

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

To Love and Serve as Jesus Shows Us



Friday 20th October 2017

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Having now been part of the St Vincent's community for half a term, I would like to thank you for making me so welcome and for your support. Lots has been going on this half term to start making progress in the areas identified for improvement, and I would like to take this opportunity to summarise some of what has been going on:

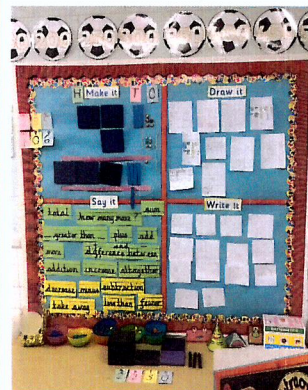
Teachers have support to further improve teaching and learning from 2 Specialist Leaders in Education. Mrs Coates and Mrs Jago are working with teachers in the classroom and during their preparation time to ensure that your children are challenged and more excited and engaged in their learning.

We are currently in the process of ordering new home reading books to improve the quality of texts being sent home for you to share with your children.

A huge thank you to the Friends of St Vincent's who are kindly purchasing these books.

Plans for an exciting writing project, working with Liverpool Hope University are currently being finalized. This project is due to start in January to support more able writers across Years 3 and 4.

Classroom environments are being improved. The initial focus has been on Working Walls used to support children in their English and Maths learning. Examples are now set up to share across the school so that as children progress through school, the Working Walls that they access as support are consistently presented but increasingly challenging.



Provision for children with Special Educational Needs has been reviewed and action is now being taken to further improve this provision. Whole school systems have already been changed to support children in making better progress, and to better involve parents in reviewing progress and setting targets.

Teachers have worked with English and Maths consultants to make sure that there is clear progression in learning across the school and that learning is becoming more challenging and engaging.

Maths teaching is now becoming much more focused on application of skills to reason and problem solve so that maths skills are immediately being used in different ways.

Writing is gradually moving towards a "text-based" approach using inspiring stories and texts to support a range of writing.

Timetables have also been reviewed so that Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling are given specific teaching time to ensure that basic skills are learnt and reinforced regularly.

All teachers are receiving training to develop them as subject leaders or Senior Leaders so that they can demonstrate how they are improving the quality of teaching and outcomes for pupils in the areas that they lead.

I am now pleased to confirm that the courtyard area outside the hall is being renovated over half



term. The new equipment will be used to improve PE lessons, but children will also have access, on a rota basis, to the equipment at break time.

Early Years has been audited and new resources are due to arrive in school any time.

Baseline assessments in Reception class have also been moderated as accurate. This now gives us a clear starting point for the children on which to build to ensure that we challenge them in their learning and give them the best start to their education at St Vincent's.



We held our first Parent Forum earlier this week, focusing on homework across the school. Lots of ideas were discussed and the final details will be shared as soon as possible. This should ensure progression in homework expectations as children move through the school and a consistency across the school which was lacking.

A consistent message to come from our discussion was the value of the class blogs. We will re-introduce these as soon as possible as part of our updates to the school website. This, along with the full year overview, half-term curriculum overview and Twitter, should give you plenty of information about your child's learning.

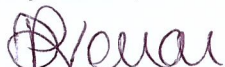
From next half term, I would also like to invite any parents, carers or family, to join us each Friday for our weekly celebration assembly. This will give you the chance to celebrate Collective Worship with us, and to celebrate the achievements of the children. Every 3 to 4 weeks the Collective Worship part of these assemblies will be led by the children, to celebrate their Come and See learning.

Children will be asked to bring home pencil cases when we finish for half term. We provide all the necessary equipment for children to use during their learning in school. As part of our work to improve the classroom environments, we are working on de-cluttering so that eventually everything on display and all resources available are there for the benefit of the children. With this in mind, we would be grateful if children no longer bring their own pencil cases and equipment into school. Thank you.

Finally, I would also ask that you continue to support our *Friends of St Vincent's*. Events happen because of the hard work of a small group of parents who would greatly benefit from some extra support, whether it be with planning events, or helping to run them on the day. If nothing else, please try your best to come along to events organised, as any funds raised come straight back to school to benefit your children.

This half term has been a busy and exciting start to the year, and I look forward to sharing further information about how St Vincent's is improving and moving forward.

Many thanks,



Dominic Vernon
Interim Headteacher