



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

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you'll agree that we have shared a truly wonderful journey through Advent. Our youngest children in Nursery delighted us with their beautiful Nativity; Reception impressed us all with their acting and singing; Key Stage 1 performed a fantastic Nativity of their own; and finally, we came together as a community to enjoy Christmas carols around the tree. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us, to the choir, all the children and families and our Year 6 soloist. We raised over £570 over all these events!

All the children have performed with confidence and joy, learning so many words, actions and skills along the way. They have come so far in just one term. I know I say it often, but I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them, I am sure you are too.

Many thanks to all those who helped organised the end of term disco, which raised nearly £2,000. The children enjoyed the opportunity to socialising out of school time. I was very impressed with some of the moves on the dance floor.

## Early Years Project

I am delighted to share some exciting news. Thanks to the Friends of St Vincent de Paul, school funds and a very generous parent donation, we are now able to transform our Early Years outdoor learning area.

We have been working closely with advisors and specialists to design a space that supports high-quality outdoor learning. Weather permitting, the work will begin hopefully before Easter and should take around a week or so to complete. I will keep you updated on progress.

Having now transformed our two libraries and soon Early Years outdoor learning are, I think it's safe to say I've caught the improvement bug! We are beginning early research and funding efforts for developments for KS1 and KS2 play and lunchtime provision. A kind donation has already given this project a helpful start, and the SLT is exploring options. More updates to follow. Of course, if you would like to make a donation please, please contact [finance@stvincent.herts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stvincent.herts.sch.uk). We hope to have a QR code and gift aid facility up and running very soon.



## Sporting Success

Since my last newsletter, the school has enjoyed further success in both indoor rowing and virtual archery.

Well done to all who took part. You will be pleased to hear that we came 3<sup>rd</sup> in rowing, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Y5 archery, and 4<sup>th</sup> place in Y6 archery. A huge congratulations to everyone involved. There will be some medals and certificates once we have received them from Stevenage Sporting Futures.

## Reading

Please continue to support your child in developing a love of reading, strong reading skills are the key to future success.

If you are considering a gift for your child, or if they receive a book voucher for Christmas, please do visit our website [CURR - English](#) (scroll down to the bottom of the page) for suggested high-quality, age-appropriate texts.

## Reception Admissions – September 2026

If you have friends or family who may be interested in joining our Reception cohort in September 2026, please do invite them to come for a look around or collect an admissions pack from the office. All applications must be submitted by **15th January 2026**.

## Social Media Update

Following feedback from our recent parent poll, we will be moving our school social media presence to **Facebook and Instagram** and will no longer be using X (formerly Twitter). **Please can you remind parents to access Arbor login and click the consent/decline for social media Dec 25 update.**

## Monitoring and External Feedback

To ensure we continuously strive for excellence, we regularly work with advisors, specialists and external agencies. I am pleased to share that we have received wonderful feedback, particularly with the rise in academic standards and regarding the behaviour and politeness of our children.

I would like to thank all members of staff for their hard work and dedication. The high-quality teaching and the enriching opportunities, both during and after school, are a result of their passion and willingness to go above and beyond. We are very fortunate to have such a committed team. Thank you.

## Goodbye and Thank You

We say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Mrs Banissy, who is retiring. We are currently recruiting for her position and will update you once a suitable candidate has been appointed. We are deeply grateful for the many years she has dedicated to the school and wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. If I don't see you before, I wish you all a peaceful break over Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all back in 2026!

Kindest regards



Alexandra Whitty  
Headteacher



God of light,  
we sing a song of praise as we rejoice  
at the birth of Christ our Saviour.  
Grant us peace and lead us  
to new life with you.  
May the grace of the Jubilee  
spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
Amen

*CAFOD*

### Dates:

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Inset Day – staff in, no children</b>
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Children back to school
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Golf sessions – in school time
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Mass 9:30 St Joseph's
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Mass 9:30 St Joseph's
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 4 Mass 9:30 St Joseph's
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	KS1 Commonwealth Games Workshop (tbc)
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Recyclers Bag pick up -Friends of SVdP fund raising
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 WW2 Workshops
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Mass St Joseph's
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	MP, Kevin Bonnavia visiting school
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Commonwealth Games Workshop (tbc)
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Mrs Cooper Class Assembly

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 5 /6 Sports Hall Athletics Team
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 /6 Sports Hall Athletics Team
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Mass 9:30 St Josephs
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Mrs Hargrave Class Assembly
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Saxon Workshop
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Mr Arnese Assembly
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Mass St Joseph's
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Half Term</b>

February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year3 Fit Kidz Session
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Knex Challenge Workshop
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 STEM Circus Workshop
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Consultations
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Fit Kidz Session
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Mass 9:30 St Joseph's
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Handball Team- competition
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Mass St Joseph's
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Mass St Joseph's
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Reception STEM Bubble Workshop
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Reflection (Children only)
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of Term - 2pm</b>

