

St Vincent de Paul Catholic School – Newsletter

8th July 2016



Dear Parents,

It's been a very busy couple of weeks with lots of wonderful things happening. Our very successful RE Inspection is now on the Westminster Diocesan website. A message from the Chief Inspector of Diocesan schools congratulated us on our success, stating they were; *"delighted to see that independent observers recognised and celebrated your achievement"*.

The message also said; *"The Catholic life of the school was particularly impressive – the rich and vibrant prayer life and focus on action for social justice threaded across the curriculum, stood out for me and I know that the pupils at St Vincent de Paul will use this grounding to go out and make the world a better place."*

The focus and action social justice outlined in the inspection report is our commitment to deliver the themes outlined in Catholic Social Teaching. Our current theme is Peace.

Catholic Social Teaching (CTS)

Our CTS theme until the end of the academic year is Peace. At assembly we have looked at the messages of peace that Jesus gave us and how they relate to our lives today. We looked also at how we could be a channel of peace as shown by St Francis of Assisi.

Key Stage 1 Virtual Olympics

Schools throughout Stevenage have been participating in a virtual Olympics. This has been organised by Stevenage Sporting Futures who visited all the schools and undertook a number of activities with the children. The children were given points for how well they did in completing the activities and these points were compared with other schools. We did brilliantly! Our Reception Year group finished 3rd in Stevenage. Our Year 1 and our Year 2 finished in first place and are Borough Champions. Well done to all the children in the Infants. Potential champions of the future!

Reminder

This is a reminder to parents to open their Parentmail communications. The messages and information are vital. School and parents need to work together to achieve clear communication. Some parents have mentioned they just check the posters but some Parentmails are directed at specific classes, eg, notice for assembly or cake sales. If you are having any problems with your Parentmail please contact the office and they will help.

Lost Property

There is an abundance of lost property which needs to be claimed. We cannot return the majority of the items because they do not have names on the labels. Please ensure between now and the end of term that all jumpers and cardigans do have your child's name clearly marked on the labels. Thank you.

1000 Cranes

As part of our commitment to peace, the children have shared the story of Sadoka, a Japanese girl who was a victim of the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing. When she was in hospital, children were encouraged to take their medicine by using the medicine wrappers to make origami shapes. Sadako's favourite figure was the crane, a symbol of hope and peace. A Japanese legend says that anyone who folds, hopefully and faithfully, 1000 cranes will have their wishes granted. After each crane Sadako made she would say. ***"I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world."*** That was her wish. Sadako did not live long enough to complete 1000 cranes. We are attempting to make 1000 cranes so a photographic record of our efforts, and possibly the cranes themselves, can be displayed at the Hiroshima Peace Park on August 6th which is an official Peace Day. I know many of you have been helping your children to make the cranes at home, and we appreciate your support. They are not easy to make!



New Teachers

As we come to the end of the academic year we will be saying goodbye to some members of our school community. Mr Hodson in Year 5 will be leaving us to take up a specialist IT teaching position in another Hertfordshire school. Mr Hodson has been instrumental in developing IT in our school and he moves on leaving IT in our school in a very good place. Miss Williamson our SENCO will be moving to an Assistant Headship role in a school in London. Miss Williamson has been a huge support to many children, families and colleagues as she worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for the children. We pray God's abundant blessings on them all as they step into the next part of their journeys.

We welcome ...

Mrs Curry. Mrs Curry will be our new SENCO. . Mrs Curry is currently working in London. She has many years experience as a senior teacher including as Deputy Head.

Mrs Blythe. Mrs Blythe will be our new Year 5 teacher. Mrs Blythe is an experienced teacher in Catholic education and has had experience of Senior leadership.

We welcome them to our very special school community.

Parking incident

This is a reminder please to respect our school neighbourhood and local residents when parking before and after school. Please remember that your behaviour when parking can reflect badly on the school. The school has already been approached by a local councillor representing the local residents regarding inconsiderate parking by a tiny minority of parents. This week we were visited by the police regarding verbal abuse given to a resident from one of our parents. The police will be monitoring the situation with a view to taking action in the future.

We want all our school community to adhere to our mission to be the hands and face of Jesus. Our Catholic Social Teaching theme of peace would ring hollow to many residents when parents from our school deliberately park in a manner which is confrontational and disrespectful. Please support us in this matter.

Assemblies

There have been two very special assemblies recently. Year 2 gave us a fantastic assembly on talents and how those talents can be shared to make our school and homes better places to be. The assembly was a terrific example of all the singing, reading, acting and speaking talents within Year 2.

Last week we had a celebration assembly for all the children who had made their First Holy Communion this year. It was another opportunity to share the wonderful efforts of parish, home and school working together to help our children on their faith journey through this very special sacrament.

Sports Day

Thank you so much to all of you who came to support our annual sports day yesterday and the Nursery sports day earlier in the week. They have been wonderful events for all key stages and I think it fair to say that the children did us all very proud. Their competitive spirit coupled with their excellent sporting conduct throughout was a pleasure to behold. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children and contributed to the wonderful family atmosphere that is such a special part of the occasion. "Sports day was really good. Our team came second even though we didn't do very well in the tug-of-war." (Anisa Y5) "My favourite event was the obstacle course which I did very well in. (Odi Y5)

"I loved it. I love the jumping because I'm good at jumping because I practice at home." (Rec Poppy)

"I loved it too and my mummy came. My favourite exercise was the water one. I didn't drop any water!" (Rec Oscar)



Attendance this week

R: GI Mozart 84.3%	PL/TL O'Connor 95.2%
Yr 1: SC Mistral 79%	VH Stein 91.3%
Yr 2: AP Pasteur 98.7%	LMc More 98.8%
Yr 3: JC Hildegard 79%	CH Seacole 96%
Yr 4: DA Bonifacio 76.7%	AS/SH Michelangelo 79.3%
Yr 5: BH Agnesi 95.3%	GB Teresa 77.3%
Yr 6: EG Shakespeare 98%	RJ Tolkien 96.9%

Whole school 88.9% - Lenny the Lion is very disappointed with the overall attendance figure this week, the lowest we have had this year? He will be visiting Mrs McGuire's class this week as they achieved 98.8%

Classes & their new teacher for September 2016

Reception: Mozart (GI's) new teacher will be Mrs Hargrave (Stein)

Reception: O'Connor (PL/TL's) new teacher will be Miss Culkin (Mistral)

Year 1: Stein (VH's) new teacher will be Mrs Pearce (Pasteur)

Year 1: Mistral (SC's) new teacher will be Mrs McGuire (More)

Year 2: Pasteur (AP's) new teacher will be Mrs Hastings (Seacole)

Year 2: More (LMc's) new teacher will be Mrs Cooper (Hildegard)

Year 3: Seacole (CH's) new teacher will be Mr Arnese (Bonifacio)

Year 3: Hildegard (JC's) new teacher will be Mrs Hodges and Mrs Silvester (Michelangelo)

Year 4: Bonifacio (DA's) new teacher will be Mr Barlow (Teresa)

Year 4: Michelangelo (AS/SH's) new teacher will be Mrs Blythe (Agnesi)

Year 5: Teresa (GB's) new teacher will be Mr Jennings (Tolkien)

Year 5: Agnesi (BH's) new teacher will be Mrs Glover (Shakespeare)