



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

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### **Class Information Letter – Reception Class Autumn 2024**

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our school and thank you for ensuring your child was well prepared for the beginning of term, we were very pleased to see them and impressed with how quickly they settled into their new classes and the new routines.

The teacher in Reception O'Connor this year is Mrs Peters with teaching assistants are Mrs Osmond and Mrs Mojzis.

The teacher in Reception Mozart this year is Mrs Lawlor with teaching assistants are Miss Zanelli and Mrs Doyle.

#### **Behaviour and Rewards**

Our school uses the Hertfordshire Steps approach which supports a therapeutic ethos, early intervention and professional responses to complex, challenging or high-risk behaviours. We have developed three universal school rules which each class has spent time exploring and these are:

- **Be ready**
- **Be respectful**
- **Be safe**

In Reception we value and praise the children as they make the right choice, this may be accompanied with an extrinsic award e.g. stickers etc.

#### **Curriculum**

The areas of learning and development for the children are divided into 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas and are shown below.

<b>Prime Areas</b>	<b>Focus</b>
Personal, Social and Emotional	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour
Physical Development	Moving and handling safely Health and self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
<b>Specific Areas</b>	
Literacy	Little Wandle Phase 2



	Blending and segmenting CVC words Developing a love of stories and story telling
Mathematics	Early Number skills Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and our community Animals from different areas of the world Computing, developing mouse skills
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials

Please find below our Autumn Term curriculum.

**In RE** we shall continue to follow the Liturgical Year, this term beginning with Ordinary Time. Our themes will be God's World, leading onto the themes of Advent and Christmas after half term. We will be reflecting on God's love and care for each one of us. We will learn about Creation and think about ways we can care for the world. We will learn how we can use the gifts God has given us to show our love for Him by helping one another and people in other parts of the world. In Advent we will reflect on ways to respond to God's greatest gift His only son Jesus.

**The topic** for this half-term is **All About Me**. We will be learning about ourselves, getting to know each other and the people around us. After half term we will be learning about Celebrations - Divali, Birthdays and Christmas. Our topics are always flexible as we aim to develop the children's learning through their own interests. Children in the Reception class learn best through playful activities and having fun, so activities are designed with this in mind.

### Physical Education

PE lessons will take place each Friday and pupils will need to attend school in their PE kits. As the weather gets colder, wearing navy tracksuit bottoms and their school jumper will be important. If possible, please allow children to wear trainers with Velcro fasteners. Please refer to the school handbook as a reminder of school uniform expectations.

### Home Learning

**Reading** is a key focus in Reception and we are keen that the children have lots of opportunities to share and enjoy books. The Reception page on the school website has links to recommended reading books for our class. Please encourage your child to recall the books and talk about the pictures, thinking about characters, events and settings and discuss how a story might end. Please continue to share and talk about stories with your child at home.

### Phonics:

This term we will be revisiting Phase One and teaching Phase Two through our phonics scheme, Little Wandle Phonics. Please support the children as they learn the new phonemes.

The children will bring home a library book each week to share with you to develop a love and enthusiasm of reading.

They will also bring home a Little Wandle reading book on a Friday which they will have read in a group during the week. **This book must be returned to School on a Monday morning.**

### General information:

**Water Bottle:** All children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day, therefore, please supply your child with a refillable labelled water bottle with an **anti-spill top**; this must **ONLY** contain water. It should be taken home each day and cleaned. In the Early Years and KS1 the children are provided with a fruit snack each day. No snack needs to be brought in from home.



Children are allowed to wear small stud earrings for school, please cover these with surgical tape on Fridays when we have PE. Long hair must be tied back during school hours.

**Plimsolls and indoor shoes:** all pupils must have a pair of well-fitted plimsolls (indoor shoes) in school. Please ensure all clothing and personal items are named.

**Wellies:** The children are encouraged to play and explore outdoors in all weathers. Please send in a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school.

**Pick up procedures – keeping everyone safe**

Please let us know if someone other than yourself will be picking up your child.

**Twitter & Pupil Post**

Please follow the school on Twitter/X @svdp\_school and via the weekly Pupil Post found on our website. This is proving to be a great source of communication for our school and enables you to see what is happening in the class on a regular basis.

**Communication**

If you have any concerns at any point during the year, please do not hesitate in contacting the class teacher. Please remember no problem is too small or too big; anything that is important to you and your child is important to us too. First thing in the morning is usually a busy time but it is always possible to arrange a telephone conversation or an appropriate time to meet.

We prefer the personal touch, however if you need to email us, please send communication via [admin@stvincent.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) and it will be passed on by the office.

**Parent Consultations**

Our first parent consultation of the year will occur shortly after half term. Booking details will follow. The second parent consultation will take place in the Spring Term. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to take a look at your children's work.

Thank you in anticipation for your support throughout the year. We look forward to working in close partnership with you to ensure your children are happy and progressing well in school.

**Kind regards**  
**The Early Years Team**

