

Focus on.... Friendship week

What a wonderful week it's been here in school with so many lovely friendship activities going on via zoom or socially distanced in the classrooms and on the playground. This week we have marked National Anti-Bullying Week by having a Friendship Week in school. The purpose of such a week is to celebrate the gift of friendship and to review our practice in school relating to friendship issues. We have also looked at what is bullying and focused on "United against Bullying."



Today the Year 4s finally met their Reception reading buddies! Each buddy introduced themselves to each other and told interesting things to each other from a distance. Everyone enjoyed meeting their buddies and we hope that we will have a good friendship in the future. *By Harrison and Archie*



Newsletter 11

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

The Gospel by Mrs Holland

Like many other readings in the Gospels, Matthew 25:31-46 talks about the separation of those who strive to help others and those who don't. Jesus is telling us that what matters most is whether we choose to look after others and how well we do that. The examples given in this reading are actually quite basic needs: food, clothes, a listening ear...all the things that we, as a caring community strive to do when asked. However, it is important to note that Jesus also reminds us in this Gospel that when we do these things for others, it is Jesus we are serving. One of my favourite prayers which we say in school is the prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Avila, which begins: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours; Yours are the only hands with which He can do His work." I find this prayer a very powerful reminder of our purpose. We all live very busy lives but sometimes, it is worth pausing to remember that it really doesn't take much to continue God's work here on earth. Small acts from us can have a big impact on others.

Behaviour Awards

This morning I gave out badges in each classroom, well done everybody!

Good Conduct Award – Excellent attitude in all aspects of school life.

Courtesy Award – Good manners and polite behaviour.

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

Year Group	Good Conduct Award	Courtesy Award	Merit Award
Reception	Frank	Tommy	Jenson
Year 1	Jane	Niamh	Annie
Year 2	Tilly	Michael M	Sofia
Year 3	Isla H	Maison	Harry
Year 4	Isaac	Jessica	Archie
Year 5	Will	Jack D	Bella
Year 6	Giorgio	Aodhan	Thomas F

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, Christmas will be very different this year but don't worry, It has not been cancelled! We cannot have the usual key stage plays which we enjoy so much but some things will stay the same. We will still have class Christmas parties. We will still have our delicious Christmas dinner on Thursday 17th and we will still have a Christmas jumper day on Friday 18th! All of these events will take place in the final week of term and we will send out specific details nearer the time.

After long discussions with staff, we have also come up with a plan to still have our wonderful Carol Service which has always been led by Mrs. Cox. The service sets the tone beautifully for the true meaning of Christmas and has always been a very reflective, thought-provoking occasion. This year, we aim to involve all of the classes – each taking a different part of the story to tell - and parents/carers will be invited to 'zoom' in and be part of our celebration. The service will take place on Monday 14th December in the afternoon and, technology willing, should be a lovely opportunity for us to 'gather' as a school family. More information will come out nearer the time.

Due to current restrictions, we cannot send home our travelling crib this year either. This is such a shame as I know families who have experienced it have gained so much from it. To replace this, we are giving each of our families their own Advent Candle to keep at home and burn daily. Prayers and activities will also be sent home and I very much hope that you take time in your day to be still and reflect. Please email school any photos of your family with the candle reflecting on the true meaning of this time of year.

God Bless

Bernadette Groarke and the St. Vincent's team

Start/Finish Times

Here is a reminder of your child's class start and finish times. Please ensure that children are at school for the right time relevant to their class, as they will be marked as 'late' if they are not here at the right time. Thank you for your cooperation.

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Start time	8.45 (Reception door)	8.55 (Infant door)	8.45 (Infant door)	8.55 (Hall door)	8.45 (Junior door)	8.50 (Junior door)	8.45 (Year 5/6 door)
Home time	3.05 (Reception door)	3.15 (Reception door)	3.10 (Infant door)	3.15 (Hall door)	3.05 (Junior door)	3.15 (Junior door)	3.05 (Year 5/6 door)

Do you need help?

Please remember if you need any financial/food support at this time please come and see me. I can make referrals for support to The Welcome, our SVP at church and Caritas charity so if you are struggling please come and see me.

