ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQEL
Orchard Road
Altrincham
WA15 8EY

Email: admin@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk
Web: stvincents.trafford.sch.uk
Tel: 0161 911 8040
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Friday 13th November 2026

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful



This Sunday, our Year 3 children will be enrolled onto the Sacramental Programme. This is a very special time as they begin their journey of faith, preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. We hold the children in our prayers and ask God to guide and bless them throughout this important stage of their spiritual journey.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN BEGINNING THEIR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

Loving God,
Bless our Year 3 children as they begin their Sacramental Programme.
Guide them with your light, fill their hearts with your peace,
and help them grow in faith, hope, and love.
May they feel your presence beside them as they prepare
to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.
Keep them safe, joyful, and close to you always.
Amen.

REMEMBRANCE

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful

On Remembrance Day, the children and staff paid their respects to those who sacrificed their lives in war. A special thank you to Georgianna, who played the Last Post so beautifully for the whole school and to Year 5 Mrs Gerrard and Mrs Black's class assembly on the theme of Remembrance.

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WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY – FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER

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On Friday 20 November, we will be celebrating World Children's Day at St Vincent's, focusing on **Article 12 – every child's right to be heard**. Our School Council will help lead activities, encouraging children to share their thoughts on the question, **"What is important to you as a child, and why?"** Children will express their ideas through writing or drawing, and our School Council will gather their responses. As a Gold Rights Respecting School, we want every child to know that their voice matters and that they can make a difference.

ODD SOCK DAY - MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful



On Monday, we will be celebrating **Odd Socks Day** as part of Anti-Bullying Week. We are inviting all children to wear odd socks with their usual school uniform to celebrate what makes us all unique and to promote kindness, respect and acceptance of others. There is no need to buy anything new; simply choose two different socks from home. We look forward to seeing lots of colourful and mismatched socks around school. To find out more about Odd Socks Day, please visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance website.

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CHRISTMAS FAIR ON SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER

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As we prepare for the annual Christmas Fair, the PTA are asking if your company supports community days? These days are a wonderful opportunity to get involved in school life and give back to the community. We are looking for parents to use their volunteering community days to help us prepare for the Christmas Fair on Friday 27 November.

If your workplace supports this, we would be delighted to have your help on Friday 27 November. Please email our PTA stvincentspta@gmail.com if you can volunteer.

CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT A FANTASTIC LOCAL CHARITY INITIATIVE?

The **Manchester Christmas Tree Collection 2027** is looking for volunteers and businesses to help with its annual Christmas tree recycling appeal, taking place from 14-19 January 2027.

The appeal raises vital funds for Francis House Children's Hospice, Moya Cole Hospice and a range of local community charities, including food banks, homelessness charities, cancer and dementia organisations, and the Seashell Trust.

The organisers are particularly looking for:

- Transit, Luton or long-wheelbase vans
- Volunteer drivers (with or without a van)
- Additional helpers to assist collections
- Business sponsorship of vehicles (£200 per vehicle)

Collection routes will be provided, and each tree collected will have already been registered with a donation attached. A sponsored van can collect around 100 trees in a day, helping to generate approximately £1,600 in charitable donations. This is a wonderful opportunity to support local families and community organisations while contributing to a major recycling and fundraising project across Greater Manchester. If you, a family member, or your business may be able to help, please contact the organisers directly for further information.

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St Vincent's PTA Christmas Fair

The PTA would be so grateful for your support with our Christmas Fair!

Every contribution helps make the fair special for the children and raises money for the extra things that make our school wonderful.

We're asking each year group for specific donations to help stock our stalls, alongside a few items welcomed from everyone. Please ensure all toy and teddy donations are clean, complete and in good condition.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support. We can't wait to see you all at the fair!

Any questions? Please contact the PTA at stvincentspta@gmail.com or speak to your class rep.

Class	From 16th-28th November	Friday 20th November **(own clothes day)**	Friday 27th November **(own clothes day)**
Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	All year group donations: Teddies and toys - clean, complete and in good condition Please leave with your child's class teacher	Sweets (for tombola and prizes) Chocolate (for tombola and prizes) - no nuts please Hamper gifts (wine, chutney, mince pies, biscuits/crackers etc) - no nuts please	All year groups - bottles (wine, fizz, spirits etc) for bottle tombola Cakes - homemade or shop bought (no nuts and with ingredient lists for homemade donations please)

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RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2027

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Applications for Reception class 2027 are now open on the Trafford website. To complete your application:

- **Step1:** Visit the Trafford school admissions portal and create a login. Trafford admission portal

  State your preferred school on the portal

- **Step 2:** Complete the Supplementary application form found on our school website Supplementary form

Return the completed supplementary form and copy of baptismal certificate, if applicable, to the school infant department admin office by 15th January 2027.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

School Values: Make a Difference Be Passionate about Learning Be Kind Be Respectful



Term Dates

2026–2027 term dates: Link here

2027-2028 term dates: Link here

Following the publication of our 2027-2028 term dates, we would like to remind all parents and carers that family holidays taken during term time cannot be authorised by the school.

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's educational success. Every lesson counts, and even a short period of absence can result in missed learning, gaps in understanding, and difficulties in keeping up with classroom routines and expectations.

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We therefore ask all families to check the published term dates carefully before making any travel arrangements. Holidays should be booked during the designated school holiday periods only. Absence due to a family holiday during term time will be recorded as unauthorised.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that all children benefit from the continuity of learning and the opportunities that come from attending school every day. By working together, we can give every child the best possible chance to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Please see below the attendance percentages for last week.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
R CR	96.7	02EB	100	04FB	97.9
R LD	99.6	02KS	99.6	05CG/DB	97.9
R OW/CR	97.5	03CD	99.6	05LM	95.8
01LT	100	03DM	98.8	05JK	95.8
01AM	94.6	03HC/CL	98.3	06DH	99.2
01MH	99.2	04LH	95.4	06ML	90.3
02LC	98.8	04CN/EL	94.2	06NS/SK	97.9
Overall percentage: 97.47					

We warmly welcome parents and carers to speak with us about any aspect of school life. Your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact**,** as they work most closely with your child and can usually address any questions. If further support is needed, a member of the leadership team will be happy to assist. We value working in partnership with families and believe that, together, we can help every child flourish.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop
Headteacher