

St John Vianney Catholic School Newsletter

Edition: 2016-17 / 10 (28th September 2016)

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



Our positive start to the year continues! Each month the children will focus on the values that shape our lives, both from a faith point of view and from the point of view of what it takes to be a happy and successful citizen of Modern Britain. September's twin foci have been: **The Promotion of Peace** (as a Catholic Value) and **The Rule of Law** (as a British Value).

Clearly, these two are closely linked, and the children have been very thoughtful and reflective around our discussions. They have shown a considerable knowledge of where in the world there are issues with peace, and how our laws here in Britain help us to live in a relatively peaceful manner.

They have shown that they understand who makes the Laws in our country, in our school and why they are there. Not only do they know about the laws that govern peace, they continue to live them out every day – behaviour around the school has been exemplary so far this year! Well done to all, and long may it continue!



Our Peace Doves:

As part of World Peace Day on 21st September, all of the children in the school had a reflective discussion about the nature of Peace – they looked at Gospels, prayers, quotes from famous people and then created their own 'Peace Dove'. Each one is individually decorated by the children and contains a personal prayer or reflection about Peace.

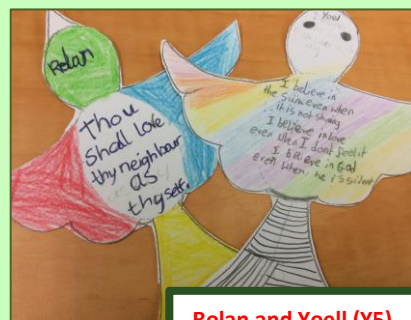
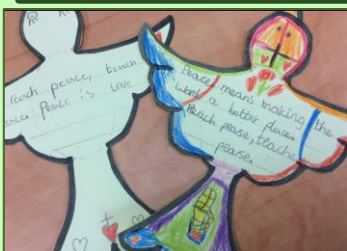
They will provide a beautiful way for children, staff and visitors to get an insight into the thinking of our wonderful pupils!

Covenant and Roisin (Y2)



Rachel and Giulio (Y6)

Erica and Michael K (Y3)



Rolan and Yoell (Y5)

Dates and Events



This Friday (30th September) , the Children, Staff, Parents and Friends of SJV will be supporting this wonderful charity by taking part in the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'.

After morning Assembly, at 9:30, we will all go into the playground (I have organised a beautiful sunny morning – check the weather) and enjoy a cup of coffee (tea will also feature) and a slice of cake.

In order that we are able to make a good amount for Macmillan Cancer Support, please may I ask that you:

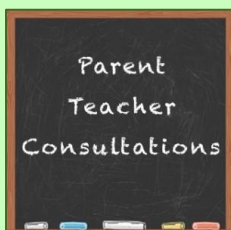
- Help us stock the stalls by baking (or faking, my preferred option!) a cake, and
- Sending your child in with £1 so that they can enjoy a snack along with us

NB: Please remember that we are a nut-free zone and help us keep everyone safe by avoiding nuts altogether.

I hope to see you there.

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 30th September @ 9:30 – Macmillan's Coffee Morning
- 11th October – school photographer
- 11th October – Flu' Vaccinations (Years 1, 2 and 3): **Please send your completed consent forms**
- 12th October @ 7pm - Year 1 and Year 2 Parent Workshops
- 20th October @ 9:15am – Nursery Parents' Meeting (for Reception 2017). **NB: The meeting on 13th October is cancelled.**



Parent Consultations – 18th and 20th October @ 3:50 to 5:30

Appointment boards for these consultations will be available from Friday 7th October. Please ensure that you take a slot to discuss the progress of your child.

Your Child's Curriculum

In this edition of the newsletter, I would like to focus on the important questions that you as parents and carers naturally have:

- What is my child learning at school?
- How can I support them in their development at home?

In this newsletter, I will outline how you can quickly answer both of these questions, so that the link between the school and home is strengthened to the benefit of our children.

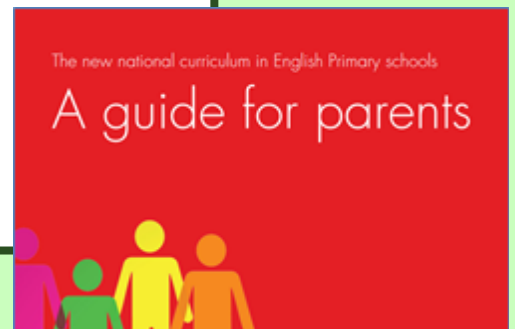
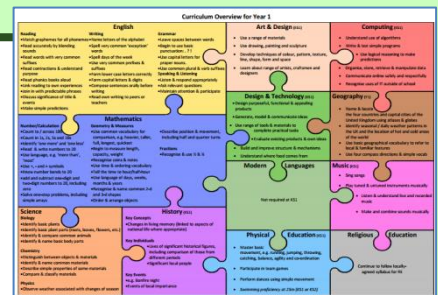
Curriculum Documents for Parents:

We have published two documents on our website, which give invaluable information about the aims and content of the curriculum for each of your children's classes.

