



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is fair to say that this has been an incredibly busy and intense week at St Vincent's, with our Ofsted inspection taking place alongside all of the usual activity of school life.

An inspection inevitably brings additional pressure and scrutiny, but throughout the week I have been immensely proud of the way our whole school community has responded. Our children and young people have continued with their learning, activities and routines with the confidence and character that we see from them every day.

I would particularly like to thank our staff team. An Ofsted inspection requires a tremendous collective effort, and colleagues across education, residential and the wider school have approached the week with professionalism, openness and an absolute focus on our children and young people.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their support, including those who took the time to contribute their views as part of the inspection process. That partnership between school and families remains incredibly important to us.

There will, of course, be more to share with families regarding the inspection in due course. For now, however, I simply want to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to what has been a significant week for our school.

And perhaps most importantly, school life has carried on! Lessons have been taught, friendships have continued, residential has remained busy, achievements have been celebrated and our young people have continued to remind us exactly why we do what we do.

One of the things that an inspection week inevitably gives you an opportunity to do is reflect on your school.

For me, that reflection always comes back to our children and young people.

As a specialist school for sensory impairment and other needs, St Vincent's is a wonderfully individual place. Our pupils have different starting points, different strengths and different ambitions - and success will not look the same for every young person.

What matters is that we continue to provide opportunities for them to learn, develop their independence, build confidence, experience new things and prepare for their lives beyond St Vincent's School.

Despite everything else happening around them this week, our pupils have simply got on with doing exactly that – and I could not be prouder of them.

House points as we come to the end of week 3 are Elm 30, Ash 26 and Oak 31.

T1 Cleanup Crew

A big well done this week to our new T1 Litter Picking Gang, who have been getting out and about and helping to keep our school environment clean and tidy!

This is about much more than simply picking up litter. It provides our young people with an opportunity to take responsibility for their environment, work together as a team and develop a real sense of pride in their school community.

It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm with which T1 have taken on their new roles – and they are already making a difference.

Great work, T1 – keep it up!

Headteachers Quick 5

This week, I have been delighted to pick back up our Headteacher's Quick 5 - giving me the opportunity to spend some dedicated time with our children and young people and hear directly from them about their experiences of school.

The Quick 5 is exactly what it sounds like – five simple questions designed to capture pupil voice and find out what is going well, what our young people are enjoying and, importantly, anything they feel we could do differently or improve.

For me, these conversations are incredibly valuable. Our pupils are at the heart of St Vincent's, and their views should play an important part in how we continue to develop as a school.

As we bring what has been an exceptionally busy and significant week at St Vincent's to a close, I want to once again thank our children and young people, staff, families and Governors for their support, positivity and commitment throughout the week.

I hope you all have a relaxing, enjoyable and very well-earned weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday.

Have a wonderful weekend!

With best wishes,

Mr. D Swanston

Headteacher