



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

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Friday 12th March 2021

Dear parents and carers

Thank you

It has been a week of great joy as all children were welcomed back to school. It has been lovely to hear and see the children enjoying themselves during play and learning and engaging so well with all that is offered to them. Thank you for helping your children to return with such a positive mindset – they are all a great credit to you. Thank you for your partnership during the time of lockdown and in this period of time where we bridge a pathway to new learning. This partnership is the key to success for each child.

Bridging a new pathway to learning

Whilst we continue with a full curriculum, our focus as your children return remains on the following priorities:

- A continued prioritisation of WELLBEING;
- Reaffirmation of SAFETY & ROUTINES;
- An affirmation of our CORE VALUES;
- A continued engagement with GOSPEL VALUES;
- A focus on RELATONSHIPS and an awareness of change in relation to these;
- Acknowledgement of LOSS, CHANGE & BEREAVEMENT where necessary;
- A continued focus on the LEARNING PIT and the promotion of positive learning powers (building on the independence that remote learning / new in school provision has promoted since January);
- Then ...Academic recovery.

Although there has been much talk in the press about 'catch up', we will be turning this deficit model on its head and will instead talk of 'bridging work' and building new pathways. Our aim through this is to create a supported pathway between previous learning, lockdown learning and new learning. We will build upon the work that has occurred in school and at home during this period. We aim to build upon the learning behaviours that have been developed in different learning situations and create a new exciting path of learning from this.

Where possible we have stuck to the curriculum we normally would have delivered since January and children at home and at school have been given similar opportunities. As such, contrary to the media's view, learning hasn't been 'lost' it has just been different.

Our aim as we work towards Easter and beyond is to sustain an irresistible curriculum that inspires, motivates and supports every child wherever they are on their learning journey. We



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hope to plan an opportunity after Easter to meet with you virtually to discuss your child's unique learning journey. We look forward to this opportunity.

Symptoms, testing and self-isolation

Remaining vigilant and aware of Covid 19 symptoms is a key priority for everyone. The official symptoms remain the same:

- a persistent new cough;
- a high temperature (37.8 degrees plus);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

There are no changes to the rules in relation to self-isolation. Therefore, if anyone in the household or bubble displays any of the symptoms, everyone in the household / support / childcare bubble must self-isolate for at least ten days or until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If anyone in the household tests positive, you must inform the school immediately and isolate as a family for at least 10 days. Please email absence@stvincent.herts.sch.uk with any covid-related absence details; outside of office hours, please also copy head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk into your email as this address is monitored beyond the school day.

Thank you for continuing to cooperate with us to keep our school as safe as it can be.

Access to rapid lateral flow home testing

Access to twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home testing is now available to all non-symptomatic adults in a household where a primary school aged pupil is attending school. This testing is for the adults and not the children. The guidance in relation to this is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>. This testing cannot be used to confirm whether a symptomatic individual has Covid; in this case a lab base PCR test must be used.

LFD Testing kits are available locally from the Primett Road South Car Park (SG1 3AS). No appointments are necessary and the site is open from 1pm to 8pm, 7 days per week. Please make use of these tests if you can. The more asymptomatic community testing that occurs, the better!

Relationship and Sex Education: consultation with parents

The school plans to make use of a new Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) scheme in order to deliver new statutory requirements. Our chosen scheme, Ten;Ten's Life to the Full has the backing of the Bishops' Conference and is fully underpinned by our Catholic ethos. Ten:Ten have provided a useful and engaging online **Parent Consultation Tool** in order that schools can enable parents to explore expectations and materials. This takes the form of a simple-to-follow, short online course which:

- Outlines the statutory changes that will take place.
- Articulates a vision for Catholic Relationships and Health Education.
- Explains how Life to the Full aims to help us fulfil the statutory curriculum whilst being underpinned by a distinctively Catholic ethos.



- Provides some information about key decisions we need to make, in consultation with parents.
- Answers some Frequently Asked Questions.

You can access the **Parent Consultation Tool** here:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-consultation-primary

You will need the following login credentials for our school:

Username: svp-sg1

Password: herts-658

All parents are asked to engage with these materials and complete our digital survey before the end of this term. Your feedback is so important to us as we plan our next steps. Accompanying this letter, I have redistributed the original letter about the consultation process, including how to access our digital questionnaire.

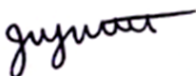
Lenten preparations

Lenten preparations are well underway for pupils and staff throughout the school. Usually, the whole school would engage in a sponsored walk as a Lenten fundraiser at this time of the year. Unfortunately, this isn't possible this year. However, next week each child will bring home a CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) pennies box to make use of. Perhaps your child could do some jobs at home and be paid for their efforts in pennies. These pennies can be saved in the CAFOD box and returned to school after Easter. CAFOD coordinates amazing work internationally and supports individuals in communities to help themselves with sustainable projects. Please do help if you can. Your small change can make a BIG difference.

Hopefully by now your child will have brought home a packet of wild seeds to plant. This action of giving back to the earth links to the following verse that we have used when exploring the Station of the Cross in school recently:

*If you leave seeds in a packet,
They remain just what they are – seeds
If you bury them in the ground,
They turn into grain and grass and flowers.
Jesus said his death would be like planting a seed
Today the life of Jesus is everywhere.
(H.J. Richards)*

May God bless you and those most dear to you



Mr Jon White
Headteacher



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Dates for your diary

Fri 26 th March	End of term – early staggered finish A-K: 1.40 – 1.50PM L-Z: 1.50 – 2.00PM
Mon 12 th April	Summer term begins
Mon 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Mon 31 st May	Start of Half Term holidays
Mon 7 th June	Return to school for final half term
Fri 16 th July	Last day of Summer Term for pupils

TERM DATES 2021 / 2022

AUTUMN 2021

INSET 1 (no pupils)

Mon 1st Sep 21

TERM BEGINS

Thurs 2nd Sep 21

INSET 2 (no pupils)

Fri 22nd Oct 21

HALF TERM

Mon 25th Oct – Fri 29th Oct 21

TERM ENDS

Mon 20th Dec 21

SPRING 2022

TERM BEGINS

Wed 5th Jan 22

HALF TERM

Mon 14th Feb – Fri 18th Feb 22

INSET 3(no pupils)

Mon 21st Feb 22

TERM ENDS

Fri 1st April 22

SUMMER 2022

TERM BEGINS

Tues 19th April 22

HALF TERM

Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June 22

TERM ENDS

Wed 20th July 22

INSET 4 (no pupils)

Thurs 21st July 22

INSET 5 (no pupils)

Fri 22nd July 22

