



Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to St Vincent's this week and to begin another new academic year together.

There is always something particularly special about the first week of September. After the summer break, the school once again becomes filled with conversations, laughter, learning and activity as our children and young people reconnect with friends and staff and settle back into their routines.

I have been incredibly pleased with how positively our pupils have returned. Walking around school this week, I have observed calm classrooms, enthusiastic learners and lots of smiling faces. For some pupils, returning to school after the summer can represent a significant transition, so it has been particularly encouraging to see the confidence and resilience with which they have approached their first few days. I know that the August Summer Camp has helped with this transition – so well done again to all campers who attended this year.

A very warm welcome must also go to all of the new pupils, families and staff who have joined the St Vincent's community this September. Starting somewhere new can feel exciting and daunting in equal measure, and I hope you are already beginning to feel at home with us. We are delighted to have you as part of our school.

A New Year Ahead

As we begin 2026–27, our focus remains firmly on providing the very best opportunities for every child and young person here at St Vincent's.

As a specialist school for sensory impairment and other needs, we want our pupils to be ambitious about what they can achieve. Alongside excellent teaching and learning, this means continuing to create opportunities that develop independence, confidence, communication, resilience and the skills our young people need for life beyond school.

There is already plenty planned for the year ahead, both inside and outside the classroom – and as always, we will continue to share these experiences with families through our weekly newsletters and social media platforms.

One of the things I value most about St Vincent's is that learning does not exist only within individual classrooms. It happens across the whole school – through friendships, residential experiences, enrichment, sport, creativity, independence and the many small challenges our pupils overcome each day.

That is something we will continue to celebrate throughout this year.

Working Together

A new academic year is also an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the partnership between school and home – and I hope that we can continue to grow our PTA this academic year and make it even more impactful.

Likewise, we will continue to keep you informed about your child's learning, progress and wider experiences throughout the year.

Week One – Done!

Most importantly, I would like to say well done to all of our children and young people. The first few days back can be tiring. New classrooms, new timetables, new staff, new routines and, for some, an entirely new school can mean there is a lot to take in.

They have approached the first week back brilliantly!

Thank you also to our staff team for the considerable amount of work that goes into preparing the school for September and ensuring that our pupils receive such a positive welcome back. And finally, thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support.

We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us, and I can't wait to share it with you. For now, I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned first weekend of the new school year.

With best wishes,

Mr. D Swanston

Headteacher