



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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1st December 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

Time is flying by and the glitter has arrived at St John Vianney - as I walk around school each day more and more seems to appear! The children are working hard to make their Advent Liturgies special for their families over the next fortnight.

Pope's values

There are two main documents we are teaching pupils about and wanting them to engage with this year. Laudato Si which calls us to all look after and challenge the 'Common Good' and Fratelli Tutti which encourages as all to be united in love for all.

Advent liturgies – dates for your diary

The Advent liturgies will vary in format but will all be made up of a combination of reading, music, singing and reflective prayer. We invite all of our children's parents to attend their child's class liturgy, if you are working and unable to attend then we would be happy to see grandparents in your place, all we ask is that due to space every family choose to send no more than 4 adults to see your child. If every family adheres to that rule there will be a maximum of 120 adults watching every liturgy.

Class	Date	Time
Rainbows nativity	Tuesday 6 th December 2022	10:00am
Sunshine nativity	Thursday 8 th December 2022	10:00am
Reception Mrs Duffy nativity	Monday 12 th December 2022	10:00am
Reception Miss Rice nativity	Monday 12 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year One – Mrs O'Neil	Tuesday 13 th December 2022	10:00am
Year One Miss Young	Tuesday 13 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Two Mrs Langford	Wednesday 14 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Two Miss Dean	Wednesday 14 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Three Mrs Meldrum/Mrs McLean	Thursday 15 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Three Miss Cherry	Thursday 15 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Four Mr Peacock	Friday 16 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Four Mr Bonnar	Friday 16 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Five Miss Dolphin	Monday 19 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Five Miss McMaster	Monday 19 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Six Mr Allen	Wednesday 21 st December 2022	10:00am
Year Six Mrs Spencer / Mrs Black	Wednesday 21 st December 2022	2:00pm

Obviously, times and dates may change and vary nearer the time, but we are hopeful that barring snowstorms or other contingencies we are as yet unaware of, that these dates will be secure.

Christmas Dinner

Next Wednesday 7th December 2022, is Christmas dinner day. All pupils can come into school wearing a Christmas jumper or any jumper of their choosing with their school uniform. Please do not feel the need to go and buy a new jumper. A reminder that Year 5 need to bring their school uniform in as they are going to the Cathedral in the afternoon, to attend an Advent mass with the other catholic primary schools in our Newcastle cluster.



'Walk the World' Charity Walk - Wednesday 7th December at 2pm.

Our Mini Vinnies have been very busy in designing a charity event for our school. After many meetings we have decided that all children across school will complete a walk around the playground for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). If you could send your child into school with **one** silver coin as a donation, this can be 5p, 10p, 20p or 50p? The money will be sent to CAFOD, a very worthwhile cause. Look out for photographs on the school Facebook page!

Christmas Parties

We are inviting pupils to come and have some Christmas fun with their year groups dressed in any sort of party clothes that they are comfortable in.

Year Group	Date of Christmas Party – children can wear their own clothes
Nursery - Rainbows	Tuesday 20 th December
Nursery - Sunshine	Thursday 22 nd December
Reception	Wednesday 21 st December
Year One	Monday 19 th December
Year Two	Thursday 22 nd December
Year Three	Wednesday 21 st December
Year Four	Wednesday 21 st December
Year Five	Thursday 22 nd December
Year Six	Thursday 22 nd December

Christmas gift tags

The school council has been working with Mrs O'Neil to make a large number of Christmas tags which children can purchase take home and write a message and then bring back to school and hang on our school Christmas Tree. Each tag will cost 50p.

Christmas Cards

Year 6 are working on a Faith in Action project and they will be collecting Christmas cards and selling them to children to send one per year group. The money collected will all be used to buy items for Newcastle's People's kitchen. We are called by the pope through Fratelli Tutti to look after our common good and our Year 6 pupils are being encouraged to reach out and support the vulnerable in Newcastle.

Travelling Nativity

We are delighted to once again, following a pause during COVID, to be sending home our travelling cribs. The Mini Vinnies have made the new packs to send home to families. We ask that you use it the evening you get it and send it straight back the following the following morning and so we can share the cribs with as many of our families as possible.

Mini Vinnies

We are delighted that our Mini Vinnie group are meeting with representatives of the SVP group from church, this will help our pupils understand their mission to look after others and it helps them to know what the amazing job the SVP at church do to support those in the parish who need it.

