



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

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Dear parents and carers

Happy Holidays

I hope that you are all enjoying the first days of the Summer break. It has of course been the most unusual of terms. Indeed, it is amazing to reflect on the journey that we have all been a part of since March and the many changes and adaptations that we have all had to deal with over this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank a magnificent staff team who have continually gone the extra mile to invent and reinvent school systems to suit new guidance as it has arrived. The determination, commitment and care of our staff team has been exceptional and I owe each and every one of them a great debt of gratitude.

A busy last week

Check out this week's **Pupil Post** to find out what everyone got up to in school and at home during the final week. A link to this document can be found here: <https://t.co/Hhb62KtG1c>. Thank you to Mrs Sherry for pulling together this document each week. Reflect on weekly editions of this since late March, we have an amazing 'documentary narrative' of Lockdown at St Vincent de Paul School. Certainly, a series of documents for our historical archive!

Preparations

Since school closed to pupils on Thursday 16th July, the whole staff team have been busily working to set up new systems and routines for September when we look forward to welcoming back the full community! As I have said on a number of occasions, September will not be 'school as usual' but staff have been working hard to ensure that transition to this new way will be effective for all children. I am currently finalising a document which will help you to understand some of the most significant changes which I will send as soon as it is ready. However, for now, I can tell you that the size of our bubbles will be increased to Year groups (meaning that contact between year groups will be minimised). As I write, the plumbing is being put in to facilitate a number of external handwashing facilities and extra hand sanitising stations are on order. In order to make the staggering of entry and exit manageable for families, we will operate a soft start to the school day from 8.30am to 9am (you will be allocated an 8.30 or an 8.45 arrival time). A similar system will operate at the end of the day, with the earliest pick up being at 3pm. More details will follow.

Wrap-around Care from September

You will be pleased to hear that the school does intend to run a Breakfast Club facility in September which will operate from Rec to Year 6. However we will need to limit numbers in order to protect



the integrity of the bubbles. Children will remain in year group bubbles throughout the session which will run from 7.45 am to 8.30 am. Arrival will only be permitted between 7.45 and 8am. Keeping Breakfast Club running throughout the Lockdown period, has meant that we have actually been running at a significant loss. This is clearly not sustainable for a school and, as such, we are looking to safely increase our capacity now that the regulations allow us to do so. In order to make this provision financially viable over a period of time we will need to ensure that sessions are pre-booked and paid for a half-term in advance. One off, ad-hoc attendance will not be possible I'm afraid.

I have met with Mrs Kear today to explore our risk assessment and to discuss how the 'Cool After School Club' could safely operate within current guidelines whilst also remaining financially viable. Mrs Kear has agreed that she will be able to operate this facility for Year 1 to Year 6 but will be maintaining the integrity of our year group bubbles. Mrs Kear will be in contact with details of how this will operate for those currently using the facility. She will operate a waiting list for any further places as and when they become available.

It is important to note that both Breakfast Club and the Cool After School Club will no longer be able to be as flexible to parental requirements as we have previously been. Many schools are simply not operating such clubs initially due to the regulations; we will keep both provision under review over the course of this term but may need to make changes and adaptations to what we are able to offer over time.

Transition Films

I hope that your children have enjoyed watching the transition films that teachers created for each class. These are available on the school website on your child(ren)'s class page: a farewell from their current teacher and a welcome from their new teacher. Children new to the school in nursery and reception can find a welcome video on your new class page. Class pages can be accessed here: <http://www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk/os-classes.html>

Farewells

We were saddened not be able to welcome all of our children back before the end of term in order say a proper farewell. However, you have all been kept in our prayers during this time. We did manage to invite all of our Year 6 pupils back on the last day. to give them a proper send off before they move on to their new secondary schools. You can see some of the highlights of their final day on our You Tube channel: <https://t.co/XtUBwYE8R0>



God luck and God bless to our wonderful Year 6 children and their families. We look forward to hearing of the impact that they will have on their new schools. Year 6, please remember to visit us and let us know how you are getting on. You will always be 'welcome home'!

