



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 25th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week we have had in school as we end for a well-earned half-term break. A week full of learning, educational trips, plenty of pumpkin carving creations and a spooky Halloween disco to end!

British Wireless for the Blind

This week we welcomed Steve and Jenny from British Wireless for the Blind to school who visited to make a very kind donation of 5 brand new iPads and headphones to be used across school. Steve and Jenny were also provided with an update and demonstration of the use of our Amazon Echo's which were donated previously by them. This included residential, curriculum and extra-curricular use. Thank you again to Steve and Jenny for their generous donation. If you would like to find out a little more about their work – please use the following link: <https://blind.org.uk/>

School Council Feedback – re-introducing our school house system

This week I heard from members of the School Council as they updated me on their meetings and work for the half-term. It has been agreed that our school house system will be re-implemented – and these will be Oak, Ash and Elm. I've heard some wonderful ideas of how points can be won from Sports Dat to 'WoW' pieces of work and Random Acts of Kindness. I look forward to hearing more from the School Council after the break as we roll out our new house and points system.

Residential

My visit to residential this week was full of fun Halloween-themed activities – and the homemade pumpkin soup was delicious! Breakfast with Darth Vader was also a first. My fortnightly sleep-ins will continue after the half-term – and I'm really looking forward to working alongside residents and staff as they continue to progress through their key working sessions.

Family Ten Pin Bowling Day

After the half-term break and in addition to our Saturday activities we will be running a family ten pin bowling day for pupils and parents/carers if they wish to attend. This will be scheduled for Saturday 23rd November at Edge Lane. Further information will be shared when school returns.

Halloween Disco

Today we ended the half-term with some very spooky costumes and a fabulous Halloween disco. All staff and pupils got involved – and primary certainly made their mark. Thank you to all staff for organising this.

Celebrating our new starters

This half-term has seen 7 new starters join us here at St Vincent's – and for all this is a big change, and the start of a new journey. In assembly this afternoon we reflected on this – and how quickly all have settled into school – but also – how impressed I have been by all pupils in the way in which they have helped them settle. As we re-introduce the house system – it certainly has been a half-term full of random acts of kindness.

Finally, I would just like to say thank you to all parents, carers and staff for what has been a very busy, but successful first half-term. All have a well-earned break.

Best wishes,

Mr D Swanston

Interim Headteacher