



# St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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10<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful first week and all of our children have settled in beautifully – they are so sensible and a real credit to our school community.

I have so appreciated your patience and support as we work through our new entrance and exit routines. The pupils are coming into school so well and it has massively reduced the number of pupils who are late in the morning, which is fantastic news for everyone's learning. We have made a slight change to the morning opening of the gate to release the pressure of people standing on the path; it is wonderful that everyone wants to be in school at 8:40am, long may that continue.

The afternoon routine has, I know, provided a challenge for some, but once again your support and patience is greatly appreciated. As staff learn parents and grandparents faces then the process will become more streamlined.

## **Entrance and Exit timings of the school day**

### Morning routine

The school gates will now be opened at 8:30am; all pupils should be dropped off at the top of the path to enter school through the main gate, there will be no queuing/waiting so pupils, including siblings, pupils can arrive at any time between 8:30am and 8:50am. All pupils will go directly to their classrooms, where teachers will be waiting to welcome them in. All pupils are expected to be in school sat down in their classroom by 8:55am for registration. Any pupil arriving after registration time will be marked as late. Continual late marks will lead to a discussion with the attendance officer, where support on helping families arrive on time will be offered.

### Afternoon routine

All pupils will remain with their class until their class is dismissed; siblings will no longer be pulled out of class early. If you need your child to leave school early, please send a copy of the medical appointment letter or a letter/email detailing why they need to leave school early, which we will attach to your child's attendance record. It is as important for your child to be in on time in the morning as it is for them to spend the full day in school. Going for play dates, shopping, having tea out with friends or family or to avoid car parking etc. is not a reason to collect your child early from school.

If you are a parent waiting to collect more than one child please continue to arrive to collect your youngest first and then wait in the allocated waiting area by the bicycle shed. Parents of siblings will then be asked to line up first to collect their next child. Whilst I appreciate that for a few of our families they will need to wait for a short while, the need for pupils to be present for all their educational learning time in school is paramount as we come out of the pandemic. Pupils cannot afford to miss any more of their education moving forward.

Year group	AM Morning drop off	PM Afternoon collection time	Afternoon collection point
Nursery – after transition	8:50am	3:00pm	EYFS Yard line up
Reception – after transition	8:40am – 8:50am	3:05pm	EYFS Yard line up
Year One	8:40am – 8:50am	3:05pm	Parents line up
Year Two	8:40am – 8:50am	3:10pm	Parents line up

Year Three	8:40am – 8:50am	3:15pm	Parents line up
Year Four	8:40am – 8:50am	3:20pm	Parents line up
Year Five	8:40am – 8:50am	3:25pm	Parents line up
Year Six	8:40am – 8:50am	3:30pm	Parents line up

We also ask that any adult collecting your child continues to follow the one-way system of entering through the top gate and leaving across the carpark as that also helps to speed up the dismissal process. When waiting on the path before you come into school we suggest that you try and line up on either side of the hedges to spread out. Obviously, you will all be aware that masks and social distancing are no longer mandatory, we do request that you all continue to line up on the spots as it actually makes it easier and quicker to dismiss children.

### Nursery

Once Nursery are in for their full sessions, and to make it easier for parents when dropping and collecting we have made a slight change to the timings of the school day.

Nursery group	Day	Timings
Rainbows	Monday & Tuesday	8:50am drop off 3:00pm collection
Rainbows	Wednesday	8:50am drop off 11:30am collection
Sunshine	Wednesday	12:20pm drop off 3:00pm collection
Sunshine	Thursday & Friday	8:50am drop off 3:00pm collection

### Father Martin

Father came into school today and spoke to all the classes to welcome them in for the new school year. It was great to see him.

### Welcome Mass

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the whole school will be joining together for mass. It is the first time since March 2020 that we have been able to do this and we cannot wait. We will ask you to keep us in your prayers as the children gather together for the first time.

### Absence procedures

Please make sure that you inform school by telephone or email when your child is going to absent from school and the reason why. If your child is marked absent on the register and no reason has been given you will be contacted by text message to ask for a reason. If you do not reply you will be telephoned and if no contact can be made this will become a safeguarding issue and contact with the relevant authorities will be made.

