

Saint Vincent de Paul Primary School

September 2023



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School Holidays

*School Development Day	Friday 6 th October 2023
Halloween Mid Term Break	Monday 30 th October - Friday 3 rd November (5 Days)
*School Development Day	Friday 8 th December 2023
Christmas Holidays	Monday 25 th December - Wednesday 3 rd January School finishes at 12.00 on Friday 22 nd
New Term Begins	Thursday 4 th January 2024 Normal School Day
Half Term Holidays	Monday 12 th February - Friday 16 th February 2024 (5 days)
St Patrick's Day Holiday	Monday 18 th March 2024
Easter Holidays	Thursday 28 th March - Friday 5 th April 2024 School finishes at 12.00 on Wednesday 27 th March
New Term Begins	Monday 8 th April 2024 Normal School Day
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
May Bank Holiday/Mid Term	Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May 2024
Last Day of Term	Friday 28 th June 2024 School finishes at 12.00

Please note *School Development days may be subject to change.
PLEASE USE THE WEEKS IN OCTOBER AND FEBRUARY TO AVAIL OF FAMILY HOLIDAYS.

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School Development Targets 1 2023

Pastoral Care

1. Promotion of the Anti Bullying Policy
2. Setting up Pupil Councils e.g. Shared Education and Eco Council



Safeguarding and

Child Protection

1. Ensure School is compliant with the ETI Safeguarding Proforma
2. Retrain All Staff in Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures
3. Promotion of School Safeguarding Team



Numeracy

1. Promotion of Maths Scheme- Maths Mastery
2. Staff Training in Maths Mastery
3. Parent Numeracy Workshops
3. Creation of a Numeracy Target Bank to support children with additional needs.



Literacy

1. Promotion of Accelerated Reader
2. Use of additional reading resources
3. Focus on Phonics and handwriting throughout the school
4. Creation of a Literacy Target Bank to support children with additional needs.



Assessment

1. Creation of a timetable for Assessment across year groups
2. Use of Maths Mastery Assessment Tools



ICT

1. Creation of individual pupil passwords
2. Use of 365 to develop key skills .g. email, Powerpoint
3. Develop KS2 Pupils as digital leaders
4. Curriculum focus on Digital Storytelling
5. Promotion of Internet Safety



Nurture and Well Being

1. Use of Cosy Cove to support nurture
2. Review of Staff Training in Nurture approaches
3. Working with the School Nurse—Angela Evans and involvement in a wide range of initiatives to promote pupil Well Being e.g. Families Connect, CRIS
4. Promotion of an ethos of positive behaviour through awards and incentives



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Child Protection & Safeguarding

Our School Community

Dear Parents/Carers,

Part of the unique atmosphere of Saint Vincent de Paul Primary is the fact that we are a family-oriented school where the school is committed to families and schools working together.

However, unfortunately in today's society it is necessary to be extra mindful of the increased potential risks to children that an 'open door' policy can create. I would ask for your support in the following matter.

DRY DAYS: Children are supervised in the playground from **8.30 ONLY**

WET DAYS ONLY: Children can go directly to their classrooms from **8.30** where they will be supervised by the class teacher

LATECOMERS: Must come into school via the main front door only where your child will be met by a member of staff.

TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL EARLY: Parents must sign children out at the office.

REQUESTS FOR TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME: WE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE YOU NOT to do this. ALL requests must be made in writing to the Principal.

We would ask that parents enter the school only through the main entrance.



All parents/carers and visitors are asked to sign in and sign out at reception.

I appreciate that often parents may need a quick word with teachers in the morning, where possible this should be done in the playground or school **before class begins**. If you need to speak with the teacher at length, please arrange an appointment by telephoning the office or emailing the teacher directly.

Staff have very specific child protection procedures and guidelines that they must adhere to.

If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me by email on bmcveigh625@c2kni.net for a prompt response or by telephone or in person at your convenience.

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Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs B Mc Veigh
Principal

Sacramental Dates 2023/24

Father Vincent has asked me to share with you the following dates

Sacrament	Date
First Confession	Tuesday 26 th March 2024 at 11.00
First Communion	Saturday 27 th April 2024 at 11.00
Confirmation	Friday 17 th May 2024 at 11.00



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Communion Shop September 2023



Dear Parents/ Carers

We are delighted to let you know that we have a number of beautiful brand new Communion dresses and suits that have been kindly donated to Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre. We are holding a shopping event on

Wednesday the 13th September in school from 3.00- 5.00.

