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6th May 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

It seems amazing that the children have been back in school for two weeks since the Easter holidays. Everyone is working so hard and your children are, as always, a pleasure to have in school learning and celebrating everything they do. The weather is slowly improving enabling the children to spend more time outside.

THANK YOU (Lambs in school)

Last week, some of you saw that Daisy and Harry Goodfellow brought lambs into school with their parents. I was so impressed by how gentle all of the children were with the lambs, who ranged from 3 days old to 2 weeks. It is a wonderful privilege for our children to have the experience of enjoying feeding and stroking the lambs, who remained happy and relaxed all day, despite the 459 children plus staff wanting cuddles! A huge thank you from the whole school community to the Goodfellow family – on behalf of both the children and staff in school, we really appreciate all your time and patience with us – It was wonderful!

Telephone lines

Thank you for your patience as we have been having issues with our school telephone lines this week. The BT engineers assure us that it is now working properly, however if there are any further issues please always feel free to email school directly office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org

Year 6 SATS

Next week our Year 6 pupils will sit their external SATS examinations, this is the first-time primary school children have sat these exams since before the COVID-19 pandemic. We could not be prouder of every single child in Year 6 as each and every one of them has worked exceedingly hard. This is their first full year back in school since the start of the pandemic, and we are confident that they will all do their very best next week.

We ask that all Year 6 pupils come into school each morning at 8am to have breakfast together with their teachers before their day starts. Staff are very well versed at dealing with and calming nerves before the children sit their tests. All I ask is that parents try to encourage children to stay off social media and get a good night's sleep every night. A good walk or play in the garden each evening is infinitely better for them rather than going on social media and worrying about what others have said or done. They need to trust in all the hard work and preparation they and staff have done and know that their best is all that we ask.

On Friday 13th May – all Year 6 pupils will have a day off timetable to provide a timely 'space' for rest and recuperation and celebration of a job well done. The class teachers will write to you directly with extra information about this.

Year 2 SATS

These will take place, led by staff in a quite unobtrusive way over the coming weeks. All pupils in Year 2 will be supported to do their very best, however these tests should not be a cause of concern to any parent or child. Staff are excellent at encouraging children to give of their best. Your children are all fabulous and will continue to be the best they can be – and that is all that we ever ask. They have been doing lots of work and have been really well prepared.



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Year 4 Times Tables Test

Year 4 pupils will be taking part in their external validated tests between 6th June – 24th June. They are being tested on the speed and accuracy of their ability to recall times tables facts. This is the first time the government has asked for our Year 4 pupils to take this test. I know that all of our pupils have been practising their tables at home, using Timetables Rockstars, and at school, if they keep going with that they will be brilliant.

Year 1 Phonics Screening

The pupils in Year 1 will be assessed to check their ability to decode familiar and nonsense words. This is a set of evaluative measures the government set out to check if pupils are being taught to read properly. We are very confident that all of our pupils in Year 1 are doing amazingly well, parents should not change what they are doing. Please continue to read with your child at home and support them with their reading when they bring books and flash cards home. Staff are exceedingly good at supporting children through this process so that they are not worried at all to show off their wonderful and confident reading strategies.

First Holy Communion

On Sat 14th May Mr Bonnar's Year 4 children and on Sat 28th May Mrs Scott's Year 4 children will both enjoy taking part in their sacrament of First Holy Communion Celebration with Father Martin in church, Mass starts at 10am. In preparation, the children have been taking part in a number of lessons in school and after school. They are in the process of taking part in their First Reconciliation, with Father Martin in school, this will take place next week. I hope you can all keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Advance notice for Year 6 parents

We are hoping that, barring any upsurge in COVID-19 numbers, we can go ahead and invite parents into school for several end of term events:

- Wednesday 20th July at 5:30pm the Year 6 pupils will put on a performance of Peter Pan for their parents.
- Friday 22nd July at 10am Year 6 pupils will celebrate their last day in school with us through a liturgy/assembly – parents welcome

Year 6 Trips

- Tuesday 17th May – Safety Works - a separate letter will be sent out from the Year 6 staff. School will subsidise the cost of this trip for every child
- Monday 4th July – Youth Village - School will subsidise the cost of this trip for every child
- Tuesday 12th July – Day Trip to Holy Island - more details about timings and the events for the day will be sent out next week including a contribution request of £10 per child to go towards the cost of the bus, school will also be subsidising the balance of this trip
- Advance notice of the transition days for the Catholic Secondary Schools (St Cuthbert's, Sacred Heart, St Mary's) Wednesday 13th July and Friday 15th July. Parents need to arrange their own transport to and from those schools, they will write to you directly with further details. If your child is not attending one of these schools and you have already been told of your transition visit dates, please let the Year 6 teaching staff know.
- There are several other events being planned - I will let you know about these once the details are confirmed.

