



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoyed the long weekend.

As part of our focus on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Care for Creation, the children have been learning about St Francis of Assisi and his commitment to caring for God's world. Hopefully, they have encouraged you at home to do that little bit extra to look after our planet, one that future generations will inherit and enjoy. We have been delighted to read the prayers, thoughts and pledges that have been placed in our treasure box. Thank you for supporting this initiative. Our Chaplaincy Team is now established and has begun following the three key stages of **See, Plan, Do** as they explore ways to make a meaningful difference within our school and the wider community. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and commitment to serving others. Keep an eye out for their first project of the year, coming soon!

Community Event

As yesterday, 27th September, was the Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul, we are busy preparing for our school celebrations this Friday. Children in Years 2 to 6 will attend a whole school Mass, and all pupils will celebrate St Vincent de Paul through activities in class. Children are invited to wear national dress or the colours of their flag on Friday. Football kits are not permitted on this occasion.

After school, we will hold our annual Community Celebration Event. If you would like to share a song, dance, prayer or poem from your culture, please let us know.

We look forward to celebrating together as one community.

Inset Day

Our recent INSET day was certainly a busy one. Since September, and during the training day itself, staff have been working incredibly hard to update and develop their knowledge and skills in a range of areas, including medical needs, mental health, trauma-informed practice,



phonics, assessment and feedback. Thank you to all staff for their continued hard work, professionalism and enthusiasm in ensuring the very best provision for our children.

Holiday club

I am also pleased to share that we have secured a **Premier Sport Holiday Club** for the October half-term holiday. We hope this will be well attended and become an ongoing holiday provision that we can offer to our families. I have included the booking link below.

<https://www.premiereducation.com/parents/venue/courses/1781/?location=Stevenage%20&distance=0.3&distance=0.3>

Please note: although the holiday club is being held on our school site, it is operated independently by Premier Sport. All bookings, payments and enquiries should therefore be directed to them.

OPAL Play

Our OPAL Play Project is beginning to take shape, and we are excited about the journey ahead. We have our school play audit scheduled for the beginning of October. Following the audit, we hope to implement a number of 'quick wins' to bring about some immediate improvements and begin enhancing the children's lunchtime play experiences. We look forward to sharing our progress with you and involving our whole school community as the project develops.

Sporting Success

A huge well done to all of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who took part in the Stevenage School Cross country competition. The children showed great determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the competition and made us all incredibly proud.

A special congratulations goes to our Year 5 Girls' Team, who achieved an excellent 3rd place finish. This is a fantastic achievement. We look forward to many more sporting successes throughout the year!

Please support

If you have a child, or know of a family looking for a school place in September, either in Nursery or Reception, please make them aware that Nursery applications are now open. Applications for Reception will open in October.

We would be grateful if you could help spread the word within our local community. Whilst Catholic children are given priority in accordance with our admissions policy, everyone is welcome at St Vincent de Paul School and a number of non-Catholic children are welcomed into the school every year.

We are proud of our nurturing, inclusive community and would love to welcome new families to come and see all that our school has to offer. Please encourage anyone interested to visit our website or contact the school office for further information.

I also have flyers available should anyone wish to help advertise the school within the local community. Please contact the school office if you would like a copy.

Finally

If you would like to make a regular donation to support the school, please scan the QR code. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School

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Your generosity helps us provide even more opportunities and resources for our pupils.

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Together, we're building a brighter future for our children.

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