



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

*Growing in faith: loving and learning together with
Jesus*



Message from Mrs Dowling

I hope this message finds you well as we come to the end of this half term. We have had many special visitors; Bishop David Oakley celebrated mass at St Vincent's, marking its 50th anniversary, a significant milestone in our school's history and visited the children and staff at St Mary's. CAFOD delivered assemblies and workshops on the Year of Jubilee. Warren, from The St Vincent De Paul Society commissioned our Mini Vinnie teams at both schools and we look forward to seeing their impact. In addition, we have celebrated with the children who have received their First Holy Communion.

Applications to Secondary School

To families/carers - sign up Sundays will run again this year in June/July/September; it is for children entering primary or secondary schools in September 2026.

Cards will be available for collection from the weekend of 31st May/1st June from St. Mary's Church only. You will need to take this card on the assigned weekends for Fr Tony to sign.

If you attend Mass at another Church on one of the weekends please ask the priest there to sign it.

Certificates of Religious Practice will be issued on completion of the cards.

Transition Days for Year 6

1-2 July - All Saints

1-2 July – Manshead

1-2 July – Queensbury

3-4 July – Cardinal Newman

8 July – Houstone

10 July – John F Kennedy

New Behaviour Strategy

After the Easter break, we introduced a new behaviour policy to further support a safe, respectful and productive learning environment for all pupils.

As part of this, pupils have taken part in behaviour lessons focused on our core expectations: *Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe*. If a pupil's behaviour does not align with these expectations, they will attend a *Repair and Reflect* session during their lunch break to help them learn from the situation.

Additionally, the current system of awarding Dojo points has changed. Points are now given to pupils who have gone *above and beyond* our expectations.

This policy change is designed to create the best possible environment for learning and achievement. We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to help every child thrive. I have received lots of positive feedback from the children some of their comments are below:

"I love the new rules because they keep us safe and make us have good behaviour."

"I like it when the teacher says, "Eyes on Me" and the children are behaving."

"I love the fact that the tables are in rows because you can learn easier."

Attendance

Regular school attendance is vital for every child's education and overall development. As a school, we are committed to supporting every pupil in achieving excellent attendance.

Please note that, in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidelines, leave during term time can only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances**. Holidays or extended trips are not considered exceptional and will be recorded as unauthorised absences.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and on time.

Half Term Virtues

This half term, our focus virtue was 'Love of Learning' and we are proud of our many pupils who displayed this virtue. Next Term we focus on the virtue of 'Hope'. I encourage you to take the time to discuss with your children the importance of these virtues as they encourage curiosity, resilience and a positive mind-set, helping them to embrace new challenges with confidence and believe in their potential to succeed.

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.

As the weather continues to warm up, can I remind you to apply sun cream to your children in the morning and send them to school with a hat and water bottle.

Lastly, we have noticed a decline in uniform standards. Please ensure children come to school in correct uniform - **no leggings or jewellery**. If children wear trainers, they must be plain black. We encourage children to take pride in their appearance and appreciate your support in maintaining these standards. If you are struggling with the cost of uniform please let us know and we will point you in the direction of support.

School Calendar 2024-25

(All dates are subject to change)

ST MARY'S

Monday 2 nd June	Back to school
Week commencing 2 nd June	Year 4 Multiplication Table Check starts
Wednesday 4 th June	EYFS Opening morning
Week commencing 9 th June	Phonics Screening Check starts
Wednesday 11 th June	Fathers' Day Table
Friday 13 th June	Sports Day – more details to follow
Wednesday 18 th June	Faith Ambassadors Trip
Tuesday 1 st July	Year 1, 2 and 3 Zoo Trip
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 4 and 5 Zoo Trip
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 6 and 5 Production 6.30pm
Thursday 10 th July	Year 6 and 5 Production 6.30pm
Friday 11 th July	Transition Day to new classes
Week Commencing 14 th July	Year 6 Activity Week
Friday 18 th July	Discos Reception, Year 1 and 2 - 2:15 – 3:15pm Year 3, 4 and 5 - 3:30 – 4:30pm Year 6 Games and Pizza Evening – 3.30 – 6:30pm
Tuesday 22 nd July	Celebration Assembly 1.15
	FINISH 2pm
Wednesday 3rd September	School Returns

ST VINCENT'S	
Monday 2 nd June	Back to school
Week commencing 2 nd June	Year 4 Multiplication Table Check starts
Saturday 7 th June	Community Garden Project 8-2
Week commencing 9 th June	Phonics Screening Check starts
Friday 13 th June	Non uniform day for Summer Fair Donation
	PTA Fathers' Day Table
Wednesday 18 th June	Faith Ambassadors Trip
Friday 20 th June	Sports Day – more details to follow
	PTA Colour Run
Tuesday 24 th June	Year 3, 4 and 5 Zoo Trip
Friday 27 th June	PTA Summer Fair 3.30pm
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 1 and 2 Zoo Trip
	Year 6 and 5 Production 6.30pm
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 6 and 5 Production 6.30pm
Friday 11 th July	Transition Day to new classes
Week Commencing 14 th July	Year 6 Activity Week
Friday 18 th July	PTA Discos Reception, Year 1 and 2 - 2:15 – 3:15pm Year 3, 4 and 5 - 3:30 – 4:30pm Year 6 Games and Pizza Evening – 3.30 – 6:30pm
Tuesday 22 nd July	Celebration Assembly 9am
	FINISH 2pm
Wednesday 3rd September	School Returns