



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### COVID Update

It is two full years since the Prime Minister put the country into a full COVID lockdown and whilst I know that we have all prayed that we are now starting to come out of this challenging time, unfortunately the COVID rates are rising rapidly in all areas of the North East, and Newcastle is no exception. An updated COVID specific letter has been uploaded to the school parental news section and it includes a lot of detail information for you. Wherever possible, we ask that if you are concerned you test your child and if they return a positive result you keep them off school for at least 5 days and then they can return when they have returned two negative tests. If they are still testing positive, they can return after 10 days of isolation and stop testing. I appreciate that we all thought we were beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel but as with all things COVID that is not the case sadly.

If you need any help please do not hesitate to ask, we will always do our best to support all of our families.

### Food Bank Collection

A massive thank you to every one of you, collectively you generously donated over half a ton (626K) of food, toiletries and donations for our local community. Chris, from the food banks was totally overwhelmed so a huge thank you – I know that together we have made a real difference to some people's lives.

### Good Friday Stations of the Cross at St John Vianney Church

On Good Friday, 15th April, 11.00am the parish of St John Vianney will be holding 'Stations of The Cross for Children' in St. John Vianney Church. In the past these have been very well attended, and I know that Father Martin would be delighted if as many of our families could attend as possible, this year. It lasts for about thirty-five minutes, and is followed by light refreshments in hall for the children.

### Easter Masses & Services

- Holy Thursday- Mass of The Lord's Supper- St. Cuthbert's Throckley 7pm
- Good Friday - Stations at St. Cuthbert's 10am, Children's Stations of The Cross at St. John Vianney at 11am.
- Solemn Passion of Our Lord 3pm at St. John Vianney, 7pm Good Friday Stations
- Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 6.30pm St. John Vianney
- Easter Sunday- Normal Mass times.

### Wednesday / Sunday coffee at st John Vianney Parish Church

The resumption of the Wednesday coffee in the hall is now up and running at St John Vianney. Father Martin and the parish, thank all those who cleaned the hall and prepared it. The parish of

St Cuthbert's are hoping to resume Sunday tea / coffee at St. Cuthbert's, Sunday 20th March after 9.30am Mass, and on Sunday 10th April, (Palm Sunday) at St. John Vianney. We need more helpers to assist with this at both St. John Vianney and St Cuthbert, please sign the volunteer list in the hall if you can help out.

### **Updated Uniform Policy**

Governors have approved a new uniform policy, in line with the updated government guidance, a copy of which has been uploaded to the school website.

As such we will be asking that no pupil wears an electronic watch such as an apple watch, fitbit or any other named electronic watch/step tracker which has an ability to connect to their phone in school. They are too expensive to replace or repair if lost or damaged and school cannot accept any liability for these expensive items. Also, some of these devices have recording capabilities and for safeguarding reasons we do not want pupils to have them in the private toilet areas around school. Rules around pupils not being allowed to wear any jewelry remain the same, for safety reasons. The cost of the uniform has been evaluated and measured and we choose to use a uniform supplier form which we make no profit at all as this ensures you get the best value for money possible.

If any family is struggling with the cost of school uniform, then please contact Mrs Thorpe or Mrs McDine in the office. We always have a generous supply of very clean (Almost new) second hand uniform available to share with you.

We have also specifically asked for **NO rucksacks or large bags** to be brought into school, we continue to ask for this as space is of a premium. Also, considering the economic climate currently we do not want any child to be made to feel inferior due to the fact that their parents may not be able to afford the latest designer rucksack/bag. I appreciate that some parents feel that we are being unnecessarily prescriptive and they want their child to bring a rucksack/large bag in, I would ask you all to stop and think about others who cannot and also the simple fact that we cannot store 472 large bags/rucksacks in the classrooms. The small red book bag only cost £6 from <https://totstoteams.com/> so it is significantly cheaper and takes up minimal classroom space.

School shoes should be black school shoes and not trainers. To help families in the return post Covid we allowed trainers for a short time whilst parents were struggling to get to the shops. All shops are now open and school shoes are readily available. Tights should not be multi-coloured, they should be plain grey or plain red.

### **Year 4 Health and Behaviour Survey**

There is a specific letter, on the parental news section of the school website asking for you to give permission for your child to take part in a national survey.

### **Eco Warriors**

Our eco warriors are working together to help keep our local environment as clean as possible. They are going out next week on a collective 'Litter Pick' with Miss Dolphin, we are really proud of their efforts and contribution to society.

### **Mini Vinnies**

The Mini Vinnie's are working hard in school to create an Easter Egg extravaganza during the last week of the half term. Watch this space....

### Lent reflections

Currently the plan is still to have a maximum of 2 adults per child in the hall, socially distanced and well ventilated. However, please be aware that if the COVID rates continue to rise then I will cancel the live performances and record them for Facebook.

Parents invited	Date and time
Year 1 – Mrs Langford	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10am
Year 1 – Mrs Watanabe & Mrs Kingston	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 2pm
Year 2 – Miss Prayle	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 9am
Year 2 – Miss Cherry	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 9am
Year 3 – Miss Dean	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10am
Year 3 Mrs Meldrum & Mrs McLean	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 2pm
Year 4 – Mrs Scott	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10am
Year 4 – Mr Bonnar	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 2pm
Year 5 – Miss McMaster	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10am
Year 5 – Miss Dolphin	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 2pm

I apologise that, due to unforeseen circumstances Year 2 have had to change the date and time of their Lent reflection.

### Autism Awareness Week is 28<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

2022 is the National Autistic Society's 60th anniversary. To commemorate this and to raise awareness of Autism with our children, as a school we will be taking up the **Super 60 Challenge** and walking 60,000 steps over the course of the week around our playing field! To donate to the National Autistic Society, please follow the link:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/donate>

You can also donate to the North East Autism Society Charity here:

<https://www.ne-as.org.uk/donate/donate/30/credit-card>

### PTFA

A group of current parents have been working together to re-establish the PTFA post COVID. I am sure you will have heard about the fundraising they helped school with for the books. The children now have a small startup library thanks to your generosity, and they love it!

The current members of the PTFA are really very keen for any parent to join with them, however small or large your contribution is appreciated and valued. If you would like to contact school and register an interest in being part of the group then we can pass your details on. A meeting of interested parents will be convened after the Easter holidays. Thank you in advance for all your kind support and help, our children all really appreciate your efforts.

As always, we continue to keep all of our families and school community in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head Teacher