



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

Headteacher: Mr J White BEd (Hons) NPQH

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School

Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage, Herts., SG1 1NJ

Tel: 01438 729555

Email: admin@stvincent.herts.sch.uk

www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk

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Class Information Letter – Year Reception Autumn 2020

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to our school and thank you for ensuring your child was well prepared for the beginning of term, we were very pleased to see them and impressed with how quickly they settled into their new classes and the new routines.

The teacher who will be working in Reception O'Connor this year is Mrs Lambert and Mrs Osmond and Mrs Farrelly are the Teaching Assistants, with Mrs Doyle and Mrs Fasina supporting individual children.

The teacher who will be working in Reception Mozart this year is Mrs Hargrave and Miss Zanelli and Mrs Farrelly are the Teaching Assistants, with Mrs Fasina and Miss Hewitt supporting individual children.

Behaviour and Rewards

Our school uses the Hertfordshire Steps approach which supports a therapeutic ethos, early intervention and professional responses to complex, challenging or high-risk behaviours. We have developed three universal school rules which each class has spent time exploring and these are:

- **Be ready**
- **Be respectful**
- **Be safe**

In Reception we value and praise the children as they make the right choice, this may be accompanied with an extrinsic award e.g. stickers etc.

Curriculum

The areas of learning and development for the children are divided into 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas and are shown below.

Prime Areas	Focus
Personal, Social and Emotional	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour
Physical Development	Moving and handling safely Health and self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking



Specific Areas	
Literacy	Letters and sounds phase 2 Blending and segmenting CVC words Developing a love of stories and story telling
Mathematics	Early Number skills Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and our community Animals from different areas of the world Computing, developing mouse skills
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials

Please find below our Autumn Term curriculum.

In RE we shall continue to follow the Liturgical Year. This term, beginning with Ordinary Time, leads up to the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Our themes will be: God's World and God's Family. We will be reflecting on God's love and care for each one of us. We will learn about Creation and think about ways we can care for the world. We will learn how we can use the gifts God has given us to show our love for Him by helping one another and people in other parts of the world. In Advent we will reflect on ways to respond to God's greatest gift His only son Jesus.

Our topics for this half-term are **We are Special, Into the Night** and **Christmas**. We will be learning about ourselves, getting to know each other and the people around us. After half term we will be learning about nocturnal animals and night and day. Our topics are always flexible as we aim to develop the children's learning through their own interests. Children in the Reception class learn best through playful activities and having fun so activities are designed with this in mind.

Physical Education

Where possible PE lessons will take place outside each Thursday. Pupils attend school in their PE kits and ensure they have a water bottle. As the weather gets colder wearing navy or black track suit bottoms and either a matching (no logo) tracksuit top or their school jumper will be important. If possible please allow children to wear trainers with Velcro fasteners.

Home Learning

Home learning is currently under review and may not follow the usual patterns. This is whilst teachers focus their efforts on ensuring that distance learning can be provided for those who are not currently in school.

Reading continues to be an important focus in Reception and we are keen that the children have lots of opportunities to share and enjoy books. The Reception page on the school website has links to recommended reading books for our class. Please encourage your child to recall the books and talk about the pictures, thinking about characters, events and settings and discuss how a story might end. As far as possible, please ensure that your child reads at home to develop both their reading and comprehension skills.

Phonics: This term we will be revisiting Phase One and teaching Phase Two of Letters and Sounds. Please support the children as they learn the new phonemes. Later in the term your child will be given a tricky word keyring, these words need to be recognised by sight and not phonetically.

General information:

Water Bottle: All children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day, therefore, please supply your child with a refillable labelled water bottle with an anti-spill top; this must ONLY contain water. It should be taken home each day and cleaned. In the Early Years and KS1 the children are provided with a fruit snack each day. No snack needs to be brought in from home.



NO jewellery should be worn in school including earrings; long hair must be tied back during school hours.

Plimsolls and indoor shoes: all pupils must have a pair of well-fitted plimsolls (indoor shoes) in school. Please ensure all clothing and personal items are named.

Pick up procedures – keeping everyone safe

Thank you for your continued compliance and patience for the safe arrival and leaving procedures at school; we are very pleased with the sensible independence shown by all the pupils in adapting to the new routines in place. Please continue to let us know if someone other than yourself is authorised to pick up your child.

Twitter

Please follow the school on Twitter @svdp_school (easily accessed through the school website); this is proving to be a great source of communication for our school, particularly at a time when we are unable to have parental visitors in the school building.

Communication

If you have any concerns at any point during the year please do not hesitate in contacting the class teacher via email: vhargrave@stvincent.herts.sch.uk or klambert@stvincent.herts.sch.uk. Please remember no problem is too small or too big; anything that is important to you and your child is important to us too. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to engage in lengthy conversations at the door (as the site has to be cleared of visitors quickly in the morning). However, email or phone contact should enable information to be shared as required.

Covid related absences

We are aware that throughout the school currently, children are needing to isolate for a period of 10 – 14 days when symptomatic due to the lack of availability of Covid tests. This is unfortunate. Staff are currently working to put together a 'two week distance learning pack' for each year group that will be able to be sent to families isolating in order that children have relevant and age appropriate work to complete. We hope to have this fully up and running by next week. Please also make use of the excellent website links that are available on the class pages of the school website.

Bubble closure

In the unfortunate case that a class or bubble is forced to close due to a confirmed Covid case, we will communicate with you directly how the whole class will be able to access a tailored and relevant distance learning package. Please ensure that email contacts are up to date in order that you are able to receive timely information in relation to this.

Parent Consultations

Meeting face to face for parent consultations is unlikely to be possible this term. Mr White will communicate our plans to enable good communication and feedback in relation to learning later this half term.

Thank you in anticipation for your support throughout the year. We look forward to working in close partnership with you to ensure your children are happy and progressing well in school.

Kind regards
The Early Years Term

