



Mrs A D Thorpe
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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

11th October 2024

Dear parents and carers,

It is so good to have the sun shining again, we all seem to feel so much better when the weather is kind to us all. School is really moving forward positively and the new build is now starting to feel like home. A huge vote of thanks to all the parents and carers who have patiently supported school as we have transitioned into the new buildings. It has been an exciting, but also exhausting time, as boxes have been emptied and resources set up.

Year 6 Residential

The take up of this wonderful offer has been brilliant. Remember no child should not go due to funds, so if there are any concerns around payment plans etc please do not hesitate to contact school. The children certainly have a really positive week to aim for.

Curriculum Evenings

So far these have been well attended and the feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive, staff are always here to help you and your child. The parents who have attended events so far, have been amazed by both the size and the number of facilities we now have in school.

Mental Health Awareness Day

Yesterday was mental health awareness day. Pupils came to school in a wide variety of colours of yellow and they all took part in a wide variety of activities and workshops, aimed at giving them the tools to look after their own mental health. The children all actively took part and it was a real pleasure watching them all be so fully engaged.

Fundraising

One of our parents has very kindly agreed to share the fundraising funds she will make between school and Tiny Lives. She will be selling raffle tickets at school drop off or pickup times throughout November. The raffle will then then be drawn at the school fayre on the



28th and winning numbers can be posted the school newsletter and on Facebook. Prizes will be made available to collect from the school office after the draw takes place.

50% of the funds raised will be donated to Tiny Lives Trust which is the special care baby unit in the RVI, charity reg: 1150178. The remaining 50% will be donated to St. John Vianney to go towards bettering the communal sensory area, which all of our pupils' access.

So far some of the prizes include a Tonie Box and a Drone.

School extends a huge vote of thanks to this parent, as all of our children will benefit from the sensory area and Tiny Lives is an amazing charity which does wonderful things to support families.

Parent & Friends Association

A number of our parents have expressed an interest in being part of this group, so please send your contact details into school and Mrs McDine will be able to forward them onto the group. This is an external group of parents who organise events and fund raise; they then choose activities or events that they would like to support for school. I know that there are various plans moving forward to sell doughnuts, have a school fayre and a number of other events both large and small.

Car Parking

This term I have very sadly already received a number of extremely concerning emails from various residents who live on Ashdale Crescent. I have also had emails from several locally elected councillors, detailing the following residents' concerns and making the following allegations:

- That some of our parents have a total disregard for road safety.
- Children and parents continually dart in-between moving cars, cutting across the road on a tight corner bend which has reduced visibility even more so when a stream of cars are parked all away along it and even on the grass verges.
- Insults being hurled at residents when cars are blocking driveways.
- Parents allowing children to play on other people's driveways, this includes throwing stones around and near cars.
- Inconsiderate carparking at pick up and drop off time.
- Car drivers pulling away after collecting their children and exceeding the speed limit.
- Car drivers are not strapping children into their seats and using their mobile phones.

I have raised these concerns with the local community police team and their clear advice is that all local residents should contact the police directly. They strongly advise that this is not an issue that staff can 'police' as we do not have the legal power of enforcement. However, I would have hoped that some semblance of common sense and your own child's welfare would win out. I would hope that all parents would ensure that their child behaves safely, when outside of school and that none of our parents would verbally abuse any of our neighbours. All your support with keeping our children safe would be appreciated.

Once again, please could I ask all parents to either park in the West Denton Community Car Park, or better still park in the St John Vianney Church Car park and walk to school, both of

these actions would help reduce the congestion outside of resident's houses, especially on Ashdale Crescent.

Harvest Festival

On Monday 21st October, the whole school will take part in various harvest festival celebrations. Any donations of any non-perishable goods would be appreciated, as Mrs Meldrum has arranged for donations to be given to our local community food bank and to a Newcastle homeless charity.

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

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher