



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

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus



Message from Mrs Dowling

This term, we were delighted to welcome Fr Biju, who has celebrated Mass at both schools and has already become a much-valued part of our community. Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a wonderful residential trip, returning full of stories, new skills and strengthened friendships.

We also came together for our Harvest Festival celebrations, and I want to thank you sincerely for your generous donations to the food bank - a true reflection of our commitment to service and care for others. Children from KS2 have taken part in a variety of sporting events and we are always so proud of the way they support one another, showing teamwork, perseverance and all our school virtues in action.

A special highlight this term was seeing our Pupil Faith Ambassadors attend Mass at St Mary's Church alongside other schools in the diocese. During the celebration, they were commissioned by the Bishop, a moment of great pride as they begin their role in nurturing and sharing faith with their peers.

As we look to the weeks ahead - with nativities, Christmas celebrations and many joyful moments - I thank you once again for your partnership and support.

"Serve one another humbly in love."
(Galatians 5:13)

Attendance St Mary's

The class with the best percentage
attendance last half-term was Year 2 with
96.87 %.

Attendance St Vincent's

The class with the best percentage
attendance last half-term was Year 3
with 97.52%.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Thank you for your support with providing your children with wellington boots for when they play on the field. We now have a play charter which is on the school website. We are always looking out for new resources so if you have any of the following items, please bring them to the school office.

Small world toys, dressing up costumes including old hats, bags and scarves, lego/building blocks, small wooden or plastic crates, cardboard boxes, cable reels (small or medium sized), old suitcases.

Best wishes
Mrs Ball

Our Schools' OPAL Motto - "Play Every Day – Learn, Laugh, and Grow Together!"

'Gnome Alone'

We're excited to announce that our schools will be hosting live performances of Gnome Alone, a fun and interactive Christmas panto especially for our pupils.

Here's what's coming:

- The story follows Gnorman the Gnome who finds himself all alone in the woods with Santa's sleigh keys and must race back to the grotto in time for Christmas. Along the way he meets familiar characters such as Captain Hook, the Ugly Sisters and Scrooge, and learns the true value of friendship, teamwork and kindness.
- The show offers lots of audience participation, so the children will be actively involved in the fun, helping Gnorman solve dilemmas about friendship, understanding others and working in a team.

The company will be performing at St Vincent's on Thursday 4th December and at St Mary's on Friday 5th December. The cost of this has kindly been funded by the schools' PTAs.

Half Term Virtue - Forgiveness

Last half term, we celebrated the virtue of **Loving**, encouraging our children to show kindness, compassion, and care in their words and actions. This half term, our focus turns to the virtue of **Forgiveness**.

Forgiveness is at the heart of our faith and an essential part of building strong, peaceful relationships. We encourage you to speak with your children about what forgiveness looks like in daily life—saying sorry, letting go of hurt, giving others another chance, and choosing to rebuild friendship.

As Jesus teaches us:

"Forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven you."

Colossians 3:13

Together, let us help our children grow in this important virtue.

Polite reminders

Reminder: Booking Breakfast Club & After School Club in Advance

We have recently noticed an increase in parents booking Breakfast Club (BC) and After School Club (ASC) on the day, or in some cases not booking at all. While we fully understand that emergencies do happen, same-day bookings should be the **exception** rather than the rule.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Calendar 2025-26

(All dates are subject to change)

ST MARY'S

Wednesday 19 th November	Reception and Year 6 – Height and Weight checks
Friday 21 st November	Jubilee Celebration Day – No sharing Assembly
Monday 24 th November	Flu immunisations R-6
Thursday 27 th November	Skip2Beat
Friday 28 th November	Torchlight Procession Dunstable
Monday 1 st December	Governor's Meeting
Friday 5 th December	Visiting Pantomime Gnome Alone PS-6
Monday 8 th December	St Mary's Feast Day
Tuesday 9 th December	9.15am EYFS Nativity
Thursday 11 th December	Coffee morning with Mince Pies in the Lodge – all welcome 6pm KS1 Nativity
Friday 12 th December	2pm KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Friday 19 th December	Carols round the Christmas Tree Finish 2pm

ST VINCENT'S

Friday 21 st November	Jubilee Celebration Day – No sharing Assembly Flu immunisations R-6 Non-uniform Day – donation for Christmas Fete
Wednesday 26 th November	Skip2Beat
Friday 28 th November	Torchlight Procession Dunstable
Monday 1 st December	Governor's Meeting
Thursday 4 th December	Visiting Pantomime Gnome Alone N-6
Saturday 6 th December	10-1 Christmas Fete
Tuesday 9 th December	9.15am EYFS Nativity
Thursday 11 th December	6pm KS1 Nativity
Friday 12 th December	2pm KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Friday 19 th December	Carols round the Christmas Tree Finish 2pm