to experience the thrill of outdoor adventures and develop their physical abilities.

Secondly, the residential outdoor activities promoted teamwork and collaboration. The children were divided into groups and had to work together to overcome challenges and accomplish tasks. This encouraged them to communicate effectively, support each other, and learn the value of cooperation.

Furthermore, the activities fostered personal growth and resilience, as many of the children were pushed out of their comfort zones and faced with various obstacles. Through perseverance and determination, they learned to overcome their fears, develop problem-solving skills, and build self-confidence. They were a credit to their families and our school.

Finally, the residential outdoor activities offered a break from the traditional classroom setting and allowed the children to learn in a different environment. This change of scenery and routine stimulated their curiosity and motivation, making the learning experience more engaging and memorable. This was such a valuable opportunity and we have all made life-long memories both children and staff.

I would to say a big thank you to all the dedicated staff who took the time to supported this trip, your commitment and support made the trip an enriching experience for all the children. Also to all the children you were TRULY AMAZING!!

## CYBER MASTER CLASS

Our Year 4 and 5 children took part in an exciting and important virtual masterclass featuring Merseyside Police. This informative Masterclass focused on online

safety, social media, digital footprints, and how children can better protect themselves online. They focussed on platforms such as Fortnite, Snapchat, and TikTok whilst supporting students who are using mobile phones for the first time. A big thank you for the Children's University for organising this very informative session.

# ONLINE SAFETY WITH MERSEYSIDE POLICE!

## WATERSTONES SCHOOL VIRTUAL VISITS



Our Year 5 children thoroughly enjoyed the virtual online interactive 'Unicorns vs Dragons schools' event with authors **A.F. Steadman** and **Katie & Kevin Tsang** as they presented their epic fantasy adventure books from the Skandar and Dragon Force series. Our pupils were invited to join with their pencils and pens ready so that they could create a monstrous, magical creature and learn more about writing their own characters and epic adventures with these expert storytellers.

## YEAR 5 POWER HEALTH SESSIONS

The year 5 class have been taking part in Power, delivered by our specialist PE coach weekly. Power is all about health-physical and mental- and teaches the children how to keep their bodies moving and the benefits of it. All of the class have taken part, and it has been great for those who thrive in PE, and is especially effective for those who don't typically enjoy sport or exercise. This learning and these healthy skills are essential before the children leave for the summer, to ensure they make purposeful choices during their time off, with a focus on daily exercise and time outside.

## CROSS COUNTRY AND ATHLETICS CLUB

This year, members of Year 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Liverpool District Athletics Championships at Wavertree Track. All of these children have attended the school running club throughout the year, and most have competed in the Liverpool Cross Country competitions.

The girls and boys competed in the Long Jump, High Jump, 75m sprint, 150m sprint and the mammoth 800m race. We prepared the children during PE lessons in the Spring term, as well as developing speed, stamina and sportsmanship during running club to ensure they approached these events with skill and determination. Every child performed incredibly well in their events, and I was blown away by their team spirit and the support they showed towards each other. The children had a great time (as did the staff) and we even got to celebrate one of our own, Year 4's Tavenashe, getting 3rd place in the 150m race, meaning he will be representing the school in the Liverpool Athletics' Championships!

We could not have done this without the time and effort the parents and children put into running and athletics this year, so a huge thank you to you all! Once again, congratulations to George, Maysam, Laith, Annabel, Ismael, Megan, Tave and Sage- you should all be so proud!

## SUMMER FUN DAY

Summer Fun Day was a day filled with excitement and joy for everyone involved. The event was a huge success, thanks to the various activities that were organised and your parental support. The tombola attracted a lot of attention, with people eagerly trying their luck to win some amazing prizes. The Year 6 penalty shootout provided a thrilling competition, as the children showcased their skills in hopes of scoring the winning goal past George and Jacob!

One of the highlights of the day was the Teddy Sale, where adorable stuffed animals found new homes - big thank you to Poppy from Year 6 for all her donations! The children thoroughly enjoyed getting their faces painted with colourful designs, and glitter tattoos to add a bit of glam to their summer look. The Splash the Teacher booth brought out the mischievous side in everyone, as participants took turns throwing water sponges at their beloved teachers.

No summer event is complete without ice cream, and there was no shortage of delicious frozen treats thanks to our Early Years. Year 4's artist sketches added a touch of artistry to the day, as talented individuals captured the essence of the participants in their unique drawings.

Not only was the Summer Fun Day a day of lots of fun and enjoyment, but it also served an important purpose. Vital funds have been raised to support our school and future activities. This success would not have been possible without your support and a big thank you to all the parents, families and staff who contributed their time, effort, and resources. A memorable day was had for everyone involved.



## YEAR 6 LEAVERS MASS

The Year 6 Leavers Mass was a heartfelt and emotional celebration of cherished memories and the incredible contributions made by our Year 6 children. The mass brought together our school community to honour and bid farewell to these remarkable children who have left an indelible mark on our school. We wished our Year 6 children all the best for their future journeys, and we are confident that they will continue to shine brightly wherever they go.

## 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 final attendance figure is 95.4 %, we will continue to strive for 97% our school target next year. Thank you for all your continued support. **REMEMBER EVERY DAY COUNTS!**



## HEADTEACHER'S WORD OF THANKS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all the above achievements and milestones of this school year. I recognise that none of it would have been possible without our staff, governors, parents and children's incredible commitment. Your contributions, big and small, have shaped the positive learning environment we strive to create - a school that has its mission statement at the heart of everything we do - 'Serving with love, Striving for excellence'.

On behalf of the governors and staff, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your partnership and trust. We wish you and your family a wonderful summer filled with joy, relaxation, and cherished moments together. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year, eager to continue our journey of nurturing and empowering your children.

*Mrs Salters*

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*'Dear children, our hands are a symbol for our hearts and only open, generous hearts can change the world.'* Pope Francis

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