

# St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School



*To Love and Serve as Jesus Shows Us*

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Dear Parents,

I have found St Vincent's to have a warm and friendly atmosphere and the welcome I have received from the staff, children and parents has been much appreciated. It is a privilege for me to have been asked to support the school and to guide the children's education until a suitable headteacher is appointed. The school's intention is that I remain in post until the end of the autumn term.

My remit is to move the school forward by enhancing the quality of educational provision for the children and securing improved outcomes. You will appreciate that this will undoubtedly require the need for some changes. However, I would like to reassure parents that any change will only be implemented in the best interests of the children.

The changes made this week have primarily been focused on improving safety for everyone in the school community, enhancing the lunchtime experience and raising the expectations of children's behaviour. The initial impact of these changes has been very positive. More changes will be made next week and we are seeking your co-operation and support for some of them.

## Punctuality

The school day begins at 8.45am and finishes at 3.00pm. The majority of children are punctual and arrive at school on time. However, there are a significant number who miss the start of the school day by arriving late.

Starting next week the school gate will open at 8.35am and close at 8.50am.

A whistle will be blown at **8.45am** to indicate the start of the school day.

Any children arriving after that time will be given a 'late card' to hand to their teacher.

This will be recorded in the school's registers and on your child's school report.

If the gate is closed then children should enter through the main door.



## Start of the School Day

To ease the congestion around the entrance doors all infant children, including reception children, will enter the building via the 'courtyard' gate. All infant parents are asked to accompany their children to the gate, where they will be met by a member of staff, and to allow them to walk through the 'courtyard' themselves. For safety reasons please do not leave your infant child at the main entrance gates. In addition, parents are asked to allow their junior children to walk across the junior yard by themselves. A member of staff will supervise their entry to the school building. The children are aware of these changes and will be able to guide their parents.

## Sweets and Snacks

The staff have highlighted their concerns about the number of sweets and crisps being brought into school for breaktimes. St Vincent's has a



long standing healthy schools status and part of this award is that it does not promote sugary snacks. Furthermore, children are sharing these snacks with other children whose parents would not normally allow them to be eaten. In future, the only snack allowed in school will be a piece or packet of fresh fruit. (Infant children should not bring any snacks to school, as the government provides free-fruit on a daily basis).

## Water



It is important that the children stay hydrated throughout the day to ensure that their learning is maximised. All children should have a bottle of water, not juice or squash, in school each day. You can save costs by using a refillable bottle.

I am quite concerned at the amount of food that is being thrown away by the children who bring packed lunches to school. To reduce this wastage the children will bring home what they have not eaten and also the empty wrappers. Any 'messy' items such as yogurt pots will be disposed of in school. This will also enable parents to monitor the amount of and what food their children are eating.

I am sure parents will appreciate the need to reinstate the school's rules and to make these minor changes for the benefit of all the children. I would like to thank parents in anticipation of their cooperation. My first week has been an enjoyable one and I look forward to working with you and having many more.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Denton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a trailing flourish.

D C Denton

Interim Headteacher