

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter  
17 January 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

In today's increasingly connected world, the use of mobile phones by children is a topic that requires careful consideration. While mobile phones offer convenience and connectivity, it is vital to reflect on whether children are ready to take responsibility for using these devices safely and appropriately.

It has become increasingly common for younger children to have access to smartphones, which raises important questions about their readiness to navigate the internet and use features like photography responsibly. At a young age, children may lack the maturity to fully understand the implications of their actions online or when sharing images. As a community, it is important for us to guide children in developing healthy and respectful habits when using technology.

With mobile phones often comes the use of apps such as WhatsApp and others, many of which have age restrictions well above primary school age. These restrictions are in place for good reason, as such apps can expose children to risks including inappropriate content, online bullying and privacy issues. I encourage all parents to carefully monitor the apps their children use and to have ongoing conversations about safe and respectful communication online. Ensuring that children only use age-appropriate platforms can significantly reduce potential risks.



**Instagram** 13+



**Snapchat** 13+



**TikTok** 13+.



**WhatsApp** 16+.



**Facebook** 13+



**YouTube** 13+

I urge all parents to consider the safety implications of allowing children unsupervised access to mobile phones and the internet, especially when socialising outside of school. Many families may choose not to give their children unrestricted access to the internet and it's important that we teach our children to respect these boundaries when they are with friends or in social settings. Encouraging a sense of responsibility and respect for others in these situations helps to foster a safe and supportive community for everyone.

It is also essential to discuss with your children the importance of using mobile phones sensibly. This includes understanding the potential risks associated with internet access and photography. A simple act like taking or sharing a photograph might have unintended consequences, especially when other children's privacy and feelings are involved. As parents, it is vital to guide children in navigating these challenges responsibly.

At St Vincent's Catholic Primary, we have clear rules regarding the use of mobile phones. Children in Year 5 and Year 6 are allowed to bring their phones to school, but these must be handed to the school office upon entering the building. Additionally, written parental permission is required for children in these year groups to bring their phones to school. Under no circumstances should mobile phones be used by children unsupervised within the school grounds, including the playground. These rules are in place to protect both the children who bring phones and the rest of our school community from potential misunderstandings or allegations. We ask for your full support in reinforcing these guidelines with your children.

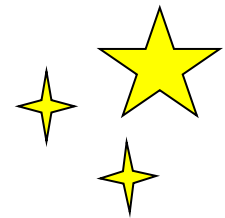
It is also important to note that inappropriate use of mobile phones, apps, or photography can have serious consequences. In certain cases, the law may need to be applied, especially if actions involve online bullying, harassment, or the sharing of inappropriate content. It is essential for children to understand that with the use of technology comes responsibility and that criminal responsibility in England begins at the age of 10. By reinforcing this awareness at home, parents can help prevent situations where inappropriate use leads to lasting consequences for their child or others.

As we continue to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of all our pupils, I encourage you to have open conversations at home about these topics. Discuss the importance of respecting others, thinking critically about online content and adhering to school policies. By fostering this sense of awareness and responsibility, we can help our children navigate the digital world with care and integrity.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gonzalez

## Stars of the Week



Reception – Isiuwa for some fantastic blending when reading.

Year 1 – Luna for kindness and willingness to help others.

Year 2 – Paula for consistently working hard and showing a great attitude to learning.

Year 3 – Harper for the effort put into completing tasks.

Year 4 – Leonardo for continued improvement in creative writing.

Year 5 – Ezra for great perseverance when faced with challenging tasks.

Year 6 – Daniel for making an improved effort to follow instructions.

## School Value Awards

Reception – Aliane for fantastic resilience with her learning.

Year 1 – Kyrie for setting high goals and working hard to achieve them.

Year 2 – James for consistently showing kindness and respect to others.

Year 3 – Yeani for putting in best effort and striving for excellence.

Year 4 – Gabriel for continuous effort to improve and correct work.

Year 5 – Isabelle for a deep interest in learning, exploring new ideas with enthusiasm.

Year 6 – Elsie for making a determined effort to improve.

## Dates for your Diary

Parents and families are warmly invited to join us in celebrating Mass.

If you would like to accompany the school as we walk to Mass, please inform your child's teacher so they can coordinate the arrangements.

Additionally, the Celebration of the Word will take place in the school hall, and parents of the respective year group are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 22 January	Year 4 Celebration of the Word
Wednesday 22 January	Year 5 to attend Mass
Friday 24 January	Year 4 to visit library
Wednesday 29 January	Year 4 to attend Mass
Friday 31 January	Year 5 to visit library
Monday 3 February	Break the Rules Day
Wednesday 5 February	Year 2 Celebration of the Word
Wednesday 5 February	Year 3 to attend Mass
Tuesday 11 February	Year 5 outing to National Portrait Gallery
Wednesday 12 February	Year 1 Celebration of the Word
Wednesday 12 February	Year 6 to attend Mass
Monday 17 – Friday 21 February	Half term break
Friday 4 April	Last day of Spring Term
Tuesday 22 April	First day of Summer Term

**Term and holiday dates up to July 2026 are shown on the school website**

## This Week's Attendance

13-17 January 2025	
Reception	94.6%
Year 1	94.1%
Year 2	99.6%
Year 3	98.8%
Year 4	98.5%
Year 5	95.5%
Year 6	98.1%
Whole school	97.2%

