



St John Vianney Catholic School

School Newsletter

Edition: 343 17th October 2025

"Everything we can be, with Christ in our hearts."



Prayer in action

In our Friday assembly this week, we focussed and reflected on the meaning and power of prayer. This week's Gospel has Jesus telling a widow to never give up praying – God is listening, even when it appears not to be the case.

Our children have been given the mission, inspired by Pope Francis, to pray 'with action'.

Prayer, without action, is a lost opportunity, he says. If we pray that our families are happy, but don't act in a way that makes them happy, then the prayer is just words. We must follow up with actions that help those prayers be answered.

Help your children to focus on one or two things that they wish to include in their prayers – it might be a small but important thing, such as praying for a sick relative or friend, or a huge thing, like praying for a more peaceful world. Then...challenge them to think of a small way in which they can help that prayer be answered – sending a card to the sick relative, being more tolerant of those that are different or unfamiliar to us; there are so many ways to help the world be a better place.

Have a wonderful weekend, from all at SJV; you are all in our prayers.

Mr. McNicholas

Notices & Reminders

We are a NUT FREE Zone – we have children and adults with NUT allergies. Please be mindful with your child's packed lunch and after school snacks.

Key Dates for your diary:

- Parent Teacher Consultations week – Week commencing 20th October
- Year 6 visit to Bruce Castle Museum – 21st October
- Year 6 Pendarren Award Assembly – Friday 24th October
- Half term holiday – 27th-31st October.
- Back to School - Children are back in school on Monday 3rd November
- Flu Vaccination Team in school Tuesday 4th November– details e mailed to parents
- FOSJV Fancy Dress Disco – Friday 7th Nov 5-7pm
- Christmas Performance – 11th December 6.30pm
- Christmas Performance – 12th December 9.15am
- FOSJV Christmas Fair – 12th December 3.30-5pm

School Photographs:

These are now available to view and order on line. The deadline for ordering for delivery of photographs to the school is **4th November**. Photographs will be distributed to parents via the children after 17th November.

Parent Teacher Consultations:

These will take place in week commencing 20th October (Monday to Thursday). The gates to the playground will be locked at the normal time after school. Entrance for parent teacher meetings after the end of the school day will be via the school office.

School Uniform:

A reminder that green and white summer dresses are for summer wear and not to be worn at this time of year. Please see the parents page of the website for more details.

Flu Vaccinations – Vaccination UK will be in school on Tuesday 4th November:

Parents have been e mailed information about this visit – please use the link provided on the e mail to agree or disagree to your child having a flu nasal spray vaccine. The deadline for completing this is Friday 24th October.

School Lunches:

We will have a new menu after the October half term. Please see following pages for details. For reference the new menu will be on the website after half term.

Autumn / Winter Menu Week 1

10th Nov, 1st & 22nd Dec, 19th Jan, 9th Feb, 2nd & 23rd March

Eativerse
A UNIVERSITY OF FOOD AND DRINK

WEEK ONE	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
Main Meal Option	Red Tractor Pork Sausage Roll & Home-baked Potato Wedges	Beef Taco with Corn Tortilla, Tomato Sauce & Sunny Rice	Roast Chicken, Gravy, Stuffing & Mashed Potato or Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Tomato & Cheese Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	MSC Fish Fingers & Chips
Vegetarian Option	Cheese & Onion Pastry Roll & Home-baked Potato Wedges	Lentil Fritter Taco with Corn Tortilla, Tomato Sauce & Sunny Rice ^{VG}	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Cheese Flan	Vegetable Fingers & Chips with Ketchup ^{VG}
Vegetables	Baked Beans & Sweetcorn	Mixed Salad or Broccoli	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Sweetcorn	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
Sandwiches	Freshly Made Sandwich with Cheddar, Tuna Mayonnaise or Ham				
Baked Jacket Potatoes and pasta Options	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans
Dessert	Vanilla Shortbread ^{VG} & Chocolate Sauce	Chocolate & Pear Crumble ^{VG} & Custard	Strawberry Jelly ^{VG}	Oaty Date Cookie	Vanilla Ice Cream

