



## **Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to St Vincent's this week following the half-term break. The school has quickly returned to its usual rhythm — purposeful and full of energy. Pupils have settled straight back into routines with focus and maturity, and it has been wonderful to observe classrooms buzzing with learning once again during my class visits this week.

House points as we end for the half-term are Ash (205), Oak (166), Elm (160). Staff have already been awarding merits for excellent effort, focus and positive behaviour this week. It has been lovely to hear so many examples of pupils showing resilience and pride in their work so soon after returning.

### **School Governors**

On Monday, I was pleased to welcome our Governors back into school for a full update on progress and development across St Vincent's. During their visit, we shared key updates on teaching and learning, residential provision, our Nature Park developments, and the many exciting activities taking place this term. Governors had the opportunity to observe school life in action and hear directly about the achievements and aspirations of our pupils. I would like to sincerely thank them for their continued support, challenge and commitment — their dedication plays a vital role in helping us move the school forward with confidence and ambition.

### **Government SEND Consultation**

On Monday, the Government published its latest Education White Paper, outlining proposed reforms and priorities for the education system in the years ahead. The document sets out a broad vision for raising standards, strengthening accountability, and continuing to improve support for children and young people, including those with additional needs. While many of the proposals will take time to be fully developed and implemented, we will continue to review the detail carefully and consider what it may mean for St Vincent's and the families we serve. If any parents or carers would like further clarity or have specific questions about

the White Paper, please do not hesitate to contact me — I am very happy to discuss it with you.

### **RHS Nature Park**

This week, we were excited to take delivery of the first materials for our new school pond, marking another important step in our Nature Park development. There has been a real sense of anticipation as staff and pupils begin preparing for the build, discussing design ideas and how the space will be used for learning. The pond will become a valuable feature of our biodiverse grounds, supporting hands-on exploration in science, sustainability and environmental stewardship. It's wonderful to observe the enthusiasm building as we move from planning to action.

### **School Council**

This week, I attended our School Council meeting to provide updates on the planned upgrades to both the Youth Club space and the ICT classroom. It was important to share where we are in the process and to invite pupils' thoughts and ideas as the developments move forward. The discussion was thoughtful and constructive, with pupils asking insightful questions about how the new spaces will enhance learning and social time.

It's always encouraging to see our young people engaging so positively in shaping the future of their school.

Wishing all staff, pupils, parents and carers restful weekend.

Mr D Swanston

Headteacher