





EDUCATION SERVICES Executive Director: Carol McKenzie ST VINCENT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - Headteacher Eileen Tompkins 17th August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a pleasure to see the children so beautifully presented and happily settled back to school routines as we begin a new school year. We are so delighted to see our children return to school and we extend a special welcome to the many new families who have joined our school community.

Our school motto is "Kindness is the key to hearts " We hope we can all work together to continue to make our school a very special place to be, by making daily acts of kindness to others part and parcel of how we live each day.

Opening Mass of the school year

Fr Romanus will celebrate Holy Mass to open the school year as we ask God's blessing on the year ahead **tomorrow** Friday 18th at 11am in Saint Vincent's church and P2 to P7 classes will attend in person. All are welcome to join us and there is also an online option via Saint Vincent's church website. We also wish Fr Romanus a happy holiday as he returns to Nigeria to visit his family this weekend.

Upcoming Parent meetings

Next Wednesday at 6pm our primary 1 teachers will deliver workshops for parents /carers and we look forward to seeing a great turnout as always for this important event

We recognise the crucial role parents and carers have in the education of their children and we want to work with you and share any information and ways of working that will help your child to flourish. We are inviting all parents /carers of children in primary 2-7 to a meeting at 3.15pm on Wednesday August 30th in your child's classroom. This will give you the opportunity to meet the teacher and hear what is planned for the year ahead. This meeting should last no more than 30 mins with the chance for you to ask questions. Children may stay on in school with staff supervision while you attend this meeting.

Our P7 parents are invited to stay on with their child and attend a briefing meeting at 4.15pm from one of the Ardentinny staff on the upcoming P7 Residential which takes place from Monday September 18th to Thursday 21^{st.}

Please note that there will be a formal parent meeting for all with an appointment for individual consultation on 12th October. More information to follow.

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Sacramental Enrolment: Save the date

Parents of children who are due to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation (22nd Feb, First Eucharist (11th May) and Confirmation on a date to be confirmed are asked to attend the Enrolment Mass in Saint Vincent's church on Thursday 14th September at 7pm.

Staffing update

We are pleased to welcome Miss Bethan Shields (Room9) as a fulltime member of staff and also Mrs. Stephanie Morrison (Room5) (Mum to Eva) and Mrs. Claire Maguire (Mum to Shay) on their return from Maternity leave A special welcome too to Emer McPherson (Room 4) (who was with us as a student teacher last year) and Mrs. Kayleigh Dowie (Room8) who are joining us now as newly qualified teachers. We are also very happy to have Mr. James McBride (Room7) back on staff having completed his NQT year with us here in Saint Vincent's last year.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayer to our colleagues Mrs. Karen Johnstone and Mrs. Jane Aitken, both of whom have experienced the loss of loved ones in recent weeks.

Clubs, Wider achievement and Leadreship roles

After school clubs will begin on the week beginning August 28^{th.} We will have a cycling trip for children in primary 4-7 after school on Tuesday 22nd Parents are also most welcome to join us. We will aim to return to school by 4.30pm. It would be helpful if we could have an idea of numbers who would like to take part by Monday.

Your child also can take on a leadership role in several different groups including the Eco committee, Pupil council Reading ambassadors Mini Vinnies etc. Please encourage your child to put themselves forward for election.

Each week children will be selected by their class teacher and rewarded with certificates for following our school values. This year our values are Kindness, Respect, Resilience, and Commitment which rewards children's efforts beyond the classroom. Please ensure your child's class teacher knows about your child's wider achievements.

Parent Council

Our school is fortunate to have a very committed group of parents who form our active Parent Council led by Julia Murray Chairperson. The Parent Council provide invaluable support for our school community and are always delighted to welcome new members. We invite all our parents to join the first parent council of the session which is online on 6th September at 6.30pm

We look forward to the term ahead and hope the best is yet to come for all.

Kindest Regards Eileen Tompkins

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