



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a very warm (ish) welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope the festive break gave everyone a chance to rest, recharge and enjoy time with loved ones. Whilst it has felt a bit like a false start this week with many being disrupted by the snow and ice, it's been a pleasure to observe school full of energy, enthusiasm and positivity from pupils and staff alike.

House points as we begin the new term are Ash (131), Oak (98), Elm (108).

A visit from the Archdiocese

This week, we were pleased to welcome colleagues from the Archdiocese. During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with staff and pupils, tour the school, and hear about the many exciting activities and developments taking place across our community. It was a valuable chance to share our vision, celebrate the work being done to support our young people, and reflect on the strong sense of faith, inclusion, and purpose that underpins life at St Vincent's School.

School PTA

We'll be holding our next PTA meeting later this half-term, and I look forward to welcoming both returning and new members to join us. These meetings are a great opportunity to share ideas, plan upcoming events, and continue strengthening the vital partnership between school and home. I'll be updating all parents and carers with the confirmed date and details very soon — and I hope to welcome as many of you there as possible!

Bike Ability Track

This week after the snow had cleared, we were excited to reveal the markings completed on our new Bike Ability track, creating a dedicated and safe space for pupils to develop their cycling skills and confidence. It's already proving a huge hit, with pupils enthusiastically taking to the track in our brand-new Berg Buggies. Whether practising road awareness or

simply enjoying the freedom of movement, it's fantastic to have our young people engaging so actively in this new addition to the school site.

RHS Nature Park

I was delighted to share with staff this week that St Vincent's has been awarded a £5,000 grant as part of our involvement in the DfEs Education Nature Park initiative. This funding will go directly towards the creation of a new raised wildlife pond on our school grounds — enhancing our already rich and biodiverse outdoor learning spaces. The pond will offer exciting opportunities for hands-on science, ecology and sensory exploration, and will become a key feature of our sustainability and climate action work. A huge thank you to all involved in securing this funding — and we can't wait to get started!

Headteachers Hot Chocolate

This week's Headteacher's Hot Chocolate was awarded to Mazie, who has made a fantastic return to school this term. She has shown real determination in re-engaging with her learning and has approached her lessons with focus, positivity, and a great attitude. What stood out even more was Mazie's kindness and care in supporting her friends — a wonderful example of the values we celebrate here at St Vincent's. Well done, Mazie!

As we wrap up the first full week of term, I'd like to wish all our pupils, families, and staff a restful and refreshing weekend. Thank you for your continued support — and the best of luck to those representing school in the JRD Football League on Saturday.

Mr D Swanston

Headteacher