### Attendance

We have to ensure that all of our pupils are in school whenever possible. In line with the updated COVID-19 guidance attendance is going to be monitored again; pupils will be given a traffic light ranking according to their attendance. Letters will be sent out to parents on a regular basis to highlight concerns and as appropriate the attendance officer will be asked to visit your house to offer support and issue parental contracts where necessary. We would hope that all families want their children in school learning at all times, if you have problems with attendance and need help then please contact the office and we will support you.

### Homework and Reading Books

We continue to want to promote active and purposeful homework tasks for all of our pupils, and as such as the rules for COVID change it is our hope and expectation that reading books will be sent home weekly, however we also need your support and ask that **you send reading books and diaries back to school daily** as we do not have thousands of books to have home readers, in school readers and library

books! We also continue to encourage you to use all of the online resources such as Reading Buddy and Times Tables Rock stars which we have purchased to support children at home, if you need another copy of your login details please contact the office. We are however aware of some ongoing technical login issues with Reading Buddy that are beyond our control, so please help your child read daily using their reading books.

Year Group	Task	Time scale and frequency
Nursery	Tasks to promote engagement and a love of books set as appropriate by staff – Mrs Lake will communicate with parents on a regular basis	3-5 times a week 10 mins
Reception	Reading Phonics tasks – set by teacher Regular tasks set by teacher to support in class learning	5 times a week 10-15mins each time
Year One	Reading Spellings Phonics work – set by teacher	5 times a week 15 mins each time
Year Two	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling	5 times a week 20 mins each time
Year Three	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling	5 times a week 20 mins each time
Year Four	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling	5 times a week 25 mins each time
Year Five	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling Class work to support in school learning on an adhoc basis	5 times a week 25 mins each time
Year Six	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling SATS Preparation work Adhoc specific tasks to support in class learning and becoming KS3 ready	5 times a week 30 mins each time

Research tells us that pupils who engage daily with their learning will thrive more in school so we ask that all pupils work hard to engage with their home learning tasks. There are new homework/reading record diaries for every pupil, which will be sent home with new reading books. Pupils should bring their reading record and books into school daily so that staff can also support reading in school. We ask that every time a child has read with an adult, either at home or in school, a comment is written in their written record. This aims to boost and encourage pupils with regular reading habits.

### Snacks

KS1 and early years are all given a piece of fruit every day at breaktime. If any KS2 pupils would like to bring a piece of fruit in to eat at breaktime they are more than welcome – it is wonderful to have our children eating healthy food and running around the playground together, once again.

### Uniforms

All pupils must wear full school uniform including black school shoes, not trainers and discrete hair ties for any pupil with long hair. All pupils can bring in a lunch bag and a small school book bag, **please DO NOT send in large rucksacks** as we do not have the space to store them in class. All classes now have pegs in their classroom to create learning spaces in corridors so it is a much smaller space and anything big takes over from learning space in the classroom. All of our uniform can be sourced from [Tots to Teams](#), details of which can be found in the school prospectus.

### PE Kits

We have been made aware that Tots to Teams are experiencing issues with delivery, so in the short term whilst you are waiting for uniform, pupils can use plain white (no logo) T-shirts in PE. Please can all PE kits be brought into school in a small school drawstring bag and left on your child's peg during

the week, PE kits should be in school all week as outdoor PE is subject to the vagaries of the weather and so the timetable sometimes changes at short notice. Please ensure that the white PE T-Shirt has the school logo on it, purchased from Tots to Teams. **Please do not send in large rucksacks** as there is no room to store 30 in each class.

### **School Houses**

I am delighted to tell you that staff are going to work closely with pupils to develop a bigger and more recognisable House structure, there will be an enhanced rewards system and pupils will be encouraged to take part in group activities as well as class activities. Please keep an eye out for further information.

### **Dogs**

It has been brought to my attention that I did not make it clear in my letter last week, dogs are not allowed on the school premises. Please can I ask you all to support school and not bring dogs onto the school premises. Some of our children are nervous and scared and sometimes dogs can make a mess on the ground which when not picked up can cause distress to our children.

### **Parents in school**

We continue to ask parents to contact school via the school email or telephone. If you need to speak to a teacher then the office staff will let that teacher know and they will contact you outside of teaching time. I would ask that you don't all try to speak to the class teacher whilst they are dismissing children at the end of the day because it holds up the end of day dismissal process if you do.

As always, we keep all of our parish community in our school prayers.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher