Mini Vinnies Meeting Minutes

02/11/26 – 12:00pm
Led by: Jenson and Ciara
Attendees: Mini Vinnies

Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Autumn 1 highlights
- November – Remembrance
- Advent ideas

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting began with a prayer asking God to help us notice those who need our help, remember loved ones who have died, and prepare our hearts for the season of Advent.

2. Autumn 1 highlights

Harvest Collection

The President helped us to reflect on our collection for the Hope Project Food Bank and how this would help local families. We agreed that this was a great way to put faith into action.

Kindness Challenge

The Vice President led a discussion about the Kindness Challenge.

Pupils shared examples of kindness they had seen across the school.

The group agreed that the challenge had helped to make the school community kinder, happier and more welcoming.

Emmaus Visit

The President shared information about the recent visit to Emmaus South Manchester.

The group reflected on why Emmaus had been chosen and the importance of helping people within our local community.

Pupils agreed that the fundraising was an excellent example of putting faith into action and living out the Gospel message.

3. November – Remembrance

The Vice President introduced the theme of All Souls and Remembrance.

Pupils discussed:

- Why it is important to remember people who have died.
- How prayer can help us remember loved ones.
- Ways the school community could pray for those who are no longer with us.

The group voted to create Remembrance Trees in classes. Children will be invited to write the names of loved ones they would like remembered in prayer during November.

4. Advent Ideas

The President reminded the group that Advent is a special time of preparation for the coming of Jesus.

Pupils discussed several ideas for Advent projects, including:

- Christmas cards for care homes.
- Reverse Advent collections.
- Shoebox gifts.
- Hampers for people who help others in the community.

The group agreed to:

Write and deliver Christmas cards to local care homes to help combat loneliness and bring joy to elderly residents.

Create thank you hampers for people who help our community, including firefighters, care home staff and hospital workers.

Pupils felt these projects would help show gratitude and demonstrate Catholic Social Teaching through service and appreciation of others.

5. Pupil Reflections

Pupils shared that:

"We can show God's love by helping people who might feel lonely."

"The Christmas cards will help people know they are remembered."

"The hampers will show people that we appreciate everything they do for us."

"Mini Vinnies don't just talk about helping people, we actually do something."

6. Actions Before the Next Meeting

Organise class Remembrance Trees.

Begin designing Christmas cards for local care homes.

Plan and collect items for appreciation hampers.

Promote Advent projects across the school.

Continue looking for opportunities to put faith into action.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the school motto:

"Let your words teach and your actions speak."

Pupils left feeling excited about the opportunities they have to make a difference during Advent and Christmas through prayer, service and care for others.