



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

23rd September 2020

Dear parents and carers

This term is quickly flying past. Thank you for all that you are doing to support us in keeping our site safe and our school a happy place to learn. There has been much change to cope with as well as well as much anxiety. However, each day I am lifted by the resilience, determination and amazing spirit of your children. They really do lighten the moment for each of us.

Virtual Wednesday Word Assembly

I have just returned from our weekly Virtual Wednesday Word Assembly and despite not being able to physically meet, this remains one of the highpoints of each week for me. The assembly is broadcast from my office to each classroom and we can all see each other on the classroom screens. The children and staff take delight in joining together as one community in such a special way. As the current regulations do not allow us to sing in groups of more than 15, we are finding our way with signing new songs which I think, when we get through these times, will be a great enhancement of our worship repertoire. Today we learnt 'Shine from the Inside Out' – there is a link to the song and the words on our Twitter feed which I am sure your children will enjoy sharing with you. This morning our new Reception classes also joined assembly for the very first time – it was great to be able to formally welcome them and to award them a **Virtual Headteacher's Award** for their amazing participation today! Along with our new nursery children and all new starters throughout the school, they really bring such joy to our community.



Protecting our whole community – please wear a mask unless you are exempt

Following announcements this week about the ‘second wave’ of coronavirus and the tightening of national restrictions in order to regain control of a worsening situation, I have spent much time reflecting on the measures that we have put in place in order to keep everyone safe. As times goes on, it is easy to become complacent without intending to about such routines, particularly during busy and stressful times.

We must all be aware of this and help to keep each other in check. Drop off and collection times are our most vulnerable times and can be busy despite the staggered arrangements. Please stick to your allocated ‘window’ for collection and drop off; keep a distance from others; follow planned routeways and one way systems; ensure that only one adult is collecting or dropping off; and wear a mask or face covering (unless you are exempt) whilst on site.



The vast majority of our families are keeping to these procedures; however today I gather that some were concerned about the number of adults who are not wearing masks during collection and drop off. This is a concern that I have also noted recently and leaves members of our community feeling understandably anxious. It is important to recognise that we have a number of staff, children and parents who were previously shielding and as such remain vulnerable. Many adults in our community are concerned about contracting Covid19 and passing it on to other vulnerable members of their families. By wearing a mask at these busy times and by maintaining our social distancing at pick up and collection times, we are all further protected. **You may not feel that you need a mask, but by wearing one, you are supporting the whole community.**

Needless to say, there will be members of our community who are exempt from wearing a mask and we fully understand this. It is vital that all who are not exempt, support our community in complying with this request. May I thank sincerely all members of our community who continue to do this!

A fantastic start to our learning – Twitter links

Later this week you will receive a letter from your child’s class teacher introducing you to the pattern of learning in their class now that routines are settled.

It has been wonderful to see how our children have engaged with the curriculum opportunities presented to them this term already. I know as a parent myself, that it can be difficult to get out of our children what they have been up to in school and how valuable an insight into this can be in terms of conversation starters on the walk home or at the dinner table. With this in mind, staff are making a concerted effort to ensure that you are able to get an insight into what is happening in each class through our Twitter feed. Please do make use of this as it is a wonderful portal to get a window on school life.

You can follow us on Twitter [@svdp_school](https://twitter.com/svdp_school) or if you are not a Twitter user, you can simply view our feed through the school website at <http://www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk/pi-twitter.html>



Operation Encompass – working to support all of our families

Since early December, the school has been taking part in a local project run jointly between schools and Hertfordshire Constabulary. Operation Encompass is the notification to Headteachers, prior to the start of the next school day, of incidents where a child or young person has experienced or been exposed to any form of domestic abuse. Operation Encompass will ensure that staff are suitably trained to allow the school to best support any members of our community who may be affected. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our families and Operation Encompass helps us to do this efficiently and sensitively. Please do remember that we will always make time to support you in dealing with difficult situations that may arise for the family at home. Please do get in touch, in confidence, should you require any support.

Donations to the school – thank you!

The generosity of our families never ceases to amaze me. Despite these hard times, our Chrome Book project continues to raise significant funds via the PSA's Just Giving page. So far nearly 40% of funds required to launch stage one of the project have already been raised. Thank you so much! You can access our Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stvincentdepaulchromebooks>

There are many ways that you can continue to help the school which, like many sectors, is experiencing significant additional costs due to implementing 'Covid secure measures' at a time when we are unable to hold any 'in person' fundraising events. Although we are currently well stocked in the following items, our weekly expenditure on Covid related items is a real strain on the day to day budget. If you are able to donate any of the following items, we would be incredibly grateful:

Surgical gloves
Boxes of tissues
Baby wipes
Microfibre cloths

Disinfectant Spray
Individual pocket tissues
Disinfectant wipes
Liquid soap

Disposable face Masks (must be IIR quality)
Disinfectant spray bottles
70%+ alcohol wipes



Thank you for all that you are doing to support your wonderful children and to keep everyone safe. My prayers remain focused on our full community and I know that you join me in praying for everyone too. At a time when things seem a little out of our hands, the beautiful force of prayer can be a great comfort and a powerful tool!

May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon White".

Jon White
Headteacher



