



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

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parents and carers

### **Thank you**

What a busy term it has been! I appreciate that it has been a great struggle for everyone but as a community we have pulled together. We have managed a full term without any bubble closures and the children have engaged beautifully with their return to in-school learning. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your brilliant children were ready and able to engage so fully with this change. Your children are a credit to you and the full staff team are a credit to the school, having continually gone the extra mile over the course of this past year. We are blessed with a community of individuals who care, who give continually and who live our Mission statement through each of their actions. I am thankful for the whole community each and every day! The sterling efforts of our whole community were recognised by Mrs L. Neville, our Herts School Improvement Partner (HIP) in our virtual Spring Term Review earlier this week.

### **Covid-19**

Stevenage currently has the highest rate of cases in Hertfordshire and we are hoping that everyone's adherence to the rules will help to bring local rates down before we return for the Summer Term. We need to continue to be vigilant in relation to keeping the rules and to symptoms. I urge all adults to engage with the optional (but highly recommended) bi-weekly lateral flow testing that is available locally. Kits can be collected from the Primett Road South Car Park SG1 3EE (off Lytton Way). I will be sending further information from Herts County Council in relation to our Covid Vigilance later this afternoon. Even during the holidays, positive cases need to be reported to the school ([head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk)).

### **Lenten Journey**

Your children have been on an amazing Lenten journey over the past three weeks. They are very well prepared for Holy Week and its pathway to the great feast of Easter. You can see some aspects of this in a film that we have produced which is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA2OxiYAoHY#>



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## Be Spirited

Be Spirited Prayer stations in the KS2 Hall and special sessions in the EYFS and KS1 classrooms have enabled the children to focus on their own personal journey to the cross. Children have engaged beautifully, reverently and deeply. As always seeing the children so spiritually engaged during these occasions is a pleasure and a privilege to witness.



## Diocesan Mass today

Our Lenten preparations culminated in a virtual Mass in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral this morning where pupils and staff joined with a potential 90,000 other pupils and staff from across the Diocese. The children engaged with this beautifully. We are perhaps more used to home and school being able to be Church through online Masses and this has enabled us all to reflect on the true meaning of Church which is the people, not the building. What a great way to end our busy term. A recording of the Mass is available here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q7N\\_Y2krM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q7N_Y2krM)

## Lenten Giving

Traditionally our Lenten efforts involve giving to those most in need. Aware of all of the other pressures upon families this year, there has been no sponsored events. However, each child will take home a CAFOD (catholic Agency for Overseas Development) collection box today and we hope that they may be able to earn some loose change through positive actions at home over the holidays. CAFOD boxes can be returned immediately after the Easter break. Children have also 'given' in a 'Laudato Si' way through planting packets of wild seeds which were sent home earlier this term. We hope that signs of life are starting to sprout. Please do send us pictures!

## Farewell Mrs Hodges, Mrs Timpson and Mrs Withers

This term we say a sad farewell to Mrs Hodges, one of our year 4 teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hodges for her dedicated and enthusiastic commitment to our school community for a period of almost 9 years. During this time children have been inspired by Mrs Hodges' love for music and English in particular. We wish Mrs Hodges and her family well as she plans a new future pathway. We also say farewell to Mrs Timpson (Teaching Assistant) who began her early retirement during February. Mrs Timpson has been a valued member of the staff team for over 20 years and many children over the years have benefitted from her gentle manner, her rich smile and her great sense of fun on the playground as well as her expert support in the classroom. Mrs Timpson hopes to return in a voluntary capacity at some point to read with children – we look forward to welcoming her back! We also say farewell and good luck to Mrs Withers (Teaching Assistant) who leaves us after a short but very fruitful time with us. We will miss Mrs Withers creative flare and skilful support. May God



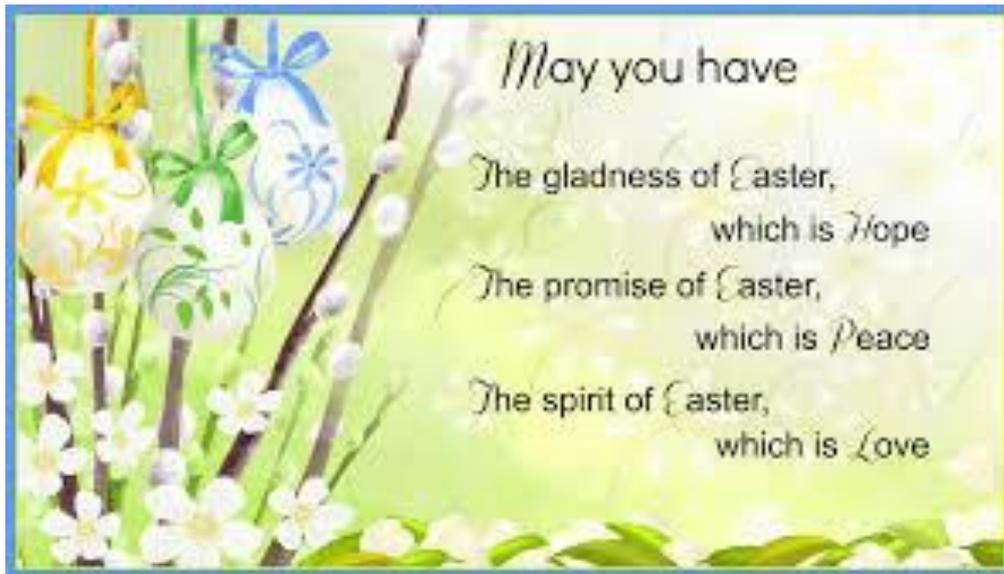
bless each of our members of staff as they embark on new pathways; although, leaving, they remain a part of our special community and will be held in our prayers.

I look forward to welcoming the whole community back after the Easter celebrations. Wishing you and your families a beautiful Holy Week and the peace of the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

God bless you all and those most dear to you.



Jon White  
**Headteacher**



### **Dates for your diary**

Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer term begins
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Start of Half Term holidays
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school for final half term
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Summer Term for pupils