The dresses and suits are available free of charge but if you would like to make a small contribution towards school funds that would be most welcome.

This event is open to all our parents.

Yours sincerely

Bronagh McVeigh

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Free School Meals and Uniform Grant

7th September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

Thank you to everyone who has applied for Free School Meals.

Every Free School Meal contributes to our final school budget.

Did you know that the Free School Meals and Uniform grant is worth £523.90?

If you haven't yet applied or need help in applying, please call in to the school each morning next week 8.30-9.30 where we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Bronagh McVeigh

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September 2023 The School Asthma Health Care Plan

As part of accepted good practice, we now ask all parents/ guardians of children with asthma to help us by completing a School Asthma Health Care Plan for their child.

Please contact the school office to request an Asthma Form.

Phone: 028 90717920

Email: pkelly233@c2ken.net



Name of child	
Date of Birth	
Class	
Medical condition or illness	
Name and phone no. of GP	
Name/type of medicine <i>(as described on the container)</i>	
Dosage and method	
Are there any side effects that the school needs to know about?	
Procedures to take in an emergency	
Emergency contact details	
Name	
Daytime telephone no.	
Relationship to child	
Address	

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School Uniform Update

Dear Parents and Guardians

First of all, I would like to thank you for your patience regarding the issues we had with recent uniform supplies.

As we move towards our new school, we thought it was timely to review our uniform. We have made some slight changes to the colour and design of our current uniform.



This new design will take effect from September 2024.

From January 2024 our school uniform will be supplied by Truly Fare, 395 Antrim Rd, Belfast BT15 3BG.

I will keep you informed about the new design and costings.

Yours Sincerely

Bronagh McVeigh

Truly Fare
Childrens Wear



Contact Details

In case we need to contact you, it is essential that we have up to date contact information for your child. Contact the school office to update your details.



Phone: 028 90717920

Email: pkelly233@c2ken.net

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REACH OUT HLC

Transform Your Trolley

Starting Monday 2nd October

Four week online food value programme is to positively influence the eating habits of North Belfast families by focusing on the skills and knowledge around food and healthy eating, healthier shopping and enhanced cooking skills. Each family participate will receive a voucher to purchase the ingredients for the four family meals. WhatsApp group will be set up to communicate recipe video clips and general questions/queries among the group. *Families must have at least one child in the household aged between 0-12 yrs old participant in this programme*

Auricular Acupuncture Group Clinic

Starting Wednesday 8th November for 6 weeks

9.45 till 10.45.

@ Reach Out offices on 206 Duncairn Gardens, BT15 2GN

Adult Monthly Mindfulness Walks

2nd Monday off the month

9.30 - 11.30'ish

(Transport and refreshments will be provided).

Please contact Claire directly

at claire@reachoutni.org or 07585125743 to register for any of the above programme's or find out anymore info.

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Anxiety based School Avoidance



FREE Parent and Carer workshop

This online workshop delivered together with **Strive NI** will explore reasons why a child or young person may be finding it difficult to attend school, as well as providing practical strategies for parents/carers to support children to return more willingly to the school environment

Tuesday 26th September 7pm

Or

Thursday 28th September 10am

Call now for more information or book your place

0808 8020 400



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to be kept up to date with upcoming workshops.



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SAVE THE DATES

HEALTH DAYS



Men's Health Day

Friday 13 October 2023

Set up: 9am

Starts: 10.30am

Finishes: 1.30pm

Women's Health Day

Wednesday 18 October 2023

Set up: 9am

Starts: 10.30am

Finishes: 1.30pm

**Both Health Days will be held in Girdwood Community Hub,
10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast, BT4 6EG**

To register and request a Booking Form, please contact Pamela
at pamela.higgins@volunteernow.co.uk



