



"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

14th May 2021

Dear parents and carers

Parent Consultations

It has been a busy few weeks in school and learning from home seems just a distant memory. Your children are engaging so well with the curriculum since their return and are making excellent progress. I hope that you will enjoy the opportunity of catching up with class teachers at virtual parent consultations next week. We will be using the same platform that we did last time, School Cloud. Please remember to log in promptly as the clock counts down from the actual time of the appointment not the time of log-in and staff are unable to change this. If you have any difficulties booking an appointment via the system or logging on, please contact the school office for further details.

Appointments can be booked via the following link: <https://stvincentdepaulcatholic.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Staff News – Mrs Sherry’s retirement

After a long history of dedicated service to schools and having supported generations of families, Mrs Sherry has informed us that she will be retiring in December 2021 in order to spend more time with her grandson and to take on other new and exciting projects. I have been reflecting today with Mrs Sherry on what her dedicated service has involved:

- 30 years as a teacher
- 27 years teaching in Stevenage Education (primary and secondary)
- 21 years of service to Catholic education
- 17 years teaching at St Vincent de Paul School (over two periods)
- 14 years as Deputy Headteacher (10 at St Vincent de Paul School)
- 21 years as a Governor (including 12 years at JHN) and a further 10 years as an ex-officio Governor here!

This is an extensive service record by any account! We will all miss Mrs Sherry’s enthusiasm, encyclopaedic knowledge of family and staff connections, dedication to modern foreign languages and support for an important ‘Laudato Si’ environmental message. We look forward to planning a fitting celebration for all that Mrs Sherry has gifted to our school and community over the years during the Autumn term.

Covid Risk Assessment

Despite changes to local regulations and expected further changes next week, the guidance for schools remains similar and, as such, we continue to implement the school risk assessment as it stands except that we no longer require forward facing seating (rows) in class providing other measures remain in place. We are not, unfortunately, anticipating any opportunities to host events on site that involve extended family before September. We are guided to still remain cautious in our approach. Staff continue to wear masks in the classroom and around the site; I continue to request that all visitors to the site wear a face covering at drop off and collection times as this is a time when more people are on site and when social distancing becomes more difficult. We hope and pray that by the time September arrives, a new school year can launch with less restrictions in place. Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe.

Keeping in touch with the school & the curriculum

Please do visit our Twitter feed (@svdp_school) regularly in order to see all of things that we have been up to in school. Each class uses this to give you a window on their learning. If you are not on Twitter yourself, it can be accessed without an account simply by visiting the school website where a Twitter feed is embedded. Another excellent window on school life, curriculum and community is our weekly publication ‘The Pupil Post’. This is Parentmailed each week, after publication on Twitter and previous editions are archived on the school website. It is well worth a look!



University of
Hertfordshire

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Schools are required to begin teaching the new statutory provision during the Summer Term and were required to consult with parents and produce a policy prior to this. Thank you to the 54 families who responded to our online consultation. We have welcomed your feedback which was overwhelmingly positive. Governors have now responded to each comment that was made in relation to the scheme and its use and this will be available for you to see, along with our new policy, on the school website over the course of next week. I know that many of you found it useful to look at the materials that we will be using on *Ten Ten's Life to the Full* parent portal. Access to these materials will continue in order that parents are able to work in partnership with the school to deliver this important area of learning. Our chosen scheme is strongly underpinned by a Catholic ethos whilst delivering all that the Government requires us to. We will begin to deliver a modified version of our scheme during the second half of the Summer Term and will fully implement all aspects from September. We will, of course, aim to keep you informed of areas of the curriculum that we are covering as we progress through the materials.

We love reading!

Could you help us to win £5,000 of National Book Tokens for the school? We'd love to be able to use these to continue to engage our children with new and exciting books to read and share. Details of how to enter the competition are available here and can be seen in the flyer accompanying this newsletter: <http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

May – Mary's special month

During May, the Church traditionally devotes attention to Mary, our spiritual mother. You may be interested to see our new Our Lady altar in the KS2 hall, following a very kind donation of a large statue from a member of the Parish. It is always lovely to see our children spending time with Our Lady in the shrine on the top field. Despite the Covid restrictions, a form of a May procession is still planned, although this will not be open to guests this year. We will publish a film about this on our website when it has happened. We all long for the day when parents and friends of the school can join us for such special occasions again. It won't be long!



*O Mary, Queen of Peace,
Teach us to live together in harmony,
Treating each other with respect and dignity.
May our homes and school be a model of peace for all who enter them
And may our whole community grow together in the love of your son, Jesus.
Amen*

May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely

Jon White
Headteacher



University of
Hertfordshire