



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

The Ridgeway

Mill Hill

London NW7 1EJ

Tel: 020 8959 3417

email: office@stvincents.barnet.sch.uk

Website: www.stvincentscatholicprimarymillhill.org.uk

Headteacher : Marie Tuohy

16th December 2016

To all Parents and Families...

Quite a term... we have had children from all over the school excelling across the curriculum and are very proud of all of them, not only for their individual efforts, but more importantly their team efforts which have been applauded by so many outside the school as well as inside – well done to all our sports teams and to our artists and wordsmiths and musicians who will all be presenting themselves in the lead up to Christmas in celebration and preparation.

Between **Nativities for Reception Class and KS1 families, Carols in the Gallery and Alice in Winterland** our Christmas preparations are bearing fruits! This morning's Reception Nativity was a wonderful chorus of little voices sharing their 'Good News – that Jesus' is coming' and families gave generously to our collection for The Passage, our Vincentian charity supporting the homeless over Christmas. Likewise this afternoon our KS1 children sang their hearts out for you and for Jesus as they desperately tried to explain the first Christmas story to a little group of aliens landing on their patch! Our doors are opened to welcome you into school to share the joys of being in a primary school at this time of year especially – there is nowhere like a primary school to capture the essence of what the birth one very special baby means to all of us. Once children learn this story they will spend the rest of their lives seeking to understand what the Birth of Jesus really means for them.

There are other joys to be shared in Father Kevin's last

CAROL SERVICE as Parish Priest at SACRED HEART PARISH

at 7.30PM on 21st December - where all will be welcome.

In a mark of gratitude for all Father Kevin has done for all of us at St. Vincent's please make your way to this highlight of Sacred Heart's Christmas celebrations where song reaches the Heavens in prayer for all the gifts we receive through the birth of Jesus.



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

The Ridgeway

Mill Hill

London NW7 1EJ

Tel: 020 8959 3417

email: office@stvincents.barnet.sch.uk

Website: www.stvincentscatholicprimarymillhill.org.uk

Headteacher : Marie Tuohy

Our **Winter Fair** ... was an enormous success so enormous THANK YOU'S are being sent out to everyone who supported in any way at all... multiple little efforts combined with all the huge efforts will always bring cause au celebre! Children and staff used the small business template for sharing ideas and creating games to draw and engage crowds whilst parents, families and friends continued in the background quietly gathering all that was needed to bring the whole theatre of the fair to life – it was a beautiful day and made a beautiful scene to be part of and you raised over **£4000!**

Everything that goes on in school that is supported by you has an impact on your individual children. We are always seeking ways of enticing all children to want to learn, to be part of the learning opportunities provided in school in so many different ways. This year we have fought hard to build technologies in the school that will hook up little minds to the possibilities that are out there for them to learn in ways that suit their personal and preferred learning styles and our Governors have supported our belief that children need to be exposed to approaches in school that they do not engage with outside of school... and they agreed for us to purchase our NUREVA whiteboards – so long as we could fund it – of course!

With **£66,000** to find we went to your PTA in the summer and you have taken the request so seriously that we already have over **£5000** to put towards the system. With proceeds from St. Vincent's Got Talent and the Winter Fair we can say we are really very appreciative of your support and donations.

NUREVA are working closely with us in refining a system to work for every child in school and we recently received the technical team from Canada who were very impressed with what your children and their teachers are using it for.

Your children will be given opportunities that will never be afforded many children across the world during their primary school years and with this comes a responsibility to teach them that they will be part of the generation to take up the mantle of choosing how to protect our beautiful, beautiful world.

Whatever contribution you make to your child's early education will benefit them and as it leads them to fulfilling God's plan when He said - *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full* John 10:10. As adults we have to keep searching for whatever it takes to give our children to be able to do that.



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

The Ridgeway

Mill Hill

London NW7 1EJ

Tel: 020 8959 3417

email: office@stvincents.barnet.sch.uk

Website: www.stvincentscatholicprimarymillhill.org.uk

Headteacher : Marie Tuohy

THE TECHNOLOGY BUS – WOW! What an impact on the children that experience was! They were so engaged in learning about coding and what they could produce using a range of technological gadgets that they were refusing to leave the 'classroom'! Miss Carey has since been receiving letters with children's 'thank yous' and I have had children asking 'can't we learn more'! The maths, the reasoning, the problem solving and the communication was all notched up that day... just watch out for all your gadgets at home that could be re-coded in the learning process!

If you would like to see your children in action over the holidays or want to be inspired to get Christmas presents for your them try taking them to Brent Cross where...