This term also saw us saying farewell to Mrs Harriss in the office who has now started her new early retirement adventure. We will all miss Mrs Harriss' cheerful presence and organised ways – thank you, Mrs Harriss for your amazing 13 years of service to our school community.

We also said a sad farewell to Angelo and Samuel this term who begin an exciting adventure at their new schools in September. We wish them much luck and send them forth with every possible blessing.

Welcome

The new academic year means that our school family admits new members. Usually we would have already said 'hello' by now to new families in Nursery and Reception but current regulations have prevented our usual welcome. We look forward to welcoming new families and getting to know you all over the course of this next term. You are all very welcome to our new community.

Our staff team expands in September too as we welcome Mr Marsden to the KS2 teaching team as well as Mrs Anderson to the office team. I know that you will all make our two new staff members feel very welcome when you meet them.

Retrieving personal property (PE kits, plimsoles and shoes)

I know that many students did not get a chance to collect personal property when the school closed to a number of pupils in late March. As such, these items can now be collected from school for a limited period as follows:

Nursery, Reception, Yr1 & 2 families will be able to collect items from the covered area outside the School Office and KS2 families will be able to collect items from the covered area outside the Year 6 classrooms (adjacent to the staff car park) on the following dates:

- 21st - 24th July: 10am to 3pm; and then
- 10th - 14th August: 10am to 3pm.


Unfortunately, we are unable to hold onto items after this period and, if not collected, will assume that they are no longer wanted. There are no further items left in school and there will be no access to the school building during this period. The main vehicular gates will be left open during this period. We politely ask that you refrain from lingering on the site at this time and simply collect and leave in order to allow for appropriate social distancing.

And finally

It just leaves me to wish you all a wonderful Summer holiday with your families and friends on behalf of the whole staff team and the Governing Body. The entire staff have been overwhelmed by your kind words of appreciation and your assurance of prayers over these past months. We have an amazing community of children, parents, staff & Governors at St Vincent de Paul School who never cease to amaze me in their generosity of spirit and sense of togetherness. Thank you



sincerely for everything that you do to support this – our community is so much the richer for your efforts.



Prayer to End a School Year

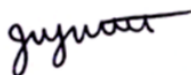
God of wisdom,
we thank you
for all the gifts you have given us
throughout this school year.
We praise you for giving us life,
for saving us in Christ,
and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year,
we voice our gratitude
for the good things you have done in us,
and we praise you for all who have shared
in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love
and give them refreshment and peace.
We praise you, God,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers/Revised Edition. USCCB

God bless you and those most dear to you.



Jon White
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 2nd Sep INSET day (no pupils)

Thursday 3rd Sep Start of Autumn term for pupils



Summer Holiday Childcare Provision in Stevenage

Where: Fairlands primary School, Pound Avenue, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 3JA
Contact: Liberty Grimmer 01493 717575



Where: Roebuck Academy, St. Margarets, Stevenage, SG2 8RQ

Contact: Jessie George on 07542 199 299

Website details: <https://www.brighterdayskidsclub.co.uk/>



Where: Trots Hill, Wisden Rd, Stevenage SG1 5JD

Contact: WWW.RISINGSTARS-WRAPAROUND.CO.UK



PLEASE NOTE THESE SCHEMES ARE RUN BY EXTERNAL PROVIDERS PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL WHO ARE PROVIDING THE SPACE ONLY.

Holiday Camps are a fantastic way for children to continue to maintain social skills during the summer holidays. Particularly during this time where they may have less social interactions due to schools being partially closed. They also offer an opportunity for parents to work while their children are having fun.



Book early to avoid disappointment.



Trots Hill Primary and Nursery

Week 1 - 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th July

Week 2 - 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st July

Week 3 - 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th August

Week 4 - 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th August

Week 5 - 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st August

SPECIAL SUMMER PRICE!

£15 - HALF DAY (UP TO 5 HOURS)

£20 - FULL DAY 8AM - 5PM

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE EMAIL:
INFO@RISINGSTARS-WRAPAROUND.CO.UK