Also, 'We Are Knutsford' are here to help out local families this Christmas who may have been impacted financially from the pandemic. <https://knutsford2you.org/we-are-knutsford-covid-19-christmas-grant/>

Cheshire East Council's Homechoice and Prevention Team also have staff available to deal with homelessness prevention; the officers can give advice to families on a variety of issues e.g. concerns relating to rent and mortgage arrears, debt and the fear of losing their home. Early intervention is something they encourage. They have leaflets and a website. For a referral into appropriate advice and support Phone: 0300 123 5017 Email: cheshirehomechoice@cheshireeast.gov.uk

First Forgiveness for Year 4

An email from our catechists was sent out yesterday with information for our Year 4 children about First Forgiveness. With support from home, the Parish, Fr David, Mrs Davies and Mrs Duffy, the children will make their First Forgiveness in school on **8th December**. Please could Year 4 children bring the first of the preparation books '**Making Things Right**' into school on **Tuesday 24th November**, as we will be reviewing the work that the children did earlier in the year. This will form part of their preparations in school.

Behaviour policy

As part of friendship week we have looked at our behaviour policy and our 5 Golden Rules. http://www.stvincentsknutsford.co.uk/serve_file/814533 The children have been designing and updating poster for the classrooms and school areas.

New playground

As you can see our new playground is taking shape. We are very excited that our Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is nearly finished.



Mini Vinnies Reverse Advent calendar

Our food banks are desperately short of many items and so we are running a scheme called the Reverse Advent Calendar. We took part in this a few years ago and our Mini Vinnies would like to help again by organising it throughout the school. Every child in each class will be allocated a day to bring in an item of food from the list given to us by the food bank and place it into a box situated in their classroom, the idea being that they add something to the 'calendar' for the benefit of those in need rather than taking something for themselves. This was a huge success the last time we took part and I very much hope it will be again. However, this year, we would like to start it early in order to get the donations to the right place in time for it to be distributed before Christmas. Please ask your child which date they have been given and do try to send in a donation. This year, more than ever before, our help is needed.

Unwanted Visitors!

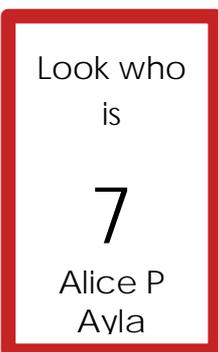
Please can all parents check their child's hair as we have some unwanted visitors in hair in Infant classes again. Head lice are very common in schools, they do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. All children who have long hair need to have it tied up at school. For information on how to treat head lice please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Pupil Premium Funding/Free School Meal entitlement

All children in Reception class, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal under current Government policy; this is known as Universal Free School Meals. However, you may be entitled to Income Related Free School Meals if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit shown below. If this is the case, please apply for this even if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1. The school can then claim additional funding for resources, known as Pupil Premium, which can be used to help your child when they are in school. The financial benefit of Pupil Premium will remain with your child throughout their school years. Phone 0300123 5012 for further information and help or apply online: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx or contact Mrs Watson in the school office.

Birthday Wishes!

"Happy Birthday" to the following children:-



The Week Ahead

Subject	Start Time	End Time
Monday 23rd November 2020		
Year 2 After School Sports (DR Sports)	15:15	16:30
Tuesday 24th November 2020		
Year 4 – Wider Opportunities Music. Please remember your clarinet.	PM	
Year 3 After School Sports (DR Sports)	15:15	16:30
Wednesday 25th November 2020		
Fluenz – all school		
Year 4 After School Sports (DR Sports)	15:15	16:30
Thursday 26th November 2020		
Year 5 After School Sports (DR Sports)	15:15	16:30
Friday 27th November 2020		
Year 6 After School Sports (DR Sports)	15:15	16:30

Forest Schools – Reception Class

Today all of Reception had a magical afternoon exploring our grounds. They all played team and trust games. Everyone had fun making a stick person, trying to tie knots, sawing bits of wood and interacting with nature. They were so lucky with the weather!

