

Focus on ... Reception

What a fantastic first half-term we've had in Reception! The children have settled beautifully into school life and have enjoyed a rich and varied start to their learning journey.

This term, we've been exploring the changing seasons, with a special focus on the signs of Autumn. The children loved going on a nature walk, collecting colourful leaves, conkers and acorns, and noticing how the world around them is changing. These discoveries inspired some beautiful autumnal art.

We had our first ever Forest School session with Miss Hughes this week, which was lots of fun. We explored our school grounds and then created some amazing repeating patterns and made some colourful leaf kebabs.

In RE this week, we've been learning all about Baptisms and how we can be welcomed into God's very special family. The children enjoyed exploring the special symbols and actions of this Christian celebration and even role-played a Baptism in our classroom, thinking about how this marks the beginning of a journey of faith.

We're so proud of how much the children have grown already since starting school and we can't wait for more exciting learning next half-term!



Newsletter 8

24.10.2025



Believe, Trust and Be Ready
"That they may have life, and to the full" John 10:10

Gospel Values

Our gospel value focus is **Humility**.

To have humility is to recognise that everyone has different strengths, and that these are gifts from God. Humility is the first step towards learning, you can't learn until you are humble enough to realise there is something for you to learn.

We should remember to apologise to others, accept advice and receive compliments graciously in life. True humility is not looking down on yourself but looking up to God.



Behaviour Awards

Conduct and Courtesy Award – Great attitude with good manners and behaviour.

Merit Award – Super work and effort in a particular area of the Curriculum.

Year Group	Gospel value: Humility	Conduct & Courtesy	Merit award - comment
Reception	Albie	Beatrix	Jem – for working hard on his sounds and blending
Year 1	Felix	Tabby	Heidi – for a great effort with her reading this week
Year 2	Aurora	Isaac	Patrick – for his enthusiasm for life and everything we do in class!
Year 3	Narla-Rae	Jude	Oliver – for having a positive attitude to his work all week
Year 4	Violet	Archie	Edward – for working hard across the curriculum
Year 5	Matthew	Henry	Layla-Grace – for her confidence during our Black History Month performance
Year 6	Maya	Thomas	Ethan – incredible attainment in Maths

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has this half term gone? Eight weeks have flown by in a whirlwind of learning, laughter, and growth. It was wonderful to see so many parents attending Parents' Evening on Tuesday and Thursday this week. Your presence and engagement are a powerful reminder of how vital the partnership between home and school is in helping every child reach their full potential.

When parents take an active interest in their child's learning—especially in the primary years—it lays the foundation for lifelong success. Supporting homework, celebrating progress, and staying connected with school life all make a meaningful difference. The collaboration between families and school is something I deeply value. It makes me incredibly proud to meet with so many of you and share in this journey together. Thank you for the many positive comments shared during Parents' Evening and for the joy on so many faces after speaking with our dedicated teachers. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our staff for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to giving your children the very best education this half term. And thank you to our children, parents, carers, and governors for your continued support in making our school such a special place.

