



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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Mrs A D Thorpe
Head Teacher

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Through following Jesus, we aim to be a caring, happy school, where everyone is valued and appreciated and can reach their true potential. We hope to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE

16th February 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

I can hardly believe that we have already come to the end of the first Spring term, the children have been amazing and worked so hard. We are really very proud of them all.

Golden book assembly continues to be split into two sessions because our pupils are receiving so many positive awards – it is a joy to see how proud they are of each other, so please keep sending in details of their success.

Strike update

Please be aware that on 28th February 2023, the NEU have called another teacher strike day. As you have been previously made aware, teachers do not have to inform school of their intention to strike until the morning of strike day.

Currently, I am expecting all classes to be open, however if that was to change I will inform you by text as soon as I am made aware. I understand how difficult it is for families to arrange child-care but I also respect the teachers right to take strike action.

Attendance

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Please be aware that I am obligated to chase up and challenge poor attendance. After half term the coloured warning traffic light letters will be sent out to all families. Grant Short, our attendance officer will also start contacting parents of pupils who are perpetually late. All pupils should be in school ready to learn by 8:45am and the gate is open from 8:30am. Some pupils regularly arrive at 9:05am which means they miss 20minutes of learning daily. In addition to this families will also be receiving warning letters when they take their child

out of school for a holiday.



Safer Internet Week

Last week pupils learned how to keep themselves safe online. It is essential that all of our pupils understand how to treat people online and how to keep themselves safe online.

Art Project – Angel of the North

On the 15th of February 2023 it is going to be the 25th anniversary of the installation of the Angel of the North as piece of iconic public art, which is now part of the national map. Pupils will all be making, painting, building or creating projects based on the work of Anthony Gormley. We will be inviting parents into school after the half term to come and share in the amazing artwork they have created, I'm sure you will all be amazed.

Parking update

Please can we ask again that parents and carers drop off and collect their children safely by using the car parks at the community centre or church. Please **DO NOT** block the driveways of the houses around as we always try to keep positive relations with those in our community.

Driving

I understand that the road works on Hillhead Road are causing delays with the traffic, however cars have been seen stopping on the main road and children have been getting out of cars and running into school. Please be aware that the police regularly patrol the road and that this is highly unsafe.

Lenten Liturgies

As the Advent liturgies were such a success and the feedback from parents was so positive we are going to organise another series of liturgies, this time to give families and pupils time to reflect during Lent. Every class will invite their parents in to join with them during the last week of the Spring Term, just before we break up for Easter.

Behaviour Policy

It has been fantastic to see how well the pupils have embraced our new behaviour policy in school. They have really taken ownership of it and we are very proud of them. Please look out for a positive affirmation postcard, one child per class will receive one over the holidays.

Ash Wednesday

As we start Lent on Wednesday 22nd March, during half term, we would encourage you to take your children to church at St John Vianney Parish. Details are available of the parish website <http://www.stjohnvianneynewcastle.com/> Pupils will learn about Ash Wednesday on the first day back after half term.

Statue of St John Vianney

We are delighted and incredibly grateful that the parish have helped school source a beautiful new wooden carved statue of St John Vianney. On Tuesday 28th Feb, our Year 4 pupils including all our First Holy Communicants are going to go to church and receive the statue on behalf of the school. They will then process it back and Father has kindly agreed to come into school and bless it with all the pupils present.

Cafod Lenten Walk

Our Mini Vinnies have organised a Lenten walk in partnership with CAFOD on Wednesday 1st March. This is to support the national campaign. <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> If you are able we are collecting coins in a bucket to support this campaign or you may well prefer to send your own donation in online.

World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March is World Book Day. In line with our aims around poverty proofing the school day, as in previous years we are not asking any child to come in dressed in fancy dress. Instead we are focusing in on fabulous reading-based activities in school which will aim to support pupils to engage and celebrate their love of books and reading for pleasure. Look out for the recordings from the 'SJV Masked Reader!'

Cafod Family Fast Day

Friday 3rd March 2023 is family fast day <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day> Our Mini Vinnie's are preparing to work with the parish to support the soup bowl in the parish hall.

Year 6 Booster Classes

Year 6 parents have been emailed an additional letter this week about extra support sessions teachers are putting on after school. So, all Y6 pupils are asked to stay in school on both a Monday and Tuesday until 4:30pm.

As always, all staff and governors continue to keep all of our families in our prayers. We hope you all have a safe and happy half term holiday and return to school on Monday 27th February feeling refreshed.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher