



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 5th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all pupils and families as we begin the final half-term of the academic year. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break and has returned refreshed and ready for what promises to be an exciting and busy few weeks ahead. This final half-term is always one of the most rewarding, with a wide range of learning opportunities, enrichment activities, educational visits, sporting events and celebrations planned across both school and residential provision.

It has been wonderful to have pupils return with such positivity and enthusiasm, and I can't wait to hear how they continue to grow in confidence, independence and achievement as we move towards the end of another successful year at St Vincent's.

As we move towards our Sports Day finale later this term, I would like to remind pupils of the importance of our House Points system. House Points recognise the many positive contributions pupils make each day, whether through effort in lessons, random acts of kindness, excellent attendance, representing the school or demonstrating our values. Every point earned contributes towards your House total, and with the competition still very much open, there is everything to play for. I encourage all pupils to continue giving their best, supporting one another and collecting as many House Points as possible as we build towards an exciting Sports Day conclusion.

House points as we end for the week are Ash (306), Oak (295), Elm (254).

Settled Chickens

Over the half-term break, our new school chickens have been settling into their new home and I am delighted to report that they are doing very well. They have quickly adapted to life at St Vincent's, exploring their surroundings and becoming comfortable in their new coop. Even more excitingly, they are now happy and laying eggs, much to the delight of pupils and staff alike. The chickens are already becoming a much-loved part of our school community and will provide fantastic opportunities for learning, wellbeing and responsibility as pupils continue to care for them throughout the year.

Congratulations Lucas

A special congratulations goes to Lucas, who achieved his Level 5 Piano Award with Distinction during the half-term break. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the dedication, commitment and countless hours of practice Lucas has invested in developing his musical talents. It was a fantastic way to start the week when we were able to celebrate this success during Monday's assembly, and pupils and staff were delighted to recognise his accomplishment. We are all incredibly proud of Lucas!

School Council

Earlier this week, I revisited a number of the actions and suggestions that had been raised by our School Council before the half-term break. Listening to pupil voice remains a key priority, and it is always encouraging to observe pupils taking an active role in shaping the future of our school. As part of these discussions, I was delighted to report back to pupils on Tuesday that we will be moving ahead with the development of our new Science Lab. This exciting project will provide an enhanced learning environment for practical science and investigation, and is currently planned for completion by September 2026. The announcement was met with great enthusiasm, and I can't wait to share further updates with pupils, staff and families as the project progresses.

Ministry of Eco Education Schools Award

This week, we were incredibly proud to learn that St Vincent's has become the first school in the UK to receive accreditation from the Ministry of Eco Education. This prestigious recognition reflects the significant commitment shown by pupils and staff towards sustainability, environmental education and outdoor learning. From the development of our RHS Nature Park projects, pond, orchard and school chickens, to the many opportunities pupils have had to engage with biodiversity and conservation, this achievement recognises the collective efforts of our whole school community. It is a fantastic milestone for St Vincent's and one that highlights our commitment to preparing pupils to be responsible and environmentally aware citizens of the future.

A visit from Humanware

On Thursday, staff and pupils were delighted to welcome Humanware to St Vincent's, where we had the opportunity to explore and test the new BrailleNote evolve. The visit provided valuable hands-on experiences for pupils, allowing them to trial the latest assistive technology and consider how it can support learning, independence and access to the curriculum. It was fantastic to witness pupils engage so confidently with the device, asking insightful questions and sharing their feedback. Opportunities such as these help ensure that our pupils remain at the forefront of developments in accessible technology and are well prepared for their future education and employment pathways.

Headteacher's Hot Chocolate

This week's Headteacher's Hot Chocolate was awarded to Noah in recognition of his outstanding effort and commitment to learning. Noah has become only the second pupil this academic year to achieve 20 Stars of the Lesson in History and Geography, which is a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to his hard work, consistency and positive attitude. Staff have also commented on the determination he has shown throughout the week, approaching his learning with enthusiasm and a genuine desire to succeed. We are incredibly proud of Noah's achievements and the example he sets for others. Well done, Noah — a thoroughly deserved winner.

As we come to the end of another busy and successful week, I would like to thank our pupils, staff and families for their continued support and commitment to St Vincent's. It has been wonderful to have such a positive start to the final half-term of the academic year, with pupils embracing new opportunities, achieving success both inside and outside the classroom, and continuing to make us proud.

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mr D Swanston

Headteacher