Available Daily: Pick & Mix Selection, Salad, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

Autumn / Winter Menu Week 2

27th Oct, 17th Nov, 8th Dec, 5th & 26th Jan, 16th Feb, 9th March

Eativerse
A UNIVERSITY OF FOOD AND DRINK

WEEK TWO	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
Main Meal Option	Pork Sausage & Mash with Gravy	Red Tractor Beef Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Roast Gammon, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Margherita Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	MSC Battered Pollock & Chips
Vegetarian Option	Veggie Sausage & Mash with Gravy ^{VG}	Plant-based Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Chilli & Sunny Vegetable Rice ^{VG}	Cheese Flan & Chips
Vegetables	Broccoli, Sweetcorn or Baked Beans	Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, or Sliced Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
Sandwiches, & Pasta	Freshly Made Sandwich with Cheddar, Tuna Mayonnaise or Ham				
Baked Jacket Potatoes and pasta Options	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans
Dessert	Shortbread Pin Wheels & Fruit Slices ^{VG}	Chocolate Fudge Cake	Apple Crumble ^{VG} & Custard	Flapjack ^{VG}	Chocolate Mousse

Available Daily: Pick & Mix Selection, Salad, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

Autumn / Winter Menu Week 3

3rd & 24th Nov, 15th Dec, 12th Jan, 2nd & 23rd Feb, 16th March

Eativerse
A UNIVERSITY OF FOOD AND DRINK

WEEK THREE	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
Main Meal Option	Beef Burger with Home-baked Potato Wedges	Mild Chicken Curry served with Mixed Rice	Roast Chicken Gravy, Stuffing & Mashed Potato/Roast Potatoes	Margherita Pizza with Home-baked Potato Wedges	MSC Fish Fingers & Chips
Vegetarian Option	Vegetable Burger with Home-baked Potato Wedges ^{VG}	Spinach & Sweet Potato Curry ^{VG}	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Sweet & Sour Vegetables & Sunny Rice ^{VG}	Crispy Vegetable Fingers & Chips ^{VG}
Vegetables	Sweetcorn, Baked Beans	Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	Broccoli or Sweetcorn	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
Sandwiches & Pasta	Freshly Made Sandwich with Cheddar, Tuna Mayonnaise or Ham				
Baked Jacket Potatoes and pasta Options	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans
Dessert	Chocolate Oaty Slice ^{VG}	Syrup Sponge Pudding & Custard	Apple & Cinnamon Rolls	Vanilla Cookie & Fruit Slices ^{VG}	Iced Sponge Cake with Sprinkles

Available Daily: Pick & Mix Selection, Salad, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

SJV Nursery



SJV Nursery 2025/2026 – 15 hours / 30 hours entitlement

Places are available for this autumn term if your child has turned **3 years by 31 August 2025**.

- If your child is due to turn **3 this autumn term, up to 31 December 2025**, we have an intake in the spring term 2026, subject to availability. Applications forms will be available after the October 2025 half term holiday for this intake.
- We also have an intake in the summer term for children turning **3 by 31 March 2026**, in the spring term, subject to availability. Applications forms will be available in February 2026 for this intake.

Please call into the school office to collect an application form or to speak to Mrs Alfonso if you have any questions.





Celebration of the Word – Prayer



Word:

Jesus wanted to teach his disciples that they should always pray and never give up. So he told them a story. He said, "There was a judge who didn't care about God or other people. In his town, a widow kept coming to him, asking, 'Please give me justice!'"

At first, the judge refused. But after a while he said, 'This woman won't stop asking. I'll help her so she'll leave me alone!'

Then Jesus said, "If even a selfish judge finally helped someone who didn't give up, imagine how much more God—who loves you—will help those who keep praying to Him."

