

## Mini-Vinnies, The Winston Group and School Chaplaincy



In our school we have an active Mini-Vinnies group made up of children willing to give up their own time to help others. Our Mini-Vinnies are the junior branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and meet regularly once a week with a member of staff, with the aim of helping others in the name of Christ.

In our school, any child in Years 5 and 6 can join the group and during their meetings, the children pray, write prayers and discuss ways to help others. They then act upon their ideas and together plan, present and lead fundraising activities and other acts of service. During the course of a school year, the Mini Vinnies plan to help people locally, nationally and internationally and every year continue to sponsor 7 children through the St. Vincent de Paul Society to attend school in India.

To see all our fundraising activities for the academic year 2019- 2020, please read our Fundraising Letter that we sent out to parents, in this section of the website.

Within their role, the Mini Vinnies also actively develop the worship life of the school by assisting in preparing for liturgies and by composing and leading prayers. They visit classrooms to assist with prayer focus areas and are always available to assist the staff in maintaining communal prayer stations around the school. They also a source of help for any child in our school who wants to pray. In this way they are our role models and we value their input and assistance.

Deacon Geoffrey is our school chaplain and is in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He works closely with our children and visits each class from Year 1 to Year 6 on a regular basis. During his time in classes, he opens up discussions linked to 'Big Questions' that children may have about faith. Within his role, Deacon Geoffrey leads the 'Winston Group.' These are a group of older pupils who are readily available at lunchtimes to be a friend to those who are feeling sad or who just need a little bit of help to find a friend to play with. The Winston Group also help to mediate if children are having minor disagreements and are always on hand to give helpful, practical advice.



Deacon Geoffrey also supports the school staff in his role. He attends Staff Meetings to provide teaching staff with a pre-topic presentation to ensure that all staff teaching RE understand the theology underpinning the RE topics.

Deacon Geoffrey supports families within his role. He is happy to pray with and for our families and at difficult times, will support the families both spiritually and with practical help. We value his commitment.