Headteacher: *Mrs M McCarthy, BA, PGCE*

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

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Friday, 2nd October 2026

Dear parents and carers,



This week, we had a wonderful time celebrating the feast day of our patron saint, St. Vincent. It was a special opportunity for us to reflect on his life and think about how we can follow his example of kindness and compassion. Through fun activities, we explored ways to be more caring toward one another, just as St. Vincent dedicated his life to helping others. It was a joyful week that reminded us of the importance of living with empathy and generosity in our daily lives!

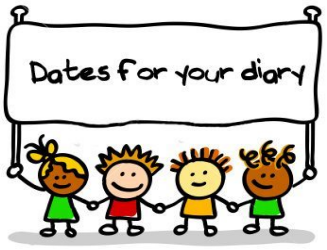
We have also started sharing our Special Boxes with our friends! The children showed so much confidence standing up in front of their peers to show what they chose to put inside and explain why each item is special to them. We have already learnt so many wonderful things about our new class!

Click here to watch this week's learning video!
(Due to some technical difficulties, video will be coming on Monday)





Dates for Your Diary:



- **W/B: Monday 5th October - Harvest Festival Collection**
- **Thursday 14th October - Black and Black Mixed Heritage Parent Forum Coffee Morning 8.30am**
- **Monday 19th October - "No to Racism" Day – Wear Red Day**

Children can replace one item of their uniform with something red, eg. red tights, red tie, red jumper or red socks, etc.

- **Stay and Plays**

From Friday 16th October, we will begin our 'Stay & Play' sessions.
During the session, you will have an opportunity to look through your child's books, get stuck into morning play as well as to have a 5 minute chat about how your child has settled into Reception and how we can work together to ensure they have a super successful year with us.

Immediately after your session, Mrs Hoogwerf will host 'Stay and Learn', during which she will focus on reading and how to further support your child at home. It's a practical session where you will have the opportunity to get involved in a phonics session and explore different ways that you can make reading fun at home.

8:30-9:00am - In class (Please arrive promptly at 8:30am for your session)
9-9:30am - Stay and Learn

Please have a look below for your child's date. If you cannot make your date, please liaise with another parent to swap dates via the Whatsapp Group and let your child's class teacher know.

Mrs Vucic	Miss Nonna/Miss Ela	Miss Szczepaniak	Miss Smart
Friday 16th October			
Olivia Neriah Logan Jesse		Boris Joshua Pia Scarlett	
Friday 23rd October			
Sofia Rocco Rafe Nolan		Anais Christina Cillian Enzo	
Friday 6th November			
	Ziad Hugo Giovanni Ethan Aliyah		Alek Annie Ida Rafe Tallulah

Friday 13th November			
Oriyah Nehir Alexandros Kamora		Cerys Eneko Oscar Zeya	
Friday 20th November			
	Elle Benedita Amelia Amanuel Avie		George Hugo Rose Phoebe Sofia
Friday 27th November			
Honor Giorgio Fabian Emma		Evelyn Gabriella Irina Leanora	
Friday 11th December			
Bowie Bertie Nalia Alba		Brammy Leo Ollie Vinnie	

Parent Curriculum Meeting



Thank you for joining us for our Curriculum Meeting. For those of you who could not attend, you can find the slides in the Parent Information section of our website. Please do take a minute to familiarise yourself with the information provided, especially the **homework** and **screen use** slides. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher.

Phonics



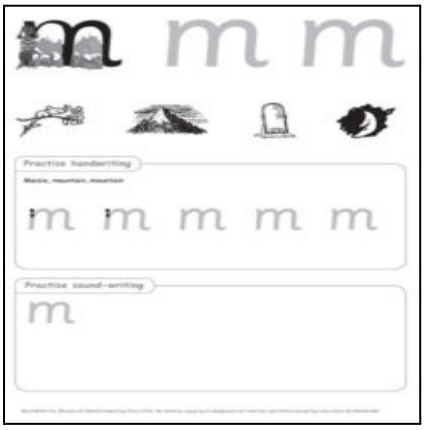
Your children have begun their reading journey! We met **Fred the frog**. Fred can only speak in pure sounds. We have been playing Fred Games and helping him blend the sounds together to make words! Ask your child to show you how Fred speaks!

