



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach Friday 1st May, it has been another busy and positive week here at St Vincent's, with pupils continuing to build on the strong start to the Summer Term. The recent warm weather has brought a real sense of energy across the school, with pupils engaging well in their learning both inside and beyond the classroom. It has been particularly pleasing to observe the continued progress being made, supported through our ongoing monitoring and the consistent efforts of staff to ensure every pupil is challenged and supported to succeed. There is a clear sense of purpose across the school, and I am proud of the way our pupils are approaching their learning with confidence, focus and enthusiasm.

House points as we end for the week are Ash (268), Oak (273), Elm (221).

Speed of Sight

On Monday, a group of pupils had the incredible opportunity to take part in a racing car experience with Speed of Sight. This unique and inspiring session allowed pupils to get behind the wheel in a safe and supported environment, building confidence, independence and a real sense of achievement. It was fantastic to see the excitement and pride on pupils' faces as they embraced the experience, with many stepping well outside of their comfort zones. Opportunities like this are truly memorable and play an important role in developing resilience and self-belief. Well done all drivers!

Sony PlayStation HQ

This week, a group of pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Sony PlayStation HQ, where they met with members of the sound design and inclusion teams. The visit provided a unique insight into how accessibility and inclusive design are embedded within the gaming industry, particularly in relation to audio and user experience. Pupils engaged thoughtfully in discussions, sharing their own perspectives and experiences, and it was fantastic to hear them representing the school with such confidence and maturity. Experiences like this help to broaden horizons and highlight the important role our pupils can play in shaping more inclusive futures. Well done Natan, Joyal and Alfie!

Archdiocese Visit

This week, we were pleased to welcome colleagues from the Archdiocese to St Vincent's. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to share the ongoing work around our CSED, including developments in teaching and learning, pastoral care and our wider provision. It was particularly pleasing to showcase the positive experiences of our pupils, who spoke with confidence about their learning and school life. We are grateful for the continued support and interest from the Archdiocese.

Quick 5

This week, I continued with my Headteacher's "Quick 5", spending time speaking directly with pupils to gather their views on learning, progress and what they enjoy most about school. This simple but powerful approach gives pupils the opportunity to share their experiences in a focused and meaningful way, and it has been incredibly valuable in helping us understand what is working well and where we can continue to improve. It has been particularly pleasing to hear pupils speak with confidence about their learning and to see the pride they take in their achievements across the school.

RHS Nature Park

We are excited to be receiving a range of field recording equipment as part of our work within the RHS Education Nature Park, including nature cameras and 360-degree sound recorders. This equipment will provide pupils with new and engaging ways to explore and document the natural environment around them, linking directly to learning in science, geography and our wider curriculum. It will also support projects such as sound recording and environmental storytelling, allowing pupils to capture and reflect on the world in a meaningful and accessible way. We can't wait to observe the creativity and curiosity this inspires, as well as the positive impact it will have on both learning and wellbeing.

Chicken Coop

This week, we were delighted to welcome the arrival of our new chicken coop, marking another exciting step in preparing for the introduction of our school chickens. The coop will provide a safe and welcoming home for our new arrivals and will play an important role in supporting pupils' learning around responsibility, care and sustainability. There has already been a great deal of excitement across the school, and we can't wait for the next stage as we continue to develop this hands-on and engaging addition to our outdoor learning provision.

As we come to the end of another busy and successful week, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. It has been wonderful to observe the energy, enthusiasm and progress across St Vincent's as we continue through the Summer Term. Finally, a reminder to tune into Equal Eyes Radio, where you can hear some fantastic pupil-led content and updates — this can be accessed via the school website.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Mr D Swanston

Headteacher