



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 4th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

As week 5 ends and we enter the month of October I'm already hearing of visits to the pumpkin farm, school allotment plans and residential harvests. This week has been a slightly shorter week for me in school due to other diary commitments – but it has been pleasing to hear and read all the excellent work that continues back at school. Changes to the new school library are well underway – and it has been a busy period preparing for the first lot of Annual Reviews for this term.

A focus on attendance

Over the coming weeks I will be focusing on school attendance for the half-term – and the importance of good attendance not only for academic, but social and personal development. I am pleased the overall attendance has been good so far this academic year – and will always appreciate the complex nature of the many appointments many of our children and young people have to attend out with their very busy school days.

Art, photography and wellbeing

I'm pleased that a small grant has been awarded to school to continue work in relation to art, photography and wellbeing. This grant will enable school to invest in some new equipment and plan a number of off-site trips where pupils will be able to enhance their learning experiences through the arts. I will provide further updates on this in due course.

Quality Assurance and parental feedback

Over several weeks I have been meeting with school commissioners and other professionals to share plans and some of the ongoing work at St Vincent's School. I would like to thank those parents and carers (please note not all LAs were involved) for the great feedback you provided – and I look forward to sharing with all staff in school.

National Association of Special Schools (NASS) Conference

I've spent some time out of school this week attending the annual NASS Conference in Leeds. This 2-day conference has been a perfect opportunity to share the work of St Vincent's School and connect with colleagues in the SEND sector as it prepares for changes post-election. From the use of AI in special schools to updates from Sir Martyn Oliver and Ofsted's Big Listen – there is still much to digest and feedback to the whole-school.

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

Best wishes,

Mr D Swanston

Interim Headteacher