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

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9th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term, the children will be focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Preferential Option for the Poor. As we approach the season of Advent and Christmas, this is certainly a wonderful focus for our school community.

Thank you to all our families for your incredibly generous donations to Feed Up Warm Up. Your kindness continues to make a real difference to those in need.
We are also currently collecting donations for the Royal British Legion ahead of Remembrance Day on Wednesday. Our Chaplaincy Team has organised this year's reflection, and we are very proud of them. Families are warmly invited to join us. If the weather is poor and we need to move indoors, unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate parents due to limited space. Fingers crossed the rain stays away!

A special thank you those who represented our school at the Stevenage Remembrance Parade. We were one of only two primary schools represented. It was lovely to see so many members of our community supporting the event, whether lining the streets or taking part through Scouts and Girlguiding.

Open Morning - Thursday 8:30am to 9:15am

We look forward to welcoming parents into school for our Open Morning. This is an opportunity to celebrate your child's hard work and achievements.
Please note:

- Children should remain in their own classrooms.
- Parents are welcome to move between classes.
- Children attending Breakfast Club will have their books available in the hall.

British Values

Last week, our Junior children attended an assembly led by the Saint John Henry Newman Parliament Team. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn about democracy and the importance of British

Values. The team explained their school's voting system, and our own children are now busy preparing for our pupil parliament hustings.

Good luck to everyone standing for election to the St Vincent de Paul School Pupil Parliament!

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

You will be pleased to know that all staff have now received training on the principles and research behind our OPAL programme, which we will be launching soon. Please look out for further communications, as we will be asking for support and donations from parents.

Friends of St Vincent de Paul

A huge thank you to everyone who organised and supported the recent Fireworks Evening. It was a fantastic event with a wonderful atmosphere, enjoyed by children and families alike. I am delighted to share that the event raised approximately £1,500, which will contribute towards a new storage area for our OPAL resources.
The next event will be the school disco- please save the date for Thursday 3rd December, KS1 4:15pm – 5:15pm and KS2 5:30pm -6:30pm. More information will be shared soon.

School Award Success

I would like to thank all our staff for their continued hard work and dedication. I am delighted to share that we have officially achieved the **Herts Shining Communication Award**, recognising our school's strong commitment to developing children's communication, language and interaction skills.
This award celebrates the excellent work taking place across the school, including high-quality classroom talk, vocabulary development, communication-rich experiences, play and targeted support. It also reflects our school values, with children demonstrating kindness, respect, inclusion and perseverance every day.
Well done, everyone!



Pick Up and Drop Off Reminders

For everyone's safety, please ensure that bikes, scooters, skateboards and hoverboards are dismounted whilst on the school site and pushed until you have left through the school gates.
We also have a new sign-in system in the school office. If your child arrives late, parents are required to:

- Complete the sign-in process.
- Remain with their child until they have been signed in.
- Provide their child's lunch choice to Mrs Kear.

Please be aware that there may be times when you need to wait in a queue.
A reminder that classroom doors open between **8:35am and 8:45am**. Please ensure your child arrives on time.

Helping Your Child at Home

One of our key school priorities this year is the teaching of writing. Please look out for information from your child's teacher about ways you can support writing development at home.
Thank you to all the Year 1 parents who attended the phonics meeting, it was wonderful to see so many parents there.

Reception and Nursery Admissions

The application process for Reception and Nursery places for September is now open. If you know any families who may be looking for a school place, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, please help us spread the word. We warmly welcome applications from all families.



Alexandra Whitty
Headteacher

Dates
Wednesday 11th Remembrance Day service
Thursday 12th Open morning
Friday 13th November 9:30 am Y5 Mass at St Joseph Church
Friday 13th November 2:30pm Y4 Mrs Arnese Assembly
Monday 16th November Anti bullying week
Tuesday 17th November Parent teacher consultations 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 18th November Parent teacher consultation 2-6pm
Friday 20th November 9:30 am Y4 Mass at St Joseph Church
Wednesday 25th November Year 2 Ms Lyttle, Christmas Story Trip
Friday 27th November Year 2 Mrs Tilli, Christmas Story Trip
Friday 27th November Year 3 9:30am Mass at St Joseph Church
Friday 27th November - Y6 assembly
Monday 30th November – Occasional Day – School Closed
Church carpark closed 30th November to 3rd December
Thursday 3rd December – Y4- Y6 Reconciliation in School
Thursday 3rd December - School disco
Monday 7th December - Reception Christmas concert 2.30pm
Tuesday 8th December Nursery nativity 11am
Wednesday 9th December Christmas lunch and jumper day
Friday 11th December KS1 nativity 9.30 and 2.15
Monday 14th December Carols round the tree 6pm (all should attend)
Friday 18th December End of term 2pm