The [Overview of the National Curriculum](#) gives an 'at-a-glance' view of the topics and skills to be covered in each year group.

The [Parents' Guide](#) gives detailed information for each subject, and breaks down English and Maths into key skills – your child should learn these skills while in that year group. In addition, a 'Parent Tip' box gives practical information as to how you might integrate some of the learning into home life.

Both documents can be found on the [Curriculum page on our Website](#), by clicking this link.



Half Termly Overviews

Each half term, teachers plan for a new cross curricular topic, using our Cornerstones Creative Curriculum. This topic encapsulates learning by a specific theme (for example, Dinosaurs) and reading, writing, science, art, geography and history are all driven through it.

Your child's teacher will publish a copy of the specific curriculum for that half term on the class page of the website. Follow the links to find out what they are learning this half term: [Class 1](#), [Class 2](#), [Class 3](#), [Class 4](#), [Class 5](#), [Class 6](#)

Year 1 Curriculum Overview - Autumn 1

Splendid Skies

English Writing Children will be writing a set of instructions for how to catch a butterfly. They will have to think about the order of the instructions and list what they will need. Reading Children will read a poem about the weather using visual images of different weather types. Children will imagine they have been on holiday and they will write a postcard home explaining what the weather is like and what they were able to do. Spelling During shared and guided reading sessions children will have the opportunity to read a selection of fiction and non-fiction books. They will answer questions about the text to develop their comprehension skills. We will also share class books with weather themes.	Science, History, Geography, Art, D&T and Computing History Children will be learning about Sir Francis Beaufort. They will use the information they find to create an information booklet. Geography Children will look at seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK. They will look at the location of hot and cold countries of the world in relation to the equator and the North and South poles. Art and Design This term we will focus on collage and painting. The children will have the opportunity to look at and talk about famous paintings. They will think about suitable materials to use to make their own artwork for display around the classroom. Computing The class will use programmable toys which they will control by writing a sequence of instructions. They will predict how their programs will work and debug their programs.	Mathematics This half term we will be concentrating on the following areas: We will learn to read, write and count number to 10. We will learn to recall number bonds to 10. We will learn how to add and subtract numbers within 10. RE This half term our focus will be on the creation of the world. The children will share stories from the bible about how God created the world and we will look at ways we should behave and look after this beautiful world.
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Physical Education
 The children will work on their ball skills. They will learn skills to throw a ball and how to catch accurately.

French **Music** **Download Document** **Homework Project due in 15/10/2016**

Homework

What you should expect

Homework is a topic often discussed and debated between home and school, and can be the source of confusion and frustration if either party are unsure of the purpose and expectations.

In response to some feedback, we have developed a whole school Homework Policy, which should clarify to teachers and parents exactly how this aspect of school/home life should operate.

It should be noted that, while homework is an opportunity to consolidate learning, develop independence and carry out research, research shows that it does NOT contribute significantly to children's progress. Good quality classroom teaching and learning is the priority at all times, while homework is used to develop independent habits.

Reading remains the most important part of learning outside of the classroom, and you should encourage your child to read every day.

Questions and comments in the recent Parent Survey, along with informal conversations with some of you, have highlighted the following questions and comments:

Question Comment	Policy
When should I expect homework to be set? When should it be handed in?	Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in the following Thursday .
How long should it take my child to do their homework?	There is a graduated scale from KS1 (1 hour per week) to Lower KS2 (1.5 hours a week) to Upper KS2 (30 minutes per day).
They find it too hard / too easy.	Homework should be within the child's independent ability – remember they are consolidating learning.
Can I have extra homework for my child?	We do not expect teachers to provide extra homework. We will, of course, give you some ideas about books / resources that you could purchase to further support your child at home.
They were absent and were not given the homework on their return.	If a child is absent on Friday, homework will be left in the child's tray / folder. To develop your child's independence, it will be their own responsibility to ensure that they have a copy of the homework on their return.
There is little or no feedback from the teacher in their homework book.	We expect teachers to ensure that homework is done, and done accurately. Where possible, we encourage marking to be done as a class when the work is returned. Detailed marking and feedback is NOT expected for weekly homework.
What is the half term homework 'project'?	Children are expected to carry out an ongoing project during the course of the half term; they may choose from a set of options provided by the teacher on the class web page. Feedback, plus an award of house points, will be given by the teacher regarding: quality, creativity and effort.