



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the Summer Term at St Vincent's School. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Easter break. It has been fantastic to have the school come back to life this week, with pupils returning full of energy, positivity and readiness to learn. There has been a strong start across both school and residential, with pupils quickly settling back into routines and engaging enthusiastically in their learning and wider activities. The summer term is always an exciting one, with lots to look forward to, and it has been a pleasure to see such a positive and purposeful start.

House points as we end for the week are Ash (258), Oak (268), Elm (208). During assembly, we took time to revisit the values that underpin our House Points system, reminding pupils of the importance of recognising effort, achievement and positive contributions to school life. We spoke about how house points are not just about rewards, but about celebrating the everyday actions that make our community strong — from working hard in lessons to supporting others. Alongside this, we reinforced our focus on random acts of kindness, encouraging pupils to continue showing care, respect and thoughtfulness towards one another. It was a valuable opportunity to reflect on the small actions that have a big impact across our school community.

ICT

On Monday, pupils returned to school to be welcomed into our brand new ICT room, and the response has been fantastic. The refurbished space provides a modern, accessible and engaging environment for digital learning, supporting pupils to develop their computing skills, creativity and independence. It has been wonderful to observe pupils exploring the new space with enthusiasm and confidence, and we are excited about the opportunities this improved facility will bring to learning across the school.

Youth Club

There has also been a real sense of excitement around the reopening of our Youth Club this week, with pupils making full use of the new space and facilities. From table-top football to

table tennis and pool, the club has quickly become a vibrant hub for socialising and evening activities.

School Chickens

There has been growing excitement this week around the arrival of our new school chickens. Before the Easter break, Mr. Taylor invited pupils to put forward their ideas for names, and we were delighted by the creativity and enthusiasm shown across the school. As we prepare for the chickens to fully join our school community, we are now getting ready to announce and share some of these fantastic name suggestions, which has created a real buzz among pupils. It's a wonderful example of pupil voice in action, and we can't wait to reveal the chosen names very soon!

A visit from Wooden Spoon

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Wooden Spoon to St Vincent's to film and speak with both staff and pupils about the impact of their generous grant in supporting our all-weather sports pitch. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on how this facility is enhancing pupils' wellbeing, increasing access to physical activity, and strengthening our sense of community through sport — particularly football. Pupils spoke confidently about the difference it has made to their enjoyment, participation and teamwork, and it was wonderful to showcase the positive outcomes this partnership continues to bring to school life. We can't wait to share the video with you.

RHS Nature Park – updates

We are delighted to share that our new school pond is now ready to be filled and planted, marking an exciting milestone in our ongoing RHS Nature Park development. This space will become a valuable hub for outdoor education, giving pupils the opportunity to explore biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainability in a hands-on and meaningful way. Beyond this, the pond will also support pupil wellbeing, providing a calm and reflective environment within our grounds.

As we come to the end of our first week of the Summer Term, it is clear just how much has been achieved in such a short space of time. From new learning environments and enrichment opportunities to outdoor developments, pupil leadership and community partnerships, the week has been full of energy, progress and positivity. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and a real credit to our pupils and staff who continue to embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and pride.

Wishing all a relaxing weekend.

With best wishes,

Mr D Swanston

Headteacher