

Focus on ... Year 1

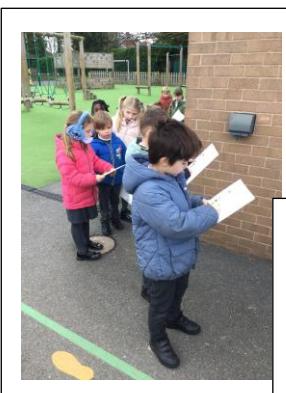
We have been very busy in Year 1 this half term!

In Science, we have been learning about different materials and their properties. The children have enjoyed exploring and investigating a variety of materials to find out what makes them suitable for different purposes. We were also very lucky to have a visit from a materials scientist, who shared his expertise and helped bring our learning to life.

In Music, we have started learning some exciting songs with the music teachers from Love Music Trust. We are already beginning to prepare for our performance at Congleton Town Hall next half term, and the children are showing great enthusiasm and confidence.

In Maths, we have been learning how to measure using a ruler. The children have been practising measuring objects carefully and accurately, developing their understanding of length in a practical way.

We have worked incredibly hard this half term and are definitely ready for a well-earned break!



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

Time to reflect

During half term, it is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent, the period of 40 days, not including Sundays, leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up or doing something extra for the benefit of others. On Ash Wednesday many churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong-doing. There will be an Ash Wednesday service at St. Vincent's Church.



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: Forgiveness	Conduct & Courtesy	Merit award - comment
Reception	Beatrix	Jem	Benen – for fantastic work in Forest School
Year 1	Bess	Eddie	Tudor – for being a wonderful member of Year 1
Year 2	Anton	Amelia	Hinav – Hinav has worked so hard on learning her spellings and is always so happy and cheerful!
Year 3	Freddie	Elora	Mia – for being a great role model to others in her behaviour and attitude to learning!
Year 4	Isla	Eva	Milan – working hard in all that he does
Year 5	Oliver C	Ella	Narin – for her amazing effort at writing, reading and spelling – an absolute superstar!
Year 6	Jane	Grace C	Max – for putting his hand up more and joining in in lessons

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term already, and half the academic year gone! Thank you to all the children and staff for all their hard work this year so far; it has truly been a productive and busy time. Next Wednesday during half term, is Ash Wednesday, and there will be Masses in church for those who wish to receive ashes. This marks the beginning of Lent, the time in the Church's year when we prepare for the great feast of Easter. We will begin our daily Lenten Prayer sessions in the school hall the second week back, starting on Monday 2nd March, from 8.45am to 8.55am each morning. We sent home earlier this week a Lenten Calendar, for each family please take a moment to look through it and display it at home so you can share each day of Lent together.

Have a wonderful week off whatever you are planning to do, and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 23rd February.

Have a lovely holiday.

God bless,

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

Important - New Parent Portal – Arbor

We hope you've seen our recent email about the new school portal, Arbor (for Primary Carers only). Please follow the instructions in that email to log in. Once you're signed in, you'll be able to update your child's information directly through the portal, including medical details, addresses, permissions, and more.

Unfortunately, due to the large number of outstanding payments in ParentPay, we were unable to shut down access to ParentPay today as planned. Balances already paid for residential are being transferred to Arbor. We ask that any outstanding school meal debts in ParentPay are cleared as soon as possible. If your meal account is in credit, we aim to issue refunds by the start of the new half term.

As a little incentive, the first class to have all parents and carers logged on to Arbor will receive a treat from Miss Groarke.

Y3 retreat



On Tuesday, Year 3 enjoyed a Retreat Day at St Nicholas Catholic High School with Mairie their Chaplain. We had the opportunity to feel part of the school community, spending time in a classroom near the chapel to learn about Reconciliation and its place in the Sacraments and in our daily lives. We explored the story of Zacchaeus, reflecting on his life, his community and the important lessons we can learn from his choices. Later, we gathered in the chapel for prayer and meditation, before returning for a beautiful and reflective Reconciliation service. The day also included time to meet Year 7 pupils during break and lunch in the canteen — and it's safe to say the pizza and chips were a definite highlight for many of us! It was a calm, thoughtful and meaningful day for us all, helping us on our Sacramental journey in Year 3. We were joined by 7 children from the Parish. Thank you to Mrs Makin and Christel from Church who also joined us.

Important Reminder: Nut-Free School Policy

To help keep all children safe, we'd like to remind families that our school is a nut-free environment. This means no food containing nuts should be brought into school.

Please **DO NOT SEND IN** items such as:

- Peanut butter
- Nut-based spreads (including Nutella and similar products)
- Cereal bars, cakes, or snacks containing nuts

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe space for every child. If you're ever unsure about an item, choosing a nut-free alternative is always the best option.

