



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

Headteacher: Mrs A Whitty BA (Hons) PGCE
School

St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary

Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage, Herts., SG1 1NJ
Tel: 01438 729555
Email: admin@stvincent.herts.sch.uk
www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk

Class Information Letter **Year One Autumn 2024**

Welcome back to school and thank you for ensuring your child was well prepared for the beginning of term, we were very pleased to see them, and they are all settling well into the new routines of Year 1.

The adults who will be working in Year 1 this year are Mrs Hargrave (class teacher) and Mrs Madrzyk (Teaching Assistant), and Mrs Radford. In the parallel Year 1 class are Mrs Cooper (class teacher), Mrs Stokes (Teaching Assistant) and Ms Deschamps.

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 Year One we praise the children for their behaviour and good choices. We use these as models for others to promote our expectations.

Curriculum

Please see the KS1 Curriculum Overview for more information

Religious Education:

Pupils will learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, who Christians call Father, and that this belief is found in Scripture and the prayers of the Catholic Church.

Looking after God's world which he has gifted to us.

Pupils will learn through the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles of stewardship, human dignity, and solidarity, which Pope Francis expresses in his encyclical 'Laudato Si' (2015).

Each week the class will participate in class led worship.



Each week you will also receive a link to **The Wednesday Word** to which will help you to support your child's faith journey throughout the liturgical year. We shall continue to follow the liturgical year, beginning with Ordinary Time, leading up to the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Home Learning

At the beginning of this term, we allow the children to become accustomed to the change from Reception to Year One, therefore we will start our home learning nearer to the half term break. Home learning tasks will be set and sent home each Friday to be returned to us by Wednesday.

Reading

The children are given a **reading practice book** that will reflect their learning. This is important as we must avoid the frustration that comes with books that your child is unable to decode (sound out). To ensure the reading at home is an enjoyable experience for all, we will be sending home reading practise books only when your child can read 95% of the words. Please do not think that these books are too easy for your child. The idea behind these books is that your child should be able to read these books without any significant help so they can develop confidence, enjoyment, and fluency.

A sharing book which we invite you to enjoy together. This book is self-selected by your child so is of interest to them. Enjoying the book together provides opportunities for you to read to them and a wealth of opportunities for you to talk about and enjoy together. These books are picked for pleasure and are for you to read to them.

How should the Reading Record be used?

We ask you to record your child's reading experiences. You may wish to comment about their response to the reading practise book, their sharing book or a book that they are reading/ sharing at home or from the library. Remember to share your positive comments with your child. Teachers will monitor and may respond to these comments.

Additional information on how to support your child's learning can be found on our school website. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.

General information:

Water Bottle & snacks: All children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day, therefore, please supply your child with a refillable sports top water bottle, this must **ONLY** contain water. Your child is provided with a fruit / vegetable snack whilst they are in EYFS & KS1.

The only jewellery permitted in school is one small pair of ear studs (please remove for PE days). Long hair must be tied back during school hours. Please ensure that children do not attend wearing smart watches or other expensive items.

Plimsolls and indoor shoes: all pupils must have a pair of well-fitted (indoor shoes) in school. Trainers are permitted on PE days only. A pair of plimsolls should be always kept in school. Please ensure all clothing and personal items are named.

P.E Days:

Children to wear PE kits to school on these days.

Mrs Hargrave's class – Wednesday and Thursday Mrs Cooper's class – Thursday and Friday

Pick up procedures – keeping everyone safe

Thank you for your continued compliance and patience for the safe arrival and leaving procedures at school. Please fill in the permission form and return asap. We are very pleased with the sensible independence shown by all the pupils in adapting to the new routines in place.



Food items and packed lunches

Please remember that it is school policy that pupils are not able to bring in sweets, cakes, biscuits or any other food items to share, marking the celebration of any event (e.g. birthdays). This is due to the complexities of allergies, dietary requirements and other aspects of personal choice.

If you provide your child with a packed lunch, please ensure it's a balanced lunch and does not contain any nut products such as Nutella. Please be mindful that lots of chocolate spreads and some cereal bars do contain nuts. Grapes/olives etc should always be sliced lengthways.

Twitter & Pupil Post

Please follow the school on X (Twitter), easily accessed through the school website, and via the weekly Pupil Post on the school 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.

School Website – curriculum links

The class information pages of our school website can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk/os-classes.html>

Here you will find many curriculum links relevant to your child's current learning. Please do spend some time exploring these pages if you can.

On the website you also find a link to our Curriculum Statement which explains our approach to all areas of the curriculum. It can be viewed via the following link:

Communication

If you have any concerns at any point during the year, please do not hesitate. You can usually catch us at drop off or at pick up. You can also arrange to meet us by contacting the school office. Please remember no problem is too small; anything that is important to you and your child is important to us too.

Parent Consultations

Monday 18th November

Tuesday 19th November

We would like to thank you in anticipation for your support throughout the year. We look forward to working in close partnership with you to ensure your child is happy and progressing well in school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hargrave and Mrs Cooper

