ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQEL
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Friday 20th November 2026

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

## CATHOLIC LIFE

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



## SACRAMENTAL SPONSORS

It was lovely to welcome our Sacramental Sponsors to school for our Sponsor Liturgy this week. The liturgy gave us the opportunity to thank our sponsors for the important role they play in supporting and guiding our Year 3 children throughout their sacramental journey.

We ask you to keep our children, sponsors and families in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT ST VINCENT'S PARISH

St Vincent's Parish is inviting children to join the Children's Choir. The choir sings at the 10:00am Sunday Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. It provides a wonderful opportunity for children to become more involved in parish life and the celebration of Mass.

If your child enjoys singing and would like to take part, or if you have any questions, please contact the parish team at parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk We would be delighted to welcome new members to the choir.

## PARISH NEWSLETTERS

Please see the links to the latest newsletters from St Vincent's Parish and Holy Angels Parish**.** These newsletters contain information about upcoming Masses, parish events, sacramental programmes and opportunities for families to become involved in parish life.

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We encourage all families to take a look and keep up to date with the many activities and celebrations taking place across our parish communities.

Parish Newsletter St Vincents Catholic Church Altrincham

Parish Newsletter Holy Angels Church Hale Barns

## ANTI BULLYING WEEK

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

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we have been celebrating what it means to be a good friend. Through discussions and activities, the children have reflected on the qualities of friendship, including kindness, respect, honesty and inclusion.

We have encouraged the children to think about how their words and actions can help others feel valued, supported and part of our school community. Together, we are promoting a culture where everyone feels safe, happy and respected.

## ADVENT SCHEDULE




Please see the full schedule for the Advent Planner attached and some updates below.

## SUNSHINE HOLIDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

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**Monday 21 December** – **WINTER WONDERLAND** 8am-6pm or 8:45am-3:45pm

**Tuesday 22 December** – **CHRISTMAS PARTY** 8am-6pm or 8:45am-3:45pm

The countdown to Christmas is officially on, and what better way to kick-start the festive holidays than with **TWO** magical days of Christmas fun at Sunshine Holiday Club!

From Christmas workshops and winter science experiments to our cinema trip, Christmas disco and lots of festive surprises, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

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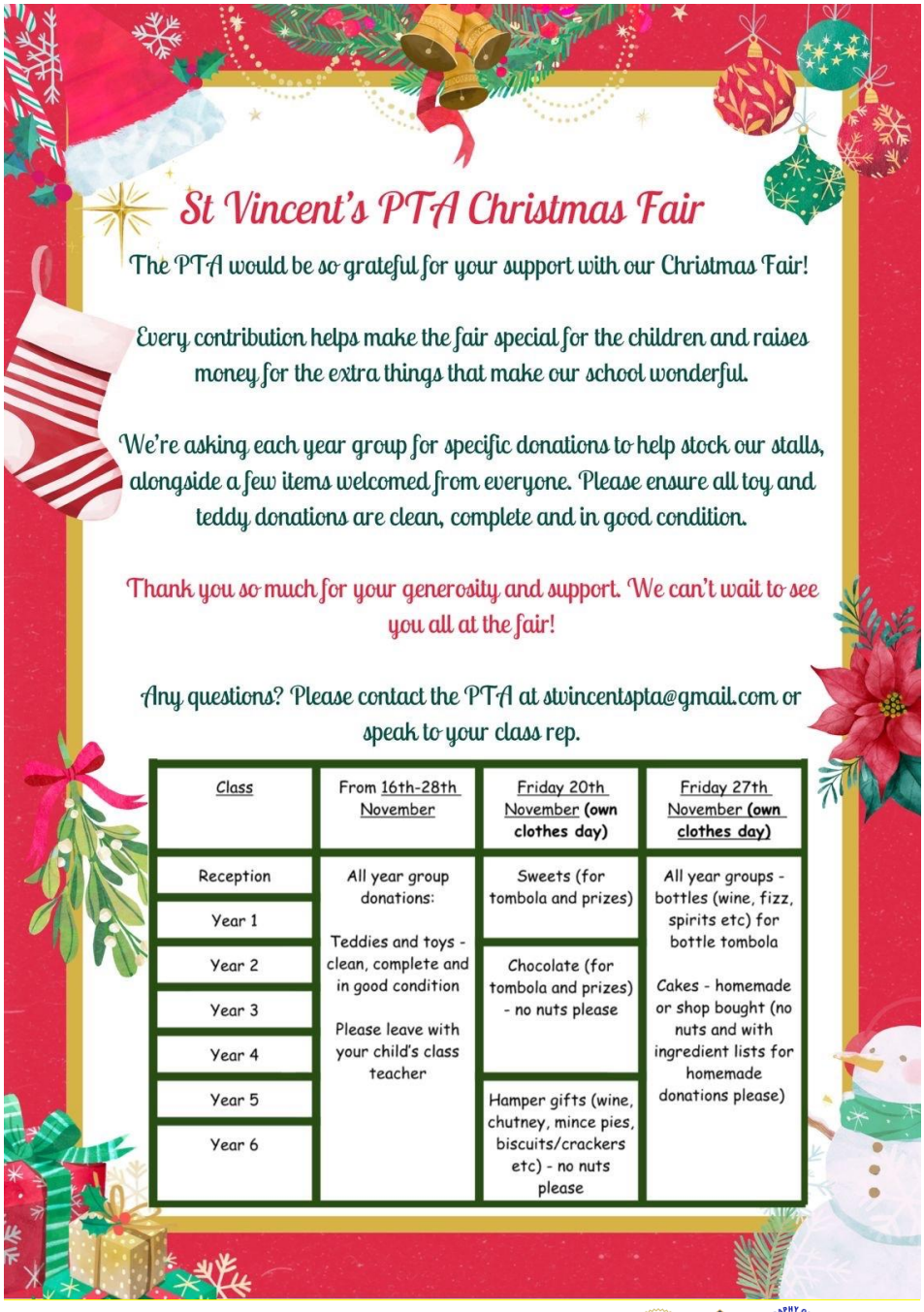
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**Bookings are NOW OPEN**! With just two days of festive fun on offer, don't miss out on giving your children a magical start to their Christmas holidays! Take a look at our attached Activity Planner and come and join the Christmas magic; come and join us for a Christmas Extravaganza full of magic, fun and festive joy! Book your sessions through your family app or email us on sunshine@stvincentsnursery.com