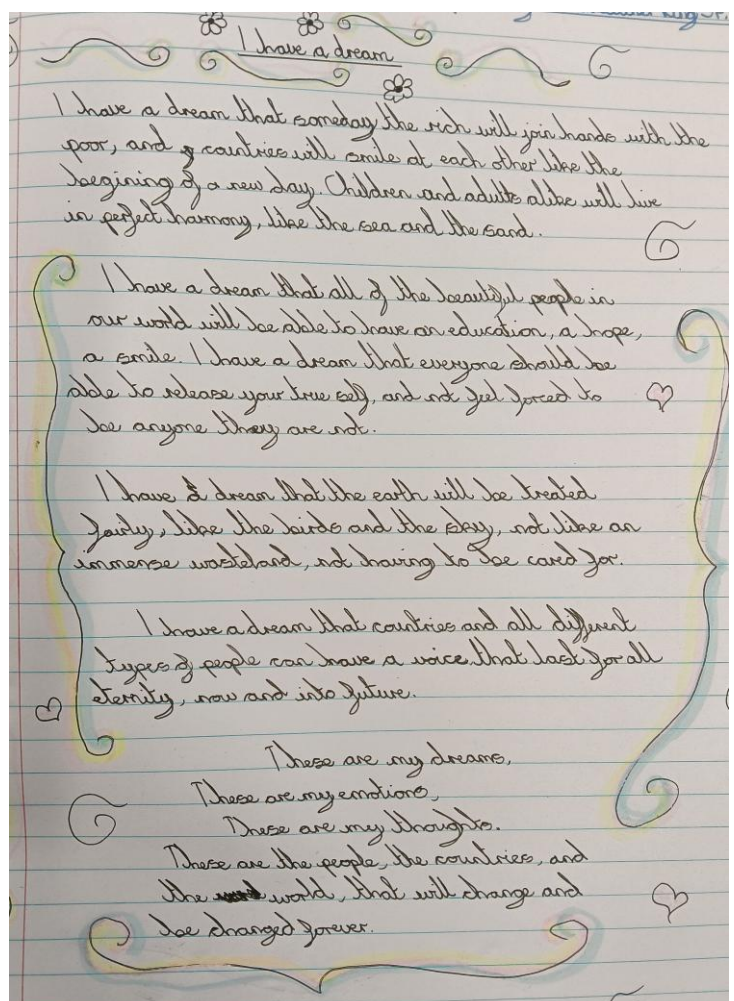
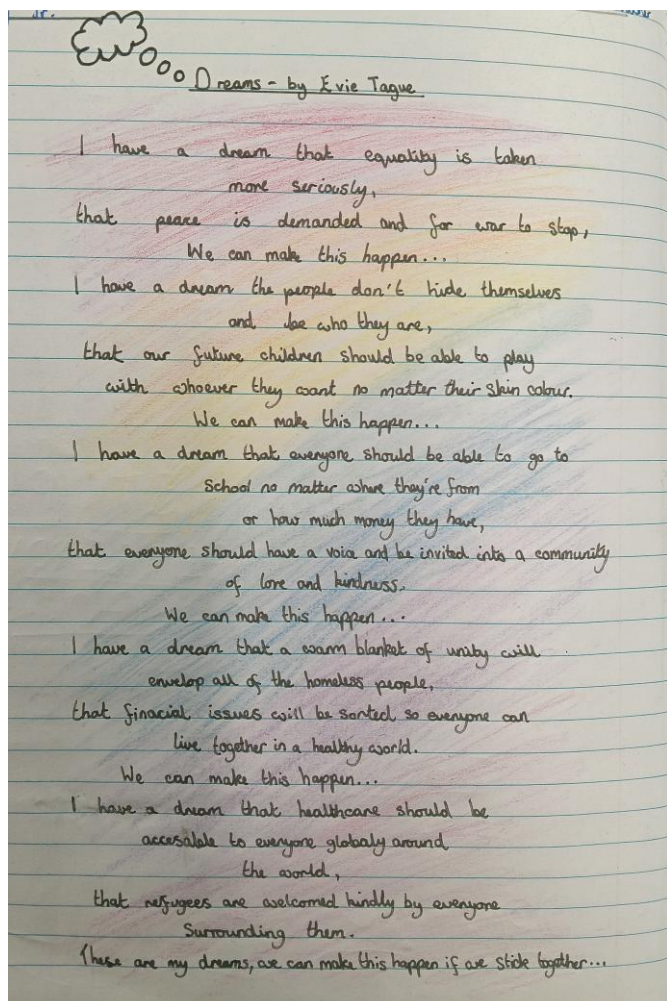
Have a fantastic ten-day break—relax, recharge, and enjoy time with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 4th November.

God bless,

Miss Groarke and all the staff at St. Vincent's

Black History Month

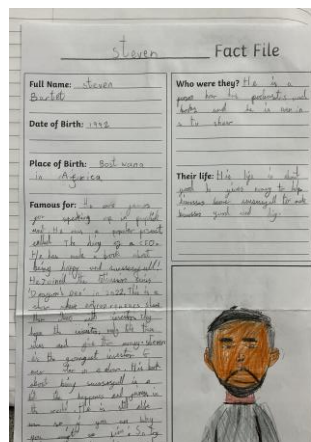
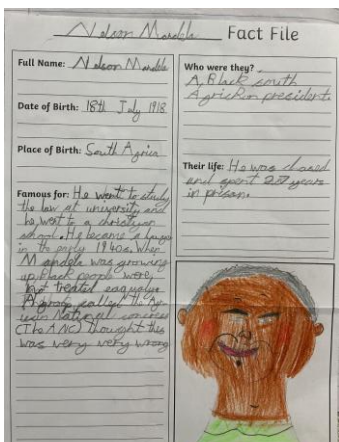
In October, our school celebrated Black History Month with a range of activities across all year groups. Pupils explored the lives and achievements of inspirational Black figures, learned about key moments in history, and reflected on the importance of diversity and inclusion. Through storytelling, music, and discussion, children deepened their understanding of how Black history shapes our world today. It was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate contributions, challenge stereotypes, and promote respect for all. We're committed to continuing these conversations throughout the year as part of our inclusive curriculum. Here is some work by Yasmin and Evie (Y6), inspired by Martin Luther King.



