



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

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Friday 1st May 2020

Dear parents and carers

Well done – you have managed another week of learning with your children in such a different way. It is odd to think that we are now at the start of May with our schools and indeed the whole world operating in such a different manner. Thank you to our Key Workers who continue to help us all to survive in these difficult times; you are indeed the heroes of our time and we can't thank you enough for your amazing work. Equal in the merits as heroes, are parents working at home to keep your children safe and to help them learn – however you are approaching this, I know that your child is at the centre of it and, as such, you will be doing an amazing job – thank you!

It is strange to think that we won't be having our beautiful May procession this year but in today's Friday Vlog - which can be seen at <https://youtu.be/AkRyfeM4pOw> - I have asked the children to think about making their own special Mary area either in the garden or in the house. It might be something that you could all work on together. I'd love to see any photos of areas that you've created together. Please email them to head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk in order that we can Tweet them



Some of our families may have received a call from class teachers today. Others will receive their call over the course of the next week. We hope to have called everyone by Wednesday 13th May. The purpose of these calls is simply to catch up and check in, to see if there is anything that we can further support you with and for the teachers to be able to reassure each and every child. I know from many of the children who received a call today, they were delighted to speak to their teacher and a number of teachers have emailed me already to say how beautiful it was to reconnect with their children in this way. Teachers are mainly calling away from school and, as such, their numbers will be withheld; therefore if you have a missed call from an unidentified source it may well be from your child's teacher! Where it has been difficult to make contact, teachers will email in order to arrange a convenient time to call back.

Please note the previous Parentmail in relation to financial hardship. If your situation is currently difficult, we may be able to help as we have access to a number of grants. Please email Mrs Sherry (rsherry@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) or Mr White (head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) if you would like us to follow this up.



There has been much press coverage recently in relation to the online work that schools are providing. I am aware that there will be many households where this is presenting logistical difficulties. Your child may not have access to a suitable device in order to access Purple Mash for example or the PC that they would normally use may be unavailable now that many parents are working from home. For others there may be no connected devices at all. If this is presenting you with a difficulty, please email head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk (or speak to your child's teacher when they call) as there are things that we can try to put in place providing that we know.

I would like to end by reiterating a message from last Friday's Newsletter:

Please do not worry about completing all of the learning tasks set. Just complete whatever fits into your daily routine and if you are finding different ways to learn with your children, use them instead. No one is checking and no one is judging. Our learning tasks are intended simply as a set of options for you should you need them. Children will learn lots through listening to stories with you and talking about them; through taking risks outside in the garden and being active; through baking delicious cakes, biscuits and meals; through doodling and drawing; through exploring the natural world and enquiring; or through observing the sky at night! We have licence currently to make the most of this opportunity – family time is precious, never more so than now. Looking back on this time in say twenty years, I wonder what our children will remember? It is unlikely to be their time on Purple Mash (as good as it is!) but it more likely to be the den building with you or the time when you painted stones together and left them for others to find on your daily walk. As hard as it is, let's turn this awful situation on its head and create a silver lining if we can.



Wishing you all a peaceful and safe weekend.

God bless you and those most dear to you.

Jon White
Headteacher