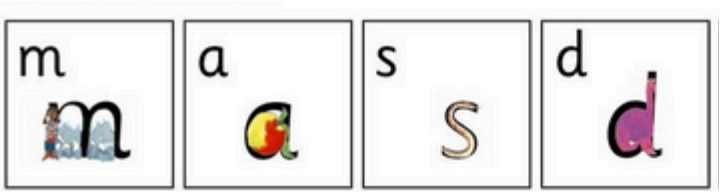
At St Vincent's, we follow **Read, Write, Inc**. You can find out more about how we teach each sound, and provide extra practice for your children by visiting our **EYFS Phonics website**, which provides a fun video for every sound. Watch along with your child and allow them to introduce you to Fred :)

Phonics Website

Letter Formation Practice

Here are the phonic sounds we learned last week! These activity sheets are for you to **keep at home for extra practise** - there is no need to return them to school.



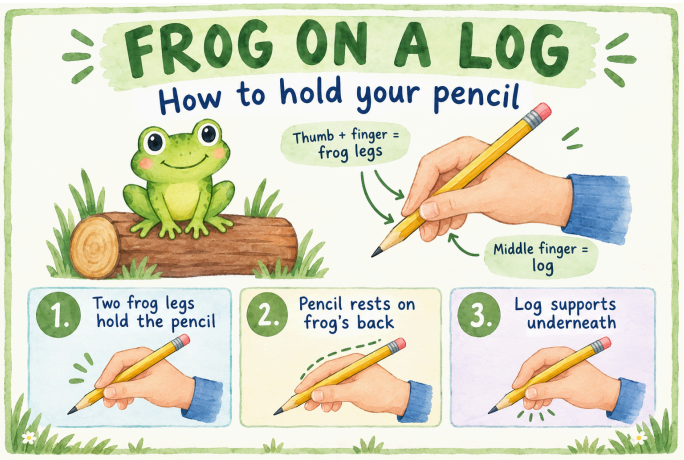


They are a fantastic window into your child's learning, allowing you to see which sounds they are confident with and which ones might need a little extra repetition. The children have learnt these sounds last week and recap them every day in class.

A quick note on sound retention: Please do not worry if your child is still working on remembering a few sounds! It is completely normal at this early stage, and we will be discussing phonics and individual progress in detail at our upcoming **Stay & Play meeting**. Any buzzing questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher beforehand.

A quick tip on mastering 'frog on a log': When mark-making with your child at home - whether that's writing, drawing, or painting - please gently support them in using the correct pencil grip. All of the children have learned the 'Frog on a Log' grip in school and are trying super hard to use it every day!

If you notice their fingers slipping, a quick, "Can you show me how you use 'Frog on a Log' at school?" usually does the trick!



While alternative grips might seem to work fine for now, using the correct tripod grip early on prevents hand fatigue and stops aches and pains as they write more in Year 1 and beyond. Thank you for helping us build these healthy habits together!

Girls' Uniform - Top Tip!

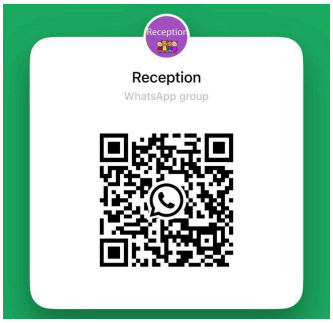
As our Reception active play involves lots of climbing and tumbling on the outdoor equipment, we strongly encourage girls to wear a pair of dark cycling shorts or PE shorts under their school dresses or skirts.



This helps our little ones play completely freely, comfortably, and confidently all day long without having to worry about their skirts flying up! Thank you so much for your support with this.

Class Reps

We would like to thank Venetia (Rocco's Mum) and Kancha (Anais' Mum) for taking on the joint role of Class Reps for Reception this year. Feel free to scan the QR code to join if you haven't already.



Just a reminder that Whatsapp Groups operate independently from school. However, they are a great way to share school related reminders and tips. Please see here for our Whatsapp Group Guidelines

What to Bring When

Monday	Reading Folder, WOW Book (stays in school until Friday)
Tuesday	PE Day, Reading Folder (gets collected in)
Wednesday	(Reading Folder goes home)
Thursday	Reading Folder
Friday	Reading Folder, (WOW Book goes home)

Please ensure Word Walls remain in the Reading Folders :)

Communication

Our school has an open door policy and we will try to answer your queries at the door. However, if this is not possible then please feel free to contact us via our school email and we will endeavour to respond within the hours of 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday.

Rainbow Class: svucic@stvps.co.uk
Sunshine Class: wszczepaniak@stvps.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing the children back on Monday!
Mrs Hoogwerf, Mrs Vucic, Miss Szczepaniak,
Miss Ela, Miss Nonna and Miss Smart