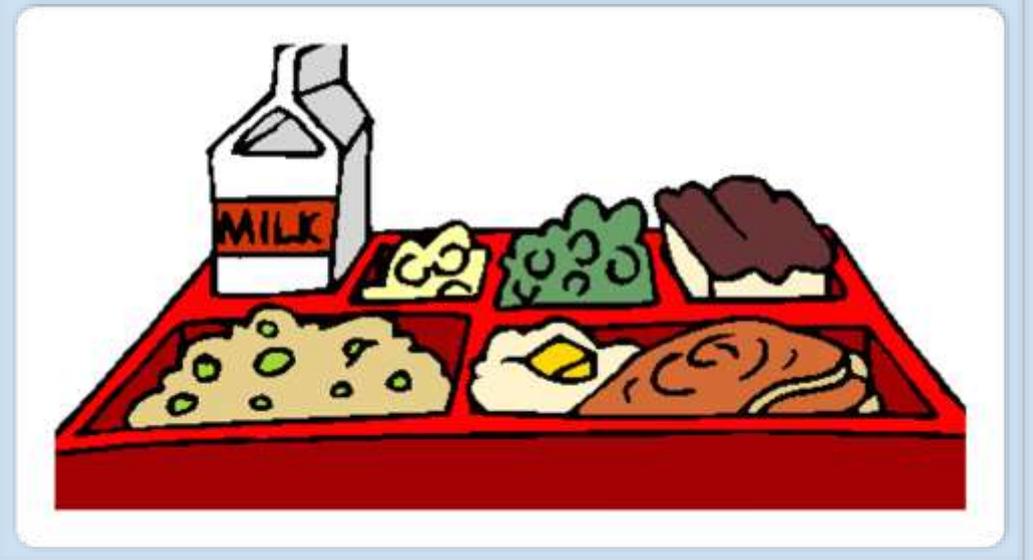
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EAT SMART WITH **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

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The School Menu



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Back to School Tips for Families



Many children will feel anxious going back to school after the summer break. One thing that can help children are morning and evening routines. You can even make these routines fun by creating games such as 'Beat the Buzzer', songs and rhymes to help with dressing, packing their bags etc. You could even make-up your own songs!

Develop a Morning and Evening Routine

Evening Routine

- Pack your child's bag
- Lay out uniforms
- Make lunches
- Bedtime Routine
- Create a relaxing and age-appropriate bedtime routine for your child, begin this an hour before you want them to go to sleep
- This could include a bath, brushing teeth and reading a book together
- Primary school age children need between 10 to 12 hours sleep each night



Morning routine

- Get up!
- Have a healthy breakfast
- Brush teeth, wash face and get dressed
- Leave the house on time

Afternoon Routine

- Change out of uniforms as soon as they get home
- Help your child to get into the habit of putting their shoes, coats and bags away
- Have a snack and a chat
- Have some time for play

Homework routine

- If possible, create a comfortable and quiet space for your child to do their homework
- Young children will need your help with homework

Helpful Tips

When you are planning your routine it is important to think about when you need to leave the house and how long the morning routine will take. Getting your child up an hour before you need to leave should ensure that your mornings are relatively calm and organised.

Give them time to play! It can be difficult for children to focus on homework after they have been at school all day. A burst of physical activity can help their concentration and will help them to relax.

Try not to allow your child any screen-time in the hour before bed. Blue light from televisions, computer screens, phones and tablets can suppress melatonin and delay sleepiness.

Remember some children have better organisational skills than others. They will need lots of help from you!



Back to School

Asking simple open-ended questions can often help you learn more about your child's day at school. Here are some ideas to encourage conversations....

What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Did anything make you feel happy today?

Did you see anyone being kind?

What was the most interesting thing you learned today?

What was the best part of your day?

Ways to reconnect and relax after a busy school day...



Sit down and enjoy a snack together



Play with a pet



Ask them about something that made them smile today



Go for a walk



Play a game or do a puzzle



Be creative, colour and paint





Parenting NI



Parenting NI is the leading charity for parenting support in Northern Ireland.

Parenting NI is committed to supporting all parents and ensuring that their voices are heard whenever decisions are made that will affect them. 'We will continue to or endeavour to deliver a range of high quality support and services to meet parent's needs' including:



Support Line

Listening to you and offering reassurance on freephone 0808 8010 722.



Programmes and workshops for parents

Including the Odyssey, Parenting Your Teen programme.



Family Support Services

Support for families including Big Lottery funded **Dads Project**



Parental Participation

Allowing parents to have their say on issues affecting them



Employee Wellbeing

Giving organisations the tools to support their parent employees.



Training

Training for professionals working with parents and families.



Click here for further information

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