NEXTHING EDUCATION will be providing WORKSHOPS IN ROBOTICS throughout December.

This is a Pop Up Programming Shop which will be opened at Brent Cross Shopping Centre throughout December hosting pupil enrichment workshops teaching the key fundamentals about electronics, robotics and programming there is something for every child to be inspired. While the children are learning, you have enough time to hunt for Christmas presents undetected! We would like to thank this company for their generous donation of prizes to our Winter fair.

Please visit www.pop-upp.co.uk for more information.

Ajay Ghela - BSc(Hons) / Director

ajay@nextthing.education / 07774601701

NextThing.EducationLtd. 02080502605

Ministry at the Gate

During **October, the Month of the Holy Rosary** Father Robert, Parish Priest of St. Anthony's in Edgware visited the school twice a week to gather together with parents to pray to Our Lady for guidance in our lives. Many parents found tis heartening especially with so much sadness in our news on a daily basis of the hardships people are suffering not so far away from us.



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

The Ridgeway

Mill Hill

London NW7 1EJ

Tel: 020 8959 3417

email: office@stvincents.barnet.sch.uk

Website: www.stvincentscatholicprimarymillhill.org.uk

Headteacher : Marie Tuohy

During **November** we placed our beautiful poppy at the front entrance to encourage all who entered to remember all the **Holy Souls** who have died and gone before us in a mark of Faith; Faith in God; Faith in humanity; Faith in us to continue the work that they started before us, believing our world valuable enough to work and better it for the future of all who are born into it.

And now **in the midst of Advent** we wait at the door in anticipation of all that awaits us through the painting of the Nativity scene where we see Joseph and Mary looking into Baby Jesus' crib in awe of what lies ahead for them in family life.

In hope of all that is going to be better for them, through the birth of their child, and in peace, as they contemplate what they will have to provide for their child, who will be born for all the world to share for all time - they kneel together and wait, patiently, knowing that this little boy has the capacity to save the world...

... and through the birth of this little boy we teach our little children that they are born to carry on Jesus' work for Him, but for now, we bide our time and wait for His birth.

Year of Mercy – in marking the close of The Year of Mercy, which fell on the Feast of Christ the King, the whole school community took to Westminster Cathedral to walk through the Door and pray that we learn the real reason we need to be merciful to one another. Without learning to be merciful we hinder progress, we get in the way of people's well-being and we cease to live as a member of our family with God. Being merciful to one another is entirely what our work on behaviour at St. Vincent's is built upon. Behaviour includes all behaviours and ways of being – it is not only about reprimanding bad behaviour – it is an exercise in learning appropriate approaches to all aspects of integration and communication with those around us.

We now have a full complement of **Parent Reps**. Thank you to all who have taken on this very important role of service to all our families. Everyone at St. Vincent's is indebted to what parents and families have given to the school over the years through the Parent Rep teams who have been there to support the PTA in whatever form that took. So many of you quietly and consistently take up the mantle of responsibility in working with all staff in the school to create the place where all will thrive.

Next Parent Rep meeting- January 10th at 9.30 with Mrs Williams



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

The Ridgeway

Mill Hill

London NW7 1EJ

Tel: 020 8959 3417

email: office@stvincents.barnet.sch.uk

Website: www.stvincentscatholicprimarymillhill.org.uk

Headteacher : Marie Tuohy

Please read the children's version of the school newsletter – **The Voice** – and continue to keep up to date with what is going on in school through the class blog pages, diary of events, emails and texts etc

We would like to say an **enormous thank you to two children who studied the saxophone and the flute while they were at St. Vincent's** and have gone on to greater heights on their musical journeys. Both, recently – and independently, offered their first instruments back to St. Vincent's so that other children could have a chance to enjoy some of what they did here. Thank you to Ryan Flower whom many will recall delighted us often with his powerful jazz solos on the saxophone and Anna Campbell who went from strength to strength ticking off grades in the flute as if they were ticks on a spelling test, deftly using the assembly audience to build up her confidence before each exam!

With children moving house recently we do have a couple of spaces for children to start flute, saxophone, clarinet or violin in January – if your child is interested please enquire at the school office.

Our music teachers Bo and Christina work quietly behind the scenes on giving children chances to take themselves to where they can without putting undue pressure on them – see and listen for yourselves on Monday...

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at what is now a mini arts festival in the form of our Carols in the Gallery on Monday afternoon where there should be a little something to delight everyone's senses – be that in art, music or mulled wine!

Marie Tuohy

Headteacher