



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 come towards the end of another busy and successful term, I wanted to take a moment to share how proud I am of all that the children have achieved.

There has been a tremendous amount of learning taking place across the school, and I have had the real privilege of spending time in classrooms, looking at the children's work and celebrating their achievements with them. It is always a joy to see their enthusiasm, progress and pride in what they do.

As we enter the most sacred season of the Church's year, we are invited to journey through Holy Week and into the joy of Easter—a time of reflection, prayer and renewed faith.

Throughout this term, we have seen many signs of God's grace in our school community through the kindness, care and commitment of our children. During Holy Week, we remember the depth of Christ's love for us:

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

Easter brings us the heart of our faith—the joy of the Resurrection: *"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."* (Matthew 28:6)

May we live as people of hope, sharing Christ's love through our actions each day. Wishing you and your families a holy and joyful Easter.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital to your child's success at school. Every day in school supports not only academic progress, but also children's confidence, friendships and overall wellbeing. Even small amounts of missed learning can quickly add up and have a significant impact over time.

We are committed to supporting all families to ensure children attend school regularly and on time. Our Attendance and Welfare Officer plays a key role in this work, monitoring attendance closely and working with families where there may be concerns. Their role is to offer support, guidance and, where needed, early intervention to help remove any barriers to attendance.

If your child is experiencing any difficulties that may affect their attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us. By working together, we can ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance St Mary's

Attendance St Vincent's

The class with the best percentage attendance last half-term was Year 4 with 96.71 %.

The class with the best percentage attendance last half term was Year 4 with 97.39 %.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

As we move into the summer term, please ensure your child has a sun hat and sun cream, where appropriate. We would like to extend our thanks to Mr Moreton and Mrs Foster for the fantastic pallet houses they have created for both schools. These have greatly enhanced the children's play experiences.

We are always looking to develop our outdoor provision further, so if you have any suitable resources to donate, please bring them to the school office.

Mrs Ball

Play every day – learn, laugh and grow together.

A Term Full of Learning, Creativity and Community

This term has been filled with a wonderful range of enriching experiences for our pupils, reflecting both their enthusiasm for learning and their excellent attitudes across all areas of school life.

Throughout the term, we have celebrated a wide variety of events, including World Book Day, where children across St Mary's immersed themselves in live lessons that brought stories to life and promoted a love of reading. A particular highlight was at St Vincent's, where we were delighted to welcome pupils from Cardinal Newman Secondary School. They performed a scene from *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*, alongside *The Parable of the Lost Sheep* and *The Highway Rat*.

Science Week provided another opportunity for creativity and curiosity to shine. This year's space-themed focus inspired the children to create everything from imaginative space buggies to experiments exploring the effects of gravity. It was inspiring to see their problem-solving skills and scientific thinking in action.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 also took part in a First Aid course this term. It was fantastic to see how responsibly and maturely the children approached this important learning. They demonstrated real care, confidence and understanding; skills that are invaluable both in school and beyond.

Year 5 and Year 6 took part in an exciting K'Nex workshops where they were challenged to design and build their own rockets. The sessions encouraged teamwork, creativity and problem-solving, as pupils worked together to construct and test their designs. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and perseverance, and the workshop provided a great opportunity to apply their STEM skills in a fun and engaging way.

Sport has continued to play a significant role this term, with numerous events taking place in all conditions from football matches in the pouring rain to energetic dodgeball competitions in the sports hall. I have had the privilege of attending many of these events and, as always, have been incredibly proud of the children's behaviour, teamwork and outstanding sportsmanship.

Year 5 had a fantastic week taking part in Bikeability training. Throughout the sessions, pupils developed their cycling skills and learned how to ride safely and confidently on the roads. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow each day, as well as their excellent attitude and determination. Well done to all of Year 5 for their enthusiasm and effort!