Black History Workshop and Assembly



On Tuesday, our Year 3 and Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting workshop called ***The History Train*** to celebrate Black History Month. The children climbed aboard for a journey through time, learning about important events and inspiring figures from the past — including Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. After learning about their incredible courage and the impact they made on the world, the children put on a wonderful performance for the rest of the school. Their performance was lively, engaging, and full of enthusiasm, bringing history to life in a memorable way.



Mini Police



This afternoon, Miss Groarke and our local PCSO, Carlos Paulo, interviewed Year 5 children who applied to join the Mini Police. Each child was asked questions to help them reflect on how they could make a positive impact in their community. Questions included: Why do you think joining Mini Police will benefit you? What kind of activities would you like to be part of to benefit your community? Is there one thing in your community that could be improved? We were so impressed by the children's ideas, enthusiasm, and sense of responsibility. Well done to everyone who took part! We were incredibly impressed by the thoughtful and enthusiastic responses from all the children during their Mini Police interviews.

We presented certificates in this afternoon assembly to those selected. They showed a genuine desire to make a positive difference in their community, strong communication skills, and a clear understanding of the responsibilities involved. There will be a special assembly when they will make the 'Mini Police Promise' or Attestation, and be sworn in, on **Friday 21st November at 2.45pm**. Parents are welcome to join us.

Roberts Recycling

Thank you to all who donated their unwanted items over the last week. We collected an impressive 263kg of items which raised £78.90 for the PTA!

House Points

House points are awarded throughout the week for all kinds of achievement or for good behaviour in all classes. The house point totals for this week were as follows:

St. David	St. Andrew	St. George	St. Patrick
22	22	17	16

Well done to this week's winning houses – **St David and St Andrew!**

Attendance

Reception	95.9%	Year 4	93.1%
Year 1	98.6%	Year 5	97.4%
Year 2	94.3%	Year 6	97.1%
Year 3	96.7%		

WELL DONE YEAR 1 – GREAT ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK!

Overall Half Term Attendance

Reception	95.9%	Year 4	96.6%
Year 1	97.7%	Year 5	97.4%
Year 2	95.2%	Year 6	95.8%
Year 3	97.6%		

WELL DONE YEAR 1 – GREAT ATTENDANCE THIS HALF TERM!

Whole School attendance for this half term – 96.7%

School Photos

Have you ordered your school photo yet? A reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is **Wednesday 29th October**. Order through Tempest by visiting www.tempest-orders.co.uk If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, contact Tempest on **01736 751555**

New School Menu Launch – Starting Tuesday 3rd November

A new school menu will be introduced from Tuesday 3rd November. Parents and carers are encouraged to review the updated menu and discuss meal choices with their children—especially those in Key Stage 1 (KS1) who may benefit from extra support in selecting their meals.

Bonfire Night Menu – 5th November

On Wednesday, 5th November, we will be having a special menu – please see menu attached.

Y5 & Y6 Swimming

Swimming lessons for Year 5 and Year 6 will start on the afternoon of Friday 7th November and run up until 12th December. The swimming fees for the Autumn term are £17.90 per pupil. This consists of 6 swimming sessions, coach hire, hire of the swimming pool and the swimming tutor. Please log into ParentPay to give your consent and payment as soon as possible and before 3rd November.

Birthday Wishes! Many happy returns for this week to:

LOOK WHO IS	LOOK WHO IS	LOOK WHO IS
9	10	11
Milan	George Narin	Grace C Thomas

Science Ambassadors



Today in assembly, Chloe and Hattie spoke about this term's scientist, Jane Goodall.

Jane was a pioneering researcher who spent much of her life studying chimpanzees in Tanzania, discovering that they use tools, express emotions, and live in complex social groups. Her work changed how scientists think about animals, and she founded the Jane Goodall Institute to continue to protect wildlife and its habitats.



Anti-bullying Week

Our School Council are running an Anti-bullying Week poster competition. This year's theme, 'Power for Good', encourages pupils to recognise the power they each hold – to speak up, to support one another and to create positive change when they see bullying both online and in person. Flyers went home with the children today. Poster deadline is Friday 7th November.

Christmas light switch-on

The children from school will be singing at the Christmas light switch on Saturday 15th November at 5pm. If you would like your child to take part in this school and community event please sign up on ParentPay – numbers will be limited.

Online safety



As a school, online safety is always a top priority. We understand that, in this constantly changing world of technology, it can be challenging to keep up with the latest ways to keep our children safe online. That's why, on Tuesday, 11th November at 5:30 pm, we are holding our biannual Online Safety Evening for all parents and carers lead by Cheshire East Police.

Feedback from previous sessions has been extremely positive, with parents finding the information shared both eye-opening and invaluable. We expect at least one parent from each family to attend this session, as outlined in our Online Safety and Acceptable Use Agreement for Parents, Carers, and Pupils. We will also be offering childcare during this time. Please confirm that you will be attending via Parent Pay to help us ensure we have enough space and resources for everyone.

