



"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,

I am sure you'll agree, the first half term has flown by! It's only as I sit and write this letter that I realise just how much the children and staff have accomplished. Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement of you, the parents.

RE and Catholic Life

We started the year following the Church's season 'Care of Creation'. The children have thought about this as part of our Catholic Social Teaching and how this reflects on us here at St Vincent de Paul School and in the wider world. The children have produced some wonderful reflective work and we hope that this is mirrored in their everyday lives.

The school celebrated The Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul with balloons, buddy reading, art and fun activities for all. The children also took part in a singing session with Jasion (Mr J) one of the Choral Directors from Westminster. It was so successful that we have decided to continue with this on a weekly basis.

It's been great to see the return of the class assemblies. Year 5 and Year 4 (Bonafacio) have enjoyed performing to the whole school and parents. It can be incredibly nerve racking standing up and speaking, acting and singing to such a full hall. However, the children have performed with great enthusiasm and confidence and we are all so very proud of them.

Curriculum

We have had a number of visitors to the school this half term including Mr Carrasco, Head Teacher from Saint John Henry Newman, our RE Advisor and our School Effectiveness Advisor. Every visitor has commented on the children's enthusiasm, politeness, behaviour and their positive attitudes to learning. One visitor said 'There is such a buzz in the classroom and the children are so excited to share what they have learnt'. This is really encouraging to see, and we hope they are sharing their learning with you at home.

Attendance

As you are probably aware from the news, the government is requesting that schools focus on pupil attendance. Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school. Nevertheless, we do have several parents requesting absence forms. **PLEASE** put your child's Education first. When children miss school, their education suffers greatly alongside their friendships. Research shows that holidays of a week or more have a detrimental impact on the child, regardless of their ability. Please **DO NOT** arrange family visits, holidays or other family events during school time. Thank you!



PE

Well done to all our sports stars. We have already had some amazing success.

The girls' football team won the Annual Football Tournament, they will now be representing Stevenage in the county event.

Our Cross-country squad brought back lots of medals including a 1st in the girls' individuals medals, and 2nd and 3rd for the boys' individuals. As for the team medals, the Year 5 boys achieved 2nd place and our Year 6 girls' team won 3rd place. These results are fantastic and we can all be really proud of their achievements.

11 of our Year 5 children have completed a day of training and are now Young Sports Leaders within our school. There are further events in the diary for the coming months.

Half Term Family Project

We all agree that it is important that we are a community working together to support our children and to give them the best start to their lives. Every child and their family are valued and have a special place in our school. This half term we are asking you as a family to design an A4 poster to celebrate your family heritage and background, so let's get creative! Once the A4 posters are collected, they will be displayed in the Junior Hall for families to view. If you need a sheet of A4 paper, there will be some available at the office. Please do keep to 1 piece of A4 paper! All Family posters should be given to the class teacher by the 10th November.

The Display will be ready to view on 15th November 8:30am–8:50am and 3:15pm - 4:00pm, as well as on 16th November from 8:30am-9:00am. Do come along and see what I am sure will be some amazing creations!

I would encourage you to participate as a family otherwise children will feel left out and not part of the event. This is about celebrating who we are, and where our families are from. Let's ensure everyone feels part of our community.

I would especially like to say a huge thank you to our fantastic PSA and those that are regularly supporting them. They work tirelessly to ensure that they raise the much-needed funds that help support our children. We are spending the money to ensure our EYFS and KS1 children have a designated library area, our KS2 library has some new and exciting book stock. The parliament team are working with classes to order the equipment they would like for their classroom outdoor play boxes.

It has been a busy but exciting half term. Last, but not least, a special thank you to all the staff for going over and above and for making the learning exciting. Well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm. They are all truly amazing.

I hope you all enjoy the break.



Mrs Whitty
Acting Head Teacher