We were also fortunate to welcome Peter Haddon from CAFOD, who led assemblies across the school and introduced the Big Lent Walk. We are incredibly proud of all our children who took part. Their enthusiasm was a powerful sign of their strong moral compass and commitment to supporting those in need, truly living out the spirit of Lent. Thank you to all families and friends for your generous sponsorship. The funds raised will support communities worldwide by providing clean water, sustainable farming initiatives and vital aid.

We have also welcomed Fr Biju to both schools, where he listened to the reconciliation of those children who have received their First Holy Communion. This is an important opportunity for reflection, forgiveness and spiritual growth, and we keep these children in our prayers as they continue their faith journey.

The Year 3 and 4 children retold the Easter story with great compassion and reverence, showing a deep understanding of its meaning. Their thoughtful performances and heartfelt delivery reflected the significance of the events they portrayed, while their beautiful singing added a moving and uplifting quality to the occasion. It was a truly special and memorable experience for all who attended.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a joyful and productive term, and we are proud of all that our children have achieved.

Polite reminders

We have seen a recent increase in the number of late collections. Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day or after-school clubs. Our staff have commitments after school, and your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

We also ask that all parents and carers continue to drive safely and be considerate when parking near the school. The safety of our children and community is of utmost importance.

New Nursery Provision at St Vincent's

We are delighted to share that the building of our new nursery provision at St Vincent's is now underway and progressing well. It is wonderful to see the development taking shape, and I look forward to sharing this fantastic new provision with you all. The nursery will offer places for children from their second birthday, providing a nurturing, high-quality environment for our youngest learners.

We are on track to be fully operational from September and are excited to welcome our first cohort of children. If you know of any families with young children who may be interested, please do share this news with them.

School Calendar 2025-26

(All dates are subject to change)

St Mary's

Monday 13 th April	Inset Day
Wednesday 16 th April	Year 6 Parents Meeting 3.30pm in person or 6pm online
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Mon 11 th – Thurs 14 th May	Year 6 SATS
Monday 18 th May 9am	Proposed Mass TBC
Friday 22 May	INSET DAY - St Mary's ONLY
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	Half Term
Monday 1st June	RNLI Water Safety Assembly
Thursday 11 th June	9am Year 1 Class Assembly
Friday 12 th June	Sports Day
Monday 15 th June	Year 4 visiting Caddington Care Home
Thursday 18 th June	9am Year 2 Class Assembly
Monday 22 nd June 9am	Proposed Mass TBC
Thursday 25 th June	9am Nursery Class Assembly
Friday 26 th June	PTA Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 2 nd July	9am Reception Class Assembly
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 5 & 6 Production 6.00pm
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 5 & 6 Production 6.00pm
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th July	Year 6 Activity Week
Monday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass
Tuesday 21 st July	2.00pm Finish Last Day of Term

St Vincent's

Monday 13 th April	Inset Day
Wednesday 16 th April	Year 6 Parents Meeting 3.30pm in person or 6pm online
Monday 27 th April 9am	Proposed Mass TBC
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Mon 11 th – Thurs 14 th May	Year 6 SATS
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	Half Term

Monday 1 st June	INSET DAY - St Vincent's ONLY
Tuesday 2 nd June	RNLI Water Safety Assembly
Friday 5 th June	Sports Day St Vincent's
Monday 8 th June 9am	Proposed Mass TBC
Thursday 11 th June	9am Year 4 Class Assembly
Friday 12 th June	PTA Colour Run St Vincent's
Thursday 18 th June	9am Year 1 Class Assembly
Friday 19 th June	PTA Father's Day Table St Vincent's
Thursday 25 th June	9am Year 3 Class Assembly
Friday 26 th June	PTA Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 2 nd July	9am Year 2 Class Assembly
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 5 & 6 Production 6.00pm
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 5 & 6 Production 6.00pm
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th July	Year 6 Activity Week
Friday 17 th June	PTA Discos St Vincent's
Monday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass
Tuesday 21 st July	2.00pm Finish Last Day of Term