



St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School



Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Headteacher

Hillhead Road
West Denton
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1DN

Telephone: 0191 2672233

Fax: 0191 2679538

admin@stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk



1st April 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy Easter break. I am sure that you will all be looking forward to the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, thus seeing friends and family will become a priority. Please be careful and look after yourselves.

Parking and Speeding

It has been brought to my attention that parents of children at our school are parking in such a way that it is blocking the resident's driveways on Ashdale Crescent, also even more worryingly parents are speeding along Hillhead road and concerns have been raised by the traffic department at county hall that an accident will happen. Please be aware that I have informed the local police department and I have asked for their help in patrolling the area at both morning and afternoon points during the school day. I would really appreciate it if you could all be as considerate as possible of our local neighbours and not block their driveways in or speed as both cause real distress and upset.

Easter – Holy Week

A huge thank you to all of the children who took part in the recorded liturgies this week. The prayer stations set up around school have provided a real focus and point of reflection for everyone. Finally, Father Martin came into school on Tuesday and spent time in every class bestowing the Easter blessings on everyone, thank you so much. He reiterated that church is now open and all are welcome, whilst the masses, for the obvious COVID-19 safety reasons, are now fully booked for the Easter weekend, he does say that everyone is welcome to attend any other masses at St John Vianney after that.

Covid-19 Testing

Can I ask that as we move into the Easter weekend, to help school support the NHS Track and Trace programme, if your child or anyone in their family tests positive on Friday 2nd April or Saturday 3rd April please can you email school to let me know as it will be necessary to close a school bubble and instruct families to isolate, in this instance. After Sunday 3rd April you only need to inform NHS track and Trace. If your child or their family subsequently test positive at any point over the holiday can you email school and let us know and then isolate for the requisite 10 days, we will then mark them as authorized absence due to Covid-19 on the school register if they need

to be off at the start of next term. Staff will all continue to carry out their LFD testing throughout the school holidays.

Autism Awareness Week

I would like to highlight for all parents this important issue. Some of our families have children who have been diagnosed as being on the [autistic spectrum](#). School is always here to support all our families, so please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need any further information.

COVID-19 National Tutoring and Catch-up support

Over the coming weeks, months and years all of our pupils will benefit from a variety of different forms of support as a result of gaps being created through COVID-19; from quality First Teaching for all pupils, smaller targeted bespoke intervention lessons, small group national tutoring interventions, smaller challenge group interventions and many other forms of encouragement, support and challenge. Not every pupil will have every form of support all of the time, rather decisions will be made about what is deemed most appropriate to support your child at any given time, these forms of support will continually evolve depending on the on-going and changing needs of your children. Please be assured that both governors and staff always hold your child's educational and emotional well-being at the heart of everything we do and we will continually review and change what we offer to best help your children. Please try not to compare what your child is getting at any one time with what another child is getting as each child's needs vary and change at different times and staffing provision always vary, we continually strive to provide the very best for all of our pupils, all of the time with the resources we have, at that given moment.

Uniform Policy

Over the Easter holidays a number of parents will be shopping for new school uniform as your children have grown so much taller during lockdown. Please follow our whole school uniform policy, which is available to read on page 27 of the [school prospectus](#). A point on shoes, I have totally understood that whilst shops have been closed children have worn trainers to school as they have grown out of their school shoes, however after Easter I would request that all pupils go back to adhering to the full uniform policy.

Also, I for one am delighted that hairdressers are opening in April, however as both they and barbers open up can I also remind you that children need suitable hairstyles for school. No child should have shaved patterns of any sort or extreme hairstyles. As always I appreciate your support with this.

School Leavers

We have a couple of our families leaving us at the end of this term for personal family reasons and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all well. They have and will continue to be valuable members of our school family; we wish them every

success in their new homes, houses, schools and countries. Several gifts and cards have been carefully quarantined in school this week so that they could be sent home today – take care and God bless.

A huge thank you

As we come to the end of what has been another very busy and challenging term for everyone, I would like to extend my thanks to both you as parents and all the staff who have worked so hard this term on both online and in person teaching. Staff will always keep your children's happiness at the forefront of everything they do, and as Head teacher I would like to thank parents and staff alike for all your support and positivity through what has been a tricky start to the year – God willing things will now start to improve as the vaccine comes through.

I continue to keep you and all of your families in my thoughts and prayers over the Easter holidays and hope you all are able to spend some time with loved ones over the holiday period.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher