



*Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus*

Headteacher: Mrs L Waldram, BSc (Hons) PGCE

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half-term it has been so far! The children have been happily settling into their classrooms, getting to know their new teachers and getting back up to speed with their work. The long summer break seems a distant memory now! Many members of staff have been adjusting to new roles this year, including myself as Headteacher. I thank you for your patience over the past few weeks as I try to fill the gap left by Mr Chiswell.

#### Welcome

I am delighted that so many new families have chosen to bring their children to St Mary's and St Vincent's this term. I hope that you will find both schools to be welcoming and caring communities. Our helpful office staff are always happy to answer any questions you might have about school, so do please ask!

#### Faith Ambassadors

I was very proud to accompany our fantastic Faith Ambassadors to St Mary's church last Friday, along with Mrs Dowling, Mr Bannan and Mrs O'Regan. We were there for the Northampton Diocese Schools' Mass, attended by all Catholic schools in the Diocese. The children were excited to spot Mr Chiswell in the row behind us, sitting with children from his new school. During Mass, Bishop David commissioned the Faith Ambassadors with the task of leading our schools on their faith journey. We pray for them in their mission, and for ourselves in our school mission - *Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus*.

#### School clubs

Following on from a recommendation in our recent Ofsted reports, Mrs Aldorino from St Vincent's has worked enthusiastically to put together a programme of clubs and trips for both schools. There are more lined up for the months ahead. I would like to say a huge 'Thank you!' to her for this excellent achievement.

#### Safety in the school grounds

Both school sites are busy places, particularly at the start and end of the day. Please help us to keep all children and adults safe by reminding your children to get off their bikes and scooters as they enter school grounds and to push them while walking. Please also make sure that they stay close enough to you to see them at all times. Last week, a car was scratched by a small child on a scooter. Please ensure that children walk on the footpaths, rather than through the car park, or between cars.

Both sites have had changes recently in terms of parking. Please could we ask you to be particularly alert to our young pedestrians as you drive around the school site, and considerate to all users of the site and the surrounding residential areas in the way that you park.

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

#### Harvest Celebrations

CAFOD's representative, Peter Haddon, will hold assemblies for the children this Wednesday (St Vincent's) and Thursday (St Mary's). He will talk to the children about the work CAFOD does to support families all over the world who are going hungry. We invite the children to wear their own bright clothes on that day – the brighter, the better – and to donate £1 via Parentmail towards CAFOD's World Food Crisis appeal.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 9:00 am, we continue our Harvest celebration with an assembly for parents and carers. Each class will perform a song or poem with a Harvest theme. As we are already collecting for CAFOD, we are not expecting food donations as well. However, we would gratefully receive non-perishable food donations at any time of the year, and will deliver them to a local foodbank.

#### Sports for Schools

The Commonwealth gymnast, Steve Frew, will join the children at both schools for a fun and motivational fitness session on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. There will be no sharing assembly on that day. All classes taking part should come to school dressed in their PE kits. (Reception class can change at school as usual.)



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Sharing assemblies

We welcome parents and carers to our sharing assemblies, which take place on Fridays at each school at 9am and are finished by 9.30am. If your child is receiving a Values certificate, you will be notified by ParentMail the day before. Note that the next two Fridays are taken up with Harvest and Sports for Schools, so normal Sharing Assemblies will resume after the half-term break.

Date change to our Academic Calendar 2022 – 2023

Our Academic Calendar has been updated for next year. Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> April will now be a Pupil Day and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April will be a staff training day. This means pupils will not need to attend school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Please do not worry - reminders will be sent nearer the time. You can find the full calendar on the school websites.

Parent consultation evenings

These are now scheduled for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Appointment letters will be sent home in the next few days. Note that dates for St Vincent's Early Years classes are still to be confirmed.

Kind regards,  
 Mrs Waldram

School Diary

Below are the key dates for the start of this academic year. **Please note the dates are subject to change so please do refer to them each time a newsletter is sent home.**

Date	Event	Time	School
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Brighten up for CAFOD - £1 donation		<b>St Vincent's</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Brighten up for CAFOD - £1 donation		<b>St Mary's</b>
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Assembly	9:00 am	Both schools
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Phonics information meeting for Reception and Year 1 parents / carers	2:45-3:15 pm	<b>St Vincent's</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Phonics information meeting for Reception and Year 1 parents / carers	9:00-9:30 am	<b>St Mary's</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Sports for schools – visit by Steve Frew, Commonwealth gymnast	Morning - Afternoon -	<b>St Mary's</b> <b>St Vincent's</b>
	Reception to Year 6 (not Nursery)		
	Last day of Advent (1) half-term	3.20 / 3:30pm	Both schools
HALF TERM HOLIDAY			
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Staff training day – no children in		Both schools
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	First day of Advent (2) half-term	8.45am	Both schools
	All Saints Day – dress in your Saint's team colours to celebrate!		Both schools
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Parent consultations: Nursery – Year 6 (St Mary's: Year 1 – Year 6 EYFS classes have consultations with parents throughout the term.)	3:30–5:30 pm	<b>St Vincent's</b> <b>St Mary's</b>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parent consultations: Nursery – Year 6 (St Mary's: Year 1 – Year 6 EYFS classes have consultations with parents throughout the term.)	3:30–6:30 pm	<b>St Vincent's</b> <b>St Mary's</b>
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas fair	11am – 2 pm	<b>St Mary's</b>



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