## CHRISTMAS FAIR ON SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER

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




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

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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 on Friday 27 November to help us prepare for the Christmas Fair.

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.

## SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

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




As children move into Year 5 and Year 6 and begin to develop greater independence, some families may start considering whether a mobile phone is appropriate for their child. We recognise that the decision about whether and when a child has a mobile phone is a matter for individual families. Parents may wish to consider a range of factors, including their child's maturity, communication needs and online safety.

We understand that some families may feel a phone is necessary for safety and communication reasons. For those who would find it helpful, the Smartphone Free Childhood quiz provides information about smartphone-free first phones and alternative options to support informed decision-making.

At St Vincent's, we support the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign and encourage families to carefully consider whether a smartphone is needed at primary school age. However, if your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, it must be covered by a signed user agreement and handed to a member of staff at the start of the school day for safekeeping. You can access the quiz here: **Smartphone Free Childhood – Find the Right First Phone**.

## RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2027

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




Applications are now open for children starting Reception in September 2027. St Vincent's welcomes applications from families both within and outside our catchment area, as well as families of all faiths who support our Catholic ethos and values. If you, friends or family members are applying for a Reception place, please ensure the following steps are completed:

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- **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. We look forward to welcoming our new families in September.

## Our Pass 11-16 Years Free Travel




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

Plans for the landmark scheme that can save families up to £500 a year per child by providing free bus travel for secondary school children across Greater Manchester, have now been agreed.

Applications for the new 'Our Pass 11-16' will open on Tuesday 8 December. Around 200,000 young people will be able to benefit when the offer goes live on Monday 4 January 2027. If you already have an IGO card, and you are eligible for Our Pass 11-16, your card will automatically be transferred over, so you don't need to do anything to unlock free bus travel in Greater Manchester. The move builds on the storming success of Our Pass, which has given 16-18-year-olds free bus travel since 2019. Our Pass 11-16 extends that offer to young people in Greater Manchester from when they start Year 7, making it the largest offer of its kind in England outside of London. Young people and families can now head to beenetwork.com/OurPass11-16 for all the details of the pass and what you need to do next.

## Attendance and Punctuality

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

Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

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.

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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.

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.

**Term Dates**

**2026–2027 term dates:** Link here

**2027-2028 term dates**: Link here

Please see below the attendance percentages for last week.

| Class | Attendance % | Class | Attendance % | Class | Attendance % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R CR | 93.3 | 02EB | 98.7 | 04FB | 96 |
| R LD | 90.7 | 02KS | 95.7 | 05CG/DB | 98.3 |
| R OW/CR | 94.3 | 03CD | 99.7 | 05LM | 95 |
| 01LT | 98.7 | 03DM | 98.7 | 05JK | 99 |
| 01AM | 98.7 | 03HC/CL | 98 | 06DH | 97.1 |
| 01MH | 98.3 | 04LH | 95.7 | 06ML | 97.7 |
| 02LC | 99.7 | 04CN/EL | 98.3 | 06NS/SK | 95 |
| Overall percentage: 96.98 | | | | | |

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**