Whole School Platinum Jubilee Day

On Thursday 26th May, everyone is invited to come into school wearing red, white and blue, to take part in the school's very own Platinum Jubilee Day, to mark the Queen's 70-year reign. Some of you, who are my age, will be able to remember the street parties of the 1977 Silver Jubilee! Children on school dinners will be given an afternoon tea of sandwiches, pastries, cakes, crisps and biscuits, instead of a hot meal. If your child is on packed lunch then please feel free to send in a similar celebratory packed lunch. Weather permitting, we are going to organise our own whole school street party for all the children to enjoy, where every single child in school, regardless of them being on school dinners or not, will be given a celebratory Jubilee cake/biscuit to enjoy.

Year 5 – Centre for Life Trip

Year 5 are going to be enjoying a brilliant workshop at the Centre for Life on Monday 16th May. The class teachers will send a letter out with further details to you all.

Adam Bushnell – Author Visit

On Monday 16th May and Tuesday 17th May Adam Bushnell <http://www.adambushnell.co.uk/> is coming into school to work with KS2 pupils. He is hopefully going to inspire them and give them an enriching writing experience. This is a wonderful opportunity for our older children to put into practice their wonderful writing skills. He will work with each year group and children will then use his ideas and inspiration to create some of their own work – photos on Facebook will follow!

Class	Date	Time
Year 3 – Miss Dean	Monday 16 th May	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Year 3 – Mrs Meldrum / Mrs McLean	Monday 16 th May	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Year 4 – Mrs Scott	Tuesday 17 th May	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Year 4 – Mr Bonnar	Tuesday 17 th May	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Year 5 – Miss McMaster	Monday 16 th May	10:45am – 12:15pm
Year 5 – Miss Dolphin	Monday 16 th May	9:00am – 10:30am
Year 6 – Mr Peacock	Tuesday 17 th May	10:45am – 12:15pm
Year 6 – Mrs Spencer	Tuesday 17 th May	9:00am – 10:30am

Advance notice of Whole School Sports Day arrangements

We are planning to bring back sports days, to which parents can come and watch. We are starting small – so please be patient with us! It will all be weather dependent and if it is pouring with rain then it will be cancelled that day, pupils will then do sports day but on a different day which can be slotted in as and when. Your planned child's class slot will be as follows:

Class	Date and Time
Rainbows Nursery	Wednesday 29 th June 10:00am
Sunshine Nursery	Wednesday 29 th June 1:30pm
Both Reception classes combined	Tuesday 28 th June 1:30pm
Year 1 & Year 2 combined	Monday 27 th June 10:00am
Year 3 & Year 4 combined	Monday 27 th June 1:30pm
Year 5 & Year 6 combined	Tuesday 28 th June 10:00am

Nursery and Reception starters in September 2022

Once all the lists and names have been confirmed, places accepted and classes sorted out, all the families of our new children will be invited into school to meet staff and see the classrooms. This is planned for some time in June and as soon as the exact date is confirmed I will let you all know letters of invitation will also be sent out.

Golden book Assembly

As always please remember to send in details of awards, certificates and achievements pupils have made outside of school. I look forward each week to a magical mystery tour through all of our wonderful pupils' recognitions made by people outside of our school community.

Open Door Policy

Please always remember that you can contact school at anytime to make an appointment to speak to a staff member about your child. Please do not sit at home worrying, come and talk to us. Hopefully, we can reassure you or clear up any concerns and confusions as soon as possible. School always tries to keep all of your children's well-being at the heart of everything we do.

Ukrainian refugee families

I am sure a number of you have been watching the news with an ever more growing sense of distress. We have been made aware that there are a number of households who live locally who have signed up to the government scheme and are ready to house families from Ukraine in your homes. If you are one of those and the family coming include young children who need to come to school then please contact Newcastle Local

Authority for further information about how the family can apply for a place at St John Vianney Catholic Primary School.

School closed

Just a quick reminder that school is closed on Friday 17th June 2022.

And finally....

I am sure you will all join us in being delighted to hear that Miss Prayle delivered a wonderful baby boy on 1st May. Please keep her family in your prayers as she and her partner embark on the exciting new journey of parenthood.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher