



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 – Reception (O'Connor) Spring 2020

It is good to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break. We would like to wish you a very happy new year and take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind cards, gifts and presents. Here is information relating to the Spring Term.

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.

In RE we shall continue to follow the liturgical year. Epiphany is followed by Candlemas and then Lent. Our topics are Getting to Know Jesus, Sorrow and Joy. We shall begin with the celebration of Epiphany followed by stories of Jesus as he grows from the new born king to begin his ministry. We shall hear how Jesus chose his first disciples and how we can show our love for him. In the second half term it will be Lent and at this time we will learn that Jesus helps us to make good choices. We will think about our actions, how we care for one another and also when to say sorry.

During literacy we will continue to concentrate on learning all the letter sounds as a strategy to help the children with reading and writing. We will be using stories and role play to build vocabulary to support the writing of simple sentences and stories. We will also be looking at information books and how they are organised. Sharing your child's reading book with him/her daily is an important part of the enjoyment of learning to read. In order to develop their reading skills we will continue to teach Phase 3 of Letters and Sounds. Please remember to practise the tricky words that can only be learnt by sight, more tricky words will be added to their key-rings this term. We continue to teach letter formation, therefore please encourage children to form their letters correctly when they write at home.

In Mathematics this term we will be exploring size, capacity, time, sorting and sequencing. We will also be looking at estimating, early addition and subtraction, weighing, 3D shape, symmetry and patterns.

Our topics this term are 'Once Upon a Time' and 'Animal Safari' In the first half term we will be exploring traditional tales e.g. Goldilocks and the Three bears and in the second half term we will be exploring wild animals, such as those native to other countries.

Physical Education Throughout the whole school all PE kits consist of navy shorts and white round necked t-shirt (all KS2 pupils will be expected to also have a navy track suit and trainers).



PE days are: O'Connor class – Thursday
Mozart class – Thursday

It is very important that all your child's clothing (even vests) and belongings are still **clearly labelled** with their name. They often put on the wrong jumper etc. and if the item has a label we can usually return it to the owner.

It is advisable to leave the PE kit in school and only take home each half term.

Home learning is set on Fridays for the following Wednesday and may include Literacy, Maths, R.E. and or topic work. This is supplemented by regular reading, learning of sounds and 'tricky' words.

General information:

Water Bottle: All children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day, therefore, please supply your child with a refillable **sports top** water bottle. This must ONLY contain water, NO juices.

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day. Children in other year groups may bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable for a morning snack if they wish.

Jewellery: NO jewellery should be worn in school including earrings. Those with pierced ears must remove the earrings during school hours. If you wish your child to have their ears pierced this should take place at the beginning of the summer holidays to ensure the ears are healed before returning in September.

Long hair must be tied back during school hours.

Plimsolls: all pupils must have a pair of well-fitted plimsolls in school.

Children in Reception and KS1 are expected to bring their Reading Books in a school Book Bag each day. Please ensure the Tricky Word key rings are also kept in the children's bags.

We hope to get the opportunity to meet with you all at our next Parent Consultations and I am looking forward to sharing the progress and attainment of you children. These meetings will be on:

Monday 10th February: 3.30pm – 7.30pm

Tuesday 11th February: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Please visit our newly updated class pages on the school website at <https://www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk/os-classes.html> for helpful information about supporting your child's learning. This includes some helpful websites to support learning.

During the first half term we will continue our invitation to join us on a Friday morning for Stay and Play at 9.45 until 9.15am. You are welcome to stay for the full half an hour or for part of it. During Lent we will invite you to join us for our weekly Lenten reflection. This takes place at the end of the week, Fridays at 2.50pm.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. If you require any other information please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Yours sincerely

The Early Years Reception Team

