



**We learn together, we play together, we pray together,  
we grow together in the love of God**

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**SPRING TERM 2022**

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

## Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday we were delighted to welcome Katy Ramsey, the Mini Vinnies Manager from the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She came to lead the commissioning ceremony for the ten pupils at St. Theresa's who were successful in their applications to become **Mini Vinnies**. Mini Vinnies are 7 to 11 year olds based in schools and parishes across England and Wales, and in several other countries across the world. They come together to form a part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales, a voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms. Mini Vinnies meet to pray, discuss and support however they can to help make a difference in their communities. Mini Vinnies truly turn concern into action as they use the simple formula of 'see, think, do' to find people in need and help them. Congratulations to Michal Y6, Isabel Y6, Evie Y6, Mamie Y5, Fatima Y6, Margaret Y6, Darcy Y6, Manuela Y5, Mya B Y4 and Shirley Y4. We look forward to hearing their ideas about how they are going to help others.

Yesterday evening the Year 3 and 4 pupils retold the Easter story for their parents and carers. They sang beautifully and it was a really lovely way of portraying the story of Jesus' life and death. A very well done to all the children, and to Mrs Katin, Miss Cameron, Miss O'Brien and members of the support staff who rehearsed with them.

At the end of April we will be saying goodbye to two members of staff. Mr Ruddy, whose association with St. Theresa's spans back over 20 years, will be leaving primary school teaching to pursue other paths. In his most recent time at St. Theresa's he has taught pupils throughout the whole school and across the whole curriculum. We will certainly miss his wealth of experience and depth of knowledge. We are also saying farewell to Mrs Dias who has been at St. Theresa's for just under 8 years. During her time here, she has contributed to the strategic development of the school through her role as Staff Governor; she has supported newly qualified teachers in her role as mentor and she has led the teaching of history and geography, and more recently English, throughout the school. Mrs Dias has been a key member of the teaching staff and will be greatly missed. We would like to say thank you to both of them and wish them the best of luck; both teachers will be returning for the first two weeks of the summer term. We welcome Zoe Theodossiou who will be the new Year 5 teacher after Easter; she will teach alongside Mrs Dias, until Mrs Dias leaves at the end of April.

A reminder to all parents that school finishes at 1pm tomorrow and there will be no after school clubs. I wish you a lovely holiday and a joyful Easter. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

*Barbara Costa*

## The Wednesday Word

"Let us allow God's constant help to make us new people."

*Pope Francis*

What did Jesus say to the woman? This Sunday's Gospel reveals the depths of God's mercy and compassion and the need for each one of us, in our own way, to make a new start with God. Regardless of our past, each day we are given an opportunity to make a new start. Jesus just waits for us with the gentleness and patience of God. Lent is traditionally a time for making a new start. Ask your child if they have made any new starts this Lent. If so, how's it going? How does their new start help them or others? It may help your child if you mention any new starts you have made recently – or especially for Lent – and tell them how it's going for you.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." *St Teresa of Calcutta.*

God is always ready to help us to start afresh. As Easter approaches, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God? Perhaps we can: remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; follow Jesus' example in this Sunday's Gospel by being merciful to others. You may also like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/lent-easter-card?pid=MTA101634&p=3&v=57.15>

I invite every community and all the faithful to unite with me on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, for the Solemn Act of Consecration of humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that she, the Queen of Peace, may help us obtain peace.



**Pope Francis #PrayTogether #Ukraine**

## School Attendance

### **Term Time Holiday Requests**

We have received some requests for leave of absence during school time. Please can we remind you that term time holiday requests will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Please ensure your child is present the last day of the term and the first day of a new term.

### **Education Welfare Officer (EWO)**

Please note that children are expected to attend school for at least 96% of the year. Attendance is regularly checked by the EWO who may fine parents for any unauthorised absence.

### **Illnesses that will not prevent your child from coming to school**

- Mild cough
- Cold/Sneezes
- Tiredness

### Parent Volunteers on School Trips

A reminder that the school will always give priority to the parents who have had a DBS (police) check completed by the school, to accompany the children on educational trips. If you would like the school to complete a DBS for you, please speak to a member of the office team. The DBS is free for you.

### Living with COVID-19 – updated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

#### Testing

The guidance for education staff and secondary school pupils to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing has been removed.

#### Contact tracing

From 24th February, routine contact tracing ended. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.

#### Individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Pupils who test positive for COVID should not attend school. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they can return to school, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

**Parents will be advised to keep their child at home until they have 2 consecutive negative lateral flow tests; the school will ask you for evidence of the two negative results. The school still reserves the right to refuse the pupil until they have had 5 full days at home and two negative results.**

#### Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

#### Safer Behaviours

Individuals can still reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- Getting vaccinated;
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meeting outside;
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high;
- Trying to stay at home if you are unwell;
- Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and
- Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.



<b>Reception</b>	Liliana for her positive attitude and confidence in our guided reading sessions. Daniel T for finding 1 more than any given number to 50.
<b>Year 1</b>	Taybah for her effort in phonics when sounding out. Saman for his effort in Maths when adding numbers using a number line.
<b>Year 2</b>	Maya for enjoying her learning, and working hard! Tye for trying really hard in all his lessons.
<b>Year 3</b>	Alan for an excellent diary entry based on the events in Pompeii. Christina for amazing acting in the Easter Production.
<b>Year 4</b>	Alice for always doing an amazing job in learning her spellings. Oliwia W for doing so well in her Maths learning and developing confidence all the time.
<b>Year 5</b>	Imina for her mature attitude. Lucas for excellence learning in Maths.
<b>Year 6</b>	All of Year 6 for the enthusiasm they all displayed during science week – very well done!
<i>The Golden Ticket Winners are: <b>Helenka (Reception)</b> <b>Narvin (Reception)</b></i>	

### **Mid Morning Snacks**



A reminder to parents that children may only have fruit as a mid-morning snack. No other snack will be permitted.

### Dates for your diary

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April	CCS Lenten Box Appeal ends
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Spring term 1pm finish
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer term
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> April	3.30pm-5pm Infant Movie Night
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> April	3.30pm-5.15pm Junior Movie Night
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Y1 visit to the Science Museum</b>
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 at Kingswood (residential trip)
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>3.45pm Secondary Transfer meeting for Y5 parents</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> May - Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Inclusive – Half Term
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff Inset – School Closed for children
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>3.45pm Reception to Year 1 Transition Meeting for Reception parents</b>
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>3.45pm Y2 to Y3 transition meeting for Y2 parents</b>
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>2pm New Reception Parents' Meeting</b>
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of Summer Term – 1.30pm finish

\*New dates in bold