Gospel according to Luke

Reflect:

Pope Francis said, "Prayer that doesn't lead to concrete action toward our brothers is a fruitless and incomplete prayer."

Sometimes prayer can feel like nothing is happening, but Jesus tells us to keep praying and never give up—just like the widow in the story. As Pope Francis reminds us, the best Prayers are linked to action. That's how prayer works!

Mission:

Keep Praying – Pick one thing you want to pray for every day. It could be for a friend, your family, someone who is sick, or even for your school. Pray for it every day and don't give up!

Take Action – Find one way to help with that prayer. If you're praying for a friend, send them a kind note; if it's your family, do something unexpectedly kind for them; if it's your school, work hard and make them proud!

Remember, God listens to your prayers, and He wants you to turn them into love and action for others.

The Mission?

Pray and Do...pick something to pray for, then DO something to help it come true!

Football Vs West Green



It was time for the big Local Derby last week (the West Green Road 'Classico'), when we played our first away fixture! It ended 7-7! Or 7-6! Or 6-7! No one really knows, BUT...we do know a great time was had by all in an exciting, high-scoring match!



Pop Art in Y1



Class 1 explored the work of the artist Bridget Riley, famous for her Pop Art creations. Y1's interpretations were fantastic!



Care for Creation



Reception class put care into action as they learned how recycling can help our planet!



Art Club in Y2



Year 2's turn at Art Club has got off to an amazing start – the children were exploring the colour spectrum in nature that we sometimes take for granted at this time of year. Beautiful colours!



Colour Patterns



Reception class have been exploring colour patterns in maths. Super work!



Online Safety

Age ratings

Despite age restrictions, many primary school children access popular social media and entertainment platforms. These Apps are NOT recommended for primary aged children, particularly without parental controls and supervision:

YouTube (13+) – Video streaming platform with a separate YouTube Kids app for younger users.

TikTok (13+) – Short-form video-sharing app with a restricted mode for younger users.

Instagram (13+) – Photo and video-sharing social media platform owned by Meta.

Snapchat (13+) – Social media app for sharing disappearing messages and videos.

Roblox (13+ for full access, but children under 13 can have restricted accounts) – Online game creation and playing platform.

Discord (13+) – Chat and voice communication app popular among gamers.

Facebook (13+) – Social media platform, though less commonly used by younger children.

Twitter (now X) (13+) – Social media and microblogging platform.

Twitch (13+) – Live streaming platform, mainly for gaming content.

Reddit (13+) – Forum-based social platform with a variety of discussions.

Online Safety

There are several reliable websites where parents can check **age ratings, safety information, and parental controls** for apps their children are using. Here are some suggestions:

1. Common Sense Media

- Provides **detailed reviews** of apps, games, movies, and websites.
- Includes **age ratings, expert opinions, and parent/child reviews**.
- Explains risks such as privacy concerns, in-app purchases, and chat features.

2. ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board)

- Official age ratings for **video games and some apps**.
- Helps parents understand the content (e.g., violence, language, online interactions).

3. Google Play Store & Apple App Store

- Official age ratings for each app.
- Found in the **app description** under "Age rating" or "Parental Guidance".

4. Internet Matters

- UK-based resource with **parent guides on digital safety**.
- Provides **app safety advice, age ratings, and parental controls**.

5. National Online Safety

- Provides **free downloadable safety guides** for popular apps.
- Covers potential risks like **cyberbullying, privacy, and in-app purchases**.

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Reception:

As always, everyone in Reception Class has worked incredibly hard this week! We have been completely captivated by the story *"How the Zebra Got His Stripes"* and have loved learning about the amazing animals that live on the grassland savannahs of South Africa.

My first star this week is **A**, for her wonderful storytelling! When retelling the story, she used fantastic storyteller language such as *"The battle began!"* and *"From his back legs, he gave a mighty kick!"* Like a sponge, she soaked up all the rich vocabulary from our story and used it brilliantly. Well done!