Focus on ... Reception

This week in Reception, we have been busy learning all about Chinese New Year! The children have enjoyed exploring the traditions, culture, and celebrations linked to this special festival. We began the week by learning about why Chinese New Year is celebrated and how it is also known as the Lunar New Year. The children discovered how each year is represented by a different animal from the Chinese zodiac and were excited to find out which animal represents the year they were born in. Throughout the week, we have taken part in a variety of hands-on activities. The children loved dressing up in traditional clothing and creating beautiful lanterns and dragon crafts. We practised mark-making by writing Chinese numbers and even tried using chopsticks in our sensory play activities to develop our fine motor skills. One of the highlights of the week was tasting a selection of traditional foods. The children were very brave trying new flavours and we talked about the importance of food in bringing families together during celebrations. To end our exciting week, we held our very own Dragon Parade! The children loved parading together, moving to music and celebrating all that we had learned. It was a wonderful way to bring our learning to life.

We are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been while exploring a different culture and its traditions. What a fantastic week of learning and celebration!



Mental health week

For Children's Mental Health Week 2026, children had a fantastic time exploring the theme *This is My Place!* The School Councillors helped by launching the theme in assembly on Monday. In all classes, we then talked about what it means to belong and how it feels to be happy, safe and able to be ourselves. Classes carried out celebration of the word with their buddy classes. This was a lovely chance to come together and pray with our friends. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



Stable Minds

Some of our KS2 children also took part in a special session led by Stable Minds. Using an interactive projector, they enjoyed playing fun, fast-paced games designed to build confidence and boost self-esteem. There was lots of laughter, teamwork and encouragement as the children challenged themselves, celebrated their successes and supported one another along the way!



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday children completed various activities and/or live lesson via the BBC around the theme of AI. During this specially allocated day, but also through our Computing and RSHE lessons throughout the year, we focus on staying safe online. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

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
16	21	24	20

Well done to this week's winning house – **St George!**

Attendance

Reception	93.8%	Year 4	96.7%
Year 1	97.9%	Year 5	97.7%
Year 2	96.2%	Year 6	96.7%
Year 3	95.3%		

WELL DONE YEAR 1 – GREAT ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK!

Whole School Attendance for this week – 96.5%

Best attendance for this half term - Year 3: 98.4% - well done!

Birthday Wishes! Many happy returns for this week to:

LOOK WHO	LOOK WHO
IS	IS
9	10
Rose	Loughlin

Payments for 2026 Residential visits

Thank you for all payments made towards the residential so far. We still have a number of permissions and payments outstanding. Please ensure you log onto Arbor ASAP and sign your child up.

Please note if you need some financial help, please contact Miss Groarke to make an appointment to discuss this.

Y5/Y6 ROBINWOOD: 25th to 27th February 2026 – less than 2 weeks away!

Please ensure full payment is received via ParentPay by Friday 13th February 2026.

Y4 PETTY POOL: 27th to 29th April 2026

Y3 FOX HOWL: 7th to 8th May 2025

The Week Ahead	Start Time	End Time
Friday 13th February		
INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED		
Monday 23rd February		
SCHOOL REOPENS	8:55am	
Y6 Forest School	PM	
D.R. Sports – Multi Sports (Y1-Y6) www.drsportsclubs.co.uk	3:30pm	4:30pm
Tuesday 24th February		
Y1 Stay and Learn – Phonics Screening	9am	10am
Y4 Clarinet Lesson - Love Music Trust	PM	
Wednesday 25th February		
Y5/6 Robinwood Residential	9:15am	
ARTIS performing arts workshops	ALL	DAY
D.R. Sports – Dodgeball/Basketball/Netball (Y1-Y6) www.drsportsclubs.co.uk	3:30pm	4:30pm
Thursday 26th February		
Y5/6 Robinwood Residential		
Rock Steady Music	ALL	DAY
Friday 27th February		
Y5/6 Robinwood Residential		3:25pm
Year 3 and 4 Swimming (Remember swimming kit)	PM	
D.R. Sports – KS2 Football www.drsportsclubs.co.uk	3:30pm	4:30pm

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



Father David and St. Vincent's Church - Information

St Vincent De Paul RC Church, Knutsford (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 - On Sunday 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.

JOINT PARISH CAMBODIA LINK: Message from Fr David - I am delighted to report that I have sent a further \$15,000 to Fr Totet following your generosity before Christmas and a generous donation from a St Vincent's parishioner. A total of \$30,000 has now been sent in advance of our arrival in Cambodia on 2nd February which is well on the way to reaching our target figure of \$40,000 towards the building of the classrooms at the Jesus Farm. Construction of the classrooms is well underway.