Diwali

We have had wonderful time celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights. The Reception children took part in a range of creative and meaningful activities, including making diya lamps, creating rangoli patterns, dancing to traditional music, and hearing the story of Rama and Sita. It was a joyful celebration of light, colour and culture. Happy Diwali everyone!



Applications for Secondary School Places – Year 6

31st October 2025 is the deadline for applications for secondary school places for September 2026. Please ensure you register your preferred schools by this date via the Cheshire East website –

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx>



Save the Date:

Christmas Fair Please SAVE THE DATE of **Friday 5th December** for the fair - more details to follow nearer the time.

The Week Ahead		Start Time	End Time
Monday 3 rd November			
SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY			
Tuesday 4 th November			
Y4/Y6 Bikeability		ALL	DAY
Y4 Clarinet Lesson		PM	
Mad Science		15:30	16:30
Wednesday 5 th November			
ARTIS performing arts workshops		ALL	DAY
Y4/Y6 Bikeability		ALL	DAY
D.R. Sports – Dodgeball/Basketball/Netball (Y1-Y6) www.drsportsclubs.co.uk		15:30	16:30
Thursday 6 th November			
Rock Steady Music		ALL	DAY
Friday 7 th November			
Y5/Y6 Swimming – sign up via ParentPay. Don't forget swimming kits!		PM	
Y4/Y5/Y6 Netball with Mrs Davies, Mrs O'Keefe and Mrs Clarke - email School office if your child wishes to join (Boys and Girls)		15:30	16:15
D.R. Sports – KS2 Football www.drsportsclubs.co.uk		15:30	16:30

* DR Sports After School Clubs are booked directly through their website at www.drsportsclubs.co.uk

Open Afternoon

We will be holding another open afternoon on Thursday 13th November for parents of children who are looking to change school or are due to start in Reception in 2026. Please pass on this information to neighbours and friends in Knutsford. To book a slot please email admin@stvincents.cheshire.sch.uk

Preschool Open Afternoon

Looking for the perfect early years setting for your little one? Join us for our **Open Afternoon on Thursday, 21st November, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm**. Explore our welcoming environment, meet our caring staff and discover our play-based learning approach.

Here are a few recent comments from parents:

Thank you so much for the love, care and support you've given our son this year. It's been such a joy to watch him grow, learn and thrive and that's all thanks to the wonderful environment you've created.

The decision to move our son to St Vincent's Pre-school to support his transition to school was absolutely the right one. With plenty of opportunities to meet his new teacher, try school lunches and take part in other exciting activities, he started 'big school' completely unfazed.

If you are planning on coming along, please contact us either by telephone 01565 651948 or by email cath@stvincentspreschool.co.uk



Father David and St. Vincent's Church - Information

[St Vincent De Paul RC Church, Knutsford \(stvincentsknutsford.org\)](http://stvincentsknutsford.org)

Masses at Knutsford: Sunday – 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Masses at Lymm: Vigil Mass at St Winefride's, Booths Hill Rd, Lymm, WA13 0DL at 5.45pm on Saturdays.

MUMS AND TOTS AT ST. VINCENT'S PARISH CENTRE - all preschool aged children and parents/carers are welcome every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at the Parish Centre from 10am until 12.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RETURNS! We're delighted to announce that Children's Liturgy will be starting again on Sunday, 9th November at the 11 am Mass. All children are warmly invited to take part and learn about the Gospel in a way that's fun and engaging. Mums and Dads are very welcome to come along and assist with their children as we share faith together as a parish family.

ENQUIRY GROUP: Please come along each Thursday evening at 7pm in the hall where we will explore our Catholic faith.

NOVEMBER SOULS: November is the month where traditionally we pray for Holy Souls, especially our loved ones. If you would like the names of relatives/friends included on our November List, please hand in with your donation. Masses will be celebrated throughout November.

SPUC On Sunday 2 November SPUC are hosting a screening of the DVD "Unplanned" in the Parish Hall, starting at 6pm and followed by Q & A and tea and biscuits. All welcome. Unplanned is an eye-opening look inside the abortion industry through the eyes of Abby Johnson, a former director of Planned Parenthood who became the most pro-life advocate in America. This is for 15-year-olds and older.

CATENIAN BURSARY: Every year the Catenians give financial support to young Catholics from all over the world who volunteer to do something wonderful and help those less fortunate than themselves. Whether this is on an individual project, with others or if you are planning to travel to Lourdes to help an assisted pilgrim – we would like to help you to achieve your aims. You can find out more at <https://catenianbursary.com/> or contact Stuart Jones of Knutsford Circle at secretary@knutsford.p17catenians.org.