

Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 29th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another exceptionally busy week here at St Vincent's – and the feedback I have been receiving from ongoing Annual Reviews has been of progress and success. Thank you again for everyone's attendance and contributions at these important points in the academic year.

Attendance this week has been good – and the new house and merit point system is now in full-swing. The running points order this week is Ash (12), Elm (13) and Oak (14).

Christmas rehearsals are on-going – and a special mention this week to Lucas who has been providing us, as always, with some wonderful piano pieces.

Braille 200

This week we celebrated 200 years of braille and our very own Izzy made her way to London to represent St Vincent's School and join members of the RNIB as they held their launch event at the British Library. Combining fantastic habilitation skills with on-the-go reporting – Izzy kept us all up-to-date here back at school – and we heard more about her journey during today's assembly. Well done, Izzy.

BBC Radio Merseyside

On Wednesday we welcomed Kevin Duala from BBC Radio Merseyside to school to discuss school life and pupil aspirations. Kevin was joined by Bo, Sienna, Frankie-J and Macy – who all shared their thoughts on school and their goals of playing for Manchester United VI football team to stand-up comedy and politics. Kevin's visit was timely, and coupled with the recent and on-going success of Strictly's Chris McCausland – Chris is an ex-pupil of St Vincent's and his sister (and member of the St Vincent's reprographics department) Miss McCausland joined Kevin for the interview – sharing her own experiences of St Vincent's School. You can listen back to this on BBC Sounds. Keep it up Chris – and we are all supporting you here back at St Vincent's!

Residential

This week in residential my focus was on pupil voice and adding their contributions to the developing school prospectus. It's always pleasing to hear such positive feedback from the residential pupils – and the ways and extent the skills being learnt in residential are being

transferred in a positive and practical way – may this be via habilitation, independent living skills or self-advocacy. Well done – and thank you again.

It was also a Mexican theme! So I was super-impressed with all the dishes on offer.

Bowling Trip

A quick thank you to everyone who joined us for our first half-termly social last week – I hope that everyone enjoyed the bowling trip. More events and being planned and I will update all in due course.

Headteachers Hot Chocolate

Today we held this first Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher. Each Friday a primary pupil will be joining me for a catch-up and a hot chocolate. This week it was Isaac – who has been making excellent progress with his maths and working really hard to learn new braille letters. Well done, Isaac.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank both the Trustees and Govenrors for the opportunity to lead St Vincent's School. St Vincent's is a special place – and I look forward to working with you all – staff, children and young people as we continue to offer the very best for all our children and young people.

For those attending tomorrow – school will be open from 10 am.

Wishing all a restful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr D Swanston

Headteacher