Facebook Carols

Mr Schofield, who teaches our pupils music is recording the children singing carols. Each of these will be uploaded onto the school Facebook page over the coming weeks to share with everyone.

Fair Trade

As a school we have wanted to launch a Fairtrade provision for pupils, however we have become more and more aware that it can be very expensive and we are sensitive to families in the current cost of living challenges. So, we have changed from selling Fair Trade products to pupils weekly, to giving every child a Fair-Trade packet of Maltesers, which are made using the Fair-Trade values. We are teaching pupils about the

important work and mission of the Fair-Trade movement which is committed to promoting an ethical living wage for all involved.

End of Term Whole School Mass

On Tuesday 20th December all the pupils will come together and celebrate mass with Father Martin leading us together in our spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Attendance / Punctuality

Please can I remind parent's that attendance and punctuality is very important to your child's education. Where attendance and or punctuality has been identified as an issue Grant Short, our school attendance officer, will contact families and speak to them about ways to best support you to bring your child in every day and on time. If your child is collected before the end of the school day, you will be asked to provide evidence of their appointment and reason for leaving early. If they come into school late it will be recorded on the register, it also disrupts their start to the day and can distress children.

Holidays during term time

Just to remind parents that if you take your child out of school for a holiday the attendance officer, Grant Short, will contact you. The Local Authority is also likely to make contact to ensure that parents understand children should be in school all year round.

Reminder of school day timings

All pupils should be in school by **8:45am** and then each evening they are dismissed at the following staggered times.

Year Group	Start Time	End Time
Reception	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 1	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 2	8:45am	3:20pm
Year 3	8:45am	3:20pm
Year 4	8:45am	3:25pm
Year 5	8:45am	3:25pm
Year 6	8:45am	3:30pm

School Dinners

Please can we remind parent's that if your child wants to switch between packed lunch and school dinner, we need 2 weeks' notice of this change, either way. It is not possible to accommodate daily changes, as the kitchen is unable to access daily deliveries and need time to plan and order food for everyone.

Almost new uniforms

There are still a large number of spare uniforms in school, please let us know if you would like any bagged up and sent home with your child. It would be a shame for them to be sat here if they could be of any use – we would be delighted to give them all away.

Golden Book Assembly

It is a pleasure, every Friday morning to celebrate with your children all of their wonderful success. Please don't forget to send your child in with any certificates they achieve from taking part in outside activities. It is a delight to see the wide range of activities our children take part in.

Gospel Values Award

As part of our continued drive to improve pupil's aspiration and ambition to walk in Jesus' s footsteps we are going to start recognising pupils who demonstrate Faith, Love and/or Forgiveness. We know that every week our pupils show each other this level of care and support and so we want to recognise this and reward them for their positive contribution. These will be given out weekly at the Golden Book Assembly on a Friday.

Sporting Value Awards

We are continuing to recognise positive sporting values demonstrated by our pupils, this is to promote the qualities needed to be a fantastic sports person. Winning is not the qualifying factor it is the way in which pupils participate by showing Respect, Honesty, Teamwork, Passion, Self-Belief and Determination.

Parent Survey

Thank you so much for all your contributions to the school parental views survey. It is always really useful to collate information about the current thinking of our parents and it has been fabulous to have so many overwhelmingly positive responses to what school is trying to do for your children. A separate letter will be sent out with details of all the responses for you all to read, but in the interim, thank you for all of your on-going support.

Year 6 SATS

Please note that the dates have changed for the Year 6 SATS, this is due to the Monday 8th May now being a Bank Holiday for the King's coronation.

- **Tuesday 9 May 2023:** Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 1
- **Tuesday 9 May 2023:** Spelling Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 2
- **Wednesday 10 May 2023:** English Reading
- **Thursday 11 May 2023:** Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic)
- **Thursday 11 May 2023:** Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
- **Friday 12 May 2023:** Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

Advance warning of school closure

Due to the government announcing that Monday 8th May 2023 will be a bank holiday, school will be closed that day for all staff and pupils.

Diocesan consultation on term dates

There is a link to the diocese a consultation around Catholic Schools Term Dates on the top of the school website page.

We continue to keep all of our families in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher