



St. Mary's and St Vincent's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus



Message from Mrs Dowling

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your warm welcome and continued patience as I settle into my new role as head teacher. It's been a joy to celebrate Mass at both schools, hold wonderful Harvest assemblies and see such generous donations to CAFOD's Harvest appeal. We have also launched the OPAL project with assemblies across the school and we are all looking forward to this starting after the break. St Vincent's recently underwent the Catholic Schools Inspection and I look forward to sharing the report with you all as soon as I receive it.

Looking ahead, we have much to look forward to, including a book fair, nativities and other Christmas celebrations. I wish you all a restful and peaceful half term break.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

(Galatians 6:9)

Attendance St Mary's

[The class with the best percentage attendance this half-term is Year 2 with 97.48%.](#)

Attendance St Vincent's

[The class with the best percentage attendance this half-term is Year 6 with 97.83%.](#)

Message from Laura Sammon – Absence and Welfare Officer

Congratulations to the two winning Classes!

The evidence speaks for itself

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results and children who performed better at the end of both Primary and Secondary School missed less days than those who didn't do so well.

The data also shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

Make every school day count!

St Mary's School Association (SMSA)

We're excited to introduce our PTA team:

Chair - Alisha
Secretary – Edel
Treasurer – Raluca

The PTA aims to enrich our school community through events, fundraising, and support. We look forward to a fantastic year together!

PTA Events This Year

- Non-School Uniform Day
- Christmas Fair
- Santa's Visit
- Christmas Disco
- Pantomime

Look out for more information to come!

St Vincent's School Association

My name is Viki, and I am the chair of our PTA. Thank you to everyone who has put so much thought, time and love into their Harvest Competition posters. They really blew us away!!

We have been planning lots of exciting, fun, community building events for the upcoming year! We are hoping to bring more smiles to St Vincent's this year.

Donations - We are still welcoming donations of winter coats, hats/gloves/scarves, waterproofs and wellies.

Events coming up include:

St Vincent's first ever Silent Disco, Santa Grotto, Christmas Fete, Pantomime visit and Winter competition.

We will also be running our weekly (weather pending) hot chocolate, cake and pocket money stalls.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

As you are all aware we are launching OPAL to our children after half term. The children have had their assemblies this week and are very excited. Can you please ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat and either spare shoes or wellingtons and socks to use in school from after half term.

Mrs Ball

Half Term Virtue - Forgiveness

This coming half term we will be focusing on the virtue of forgiveness. Please take the time to talk to your children about the importance of forgiving one another and also asking for forgiveness when we have done wrong.

'If you forgive others the wrongs that they have done to you, your Father in Heaven will also forgive you.'

Matthew 6:14

'The Incredible Christmas Story'

We are delighted to inform you that we have secured a panto to be performed in school. The Panto is about 'The Incredible Christmas Story'. It is a highly interactive, engaging and funny literacy play brought to life. It is designed to inspire children to fall in love with stories - reading, writing and telling them!

The company will be performing at St Mary's on Thursday 12th December and at St Vincent's on Monday 16th December. This cost of this has kindly been funded by the schools' PTAs.

Polite reminders

For safety reasons, could we remind you that children are to wheel bikes and scooters through the school grounds. Please also park scooters and bikes in the bike racks as thoughtfully as possible so we can get them all in.

Please refrain from using your mobile phones, for any reason, whilst on the school sites. This is to safeguard our children.

We continue to receive complaints from residents and other road users about parking. I remind you that the parking situations have arisen in response to the need to keep your children and others safe. Please park respectfully, considering others.

Thank you for your support in this matter.



School Calendar 2024-25

(All dates are subject to change)

ST MARY'S	
Wednesday 14 th – Wednesday 19 th November	Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 18 th November	Flu vaccinations R-6
Friday 22 nd November	Non-uniform day – gifts for Christmas Fayre
Friday 29 th November	Torchlight Procession Dunstable
Saturday 30 th November	PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 9 th December	9am Mass
Wednesday 11 th December	9.15am EYFS Nativity
Thursday 12 th December	Whole School Pantomime 6pm KS1 Nativity
Friday 13 th December	2pm KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19 th December	PTA Discos
Friday 20 th December	Carols round the Christmas Tree Finish 2pm

ST VINCENT'S	
Thursday 7 th November	Flu vaccinations R-6
Wednesday 14 th – Wednesday 19 th November	Scholastic Book Fair
Saturday 30 th November	PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 2 nd December	9am Mass
Saturday 30 th November	PTA Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 11 th December	9.15am EYFS Nativity
Thursday 12 th December	6pm KS1 Nativity
Friday 13 th December	2pm KS1 Nativity
Monday 16 th December	Whole School Pantomime
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 18 th December	PTA Discos
Friday 20 th December	Carols round the Christmas Tree Finish 2pm