My second star is **N**, for his fantastic writing. He independently wrote words to go with his story sequencing, sounding out and spelling words such as *"hot," "drink,"* and *"mighty kick"* using his phonics. What great progress - keep up the brilliant work!!

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Class 1:

A big well done for all of your hard work **T!** Everyday I can see that you are getting confident in all the new things that you are learning in key stage one, class one. We have been looking at capital letters and full stops from our learning story 'Room on the Broom'. This is quite a tricky task to do at first but this week I watched you get on independently at your learning table and complete this task. You were reading and reading the text so that you were putting the capital letters and full stops in the correct part of your sentences. You copied up your sentences so well and was able to go onto the extension tasks by creating your own full stops and capital letters from the picture prompt. I have really noticed you working so hard and independently and doing your best. Well done and keep it up!

Well done to you **M** this week! You have put in so much effort into your phonics. Remembering the strategies of stretching your words so that you can hear the individual sounds in the words that you want to write. I know that you find your phonics at times tricky but myself and Ms Andersson were so impressed with you writing words and trying to write your independent sentence. What great determination you have shown this week! Well done and keep going you can do it!

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Class 2:

N A for listening attentively, working more independently in maths and generally being a conscientious and hard working pupil.

Z-J for her fantastic work in History. She wrote an excellent letter to Mr. Mc Nicholas on why it is important that we learn about the Windrush in school. She recognized the important contribution the Windrush generation have made to the NHS.

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Class 3:

P - She has worked so hard this week by showing fantastic determination and effort. She has even been doing extra work at home and she has put so much time and energy into learning her spellings. We are all very proud of how hard she has tried and how much she wants to learn and improve. Well done and keep up the brilliant attitude!

M - He has been very focused this week, showing great effort in all his lessons. In maths, he has worked really hard to complete his tasks on time, and he has tried really hard to learn his weekly spellings too. It's fantastic to see him concentrating, listening carefully, and showing that he's ready to learn. Keep it up!

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Class 4:

Our first star is M, who has always taken great pride in his handwriting and presentation. No matter the task or time limit, he never compromises the quality of his work. His writing is always neat, clear, and beautifully set out. That balance of focus and care is a real strength, and it makes his work a pleasure to look through. Well done, M

Our second star is N, who has such a thoughtful and mature approach to learning. She takes clear notes at the right moments, using bullet points and key words to capture important information, and then turns them into full, well-structured sentences in her work. She is always ready to learn, organised, and sets a wonderful example to those around her with her focus and independence. Well done to both M and N, you are great role models in our classroom.

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Class 5:

Our first star this week is going to a D&T expert. This young star has shone for her calm, careful and methodical work as we prepared to make soft toys inspired by the story, 'The Tortoise and the Birds'. Not only did she create a design that really stuck to the essence of the brief (keep it simple!!!), she also took on board some constructive criticism to make key changes to improve her work. I am very excited to see how this project turns out, well done and good luck to C.

Our second star is going to a young lad who proved himself to be a very good role model this week, both in the classroom and out and about in London on our trip. First of all, we were very impressed by how respectfully and reverently this young lad approached prayer times in class, making sure he stopped to properly listen and reflect. Secondly, he proved himself to be an excellent line leader as we navigated some busy pavements and train stations. He made sure he kept pace and conscientiously avoided chatting to his partner so that he could do a good job. Well done to R.

STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...

17th October 2025



Class 6:

This week, J has shown fantastic focus and determination during the writing process. He has listened carefully to teacher and peer ideas, and worked hard to draft, edit, and improve his work on a whiteboard and in his writing book, showing real pride in making his writing the best it can be. Well done J for all of your effort, perseverance and achievement.

This week, L has impressed us all in Geography by displaying such fantastic knowledge in our Energy and Climate Change lessons in asking interesting and thoughtful questions. His curiosity and enthusiasm have helped deepen class discussions and inspired others to think more deeply about the world around them and about the issue of climate change. Well done, L!

celebrate!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

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celebrate!





