



# 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](mailto:admin@stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk)

[www.stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk)



19<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Following on from the letter this morning, I have had several parents contact school requesting that the assembly plans be changed to allow parents to attend in person, outside.

Many other Catholic and non-Catholic Heads cancelled their performances weeks ago; however, I was hoping that with the proposed date of the 19<sup>th</sup> July coming and the governments proposed easing of restrictions we would be able to invite parents in. I did say in all the letters that the decision to have parents attend in person would be a last-minute decision and I am sorry that by postponing at the last moment it has caused so much upset.

We have tried to take the assembly outside however children could not make themselves heard so inside with a PA system and recording has been deemed better. Due to the fact that we have 3 bubbles currently isolating at home, Year 6 pupils have had two recent bubble closures and the number of COVID cases is so high in Newcastle we did not want to put our children or their families in any further difficulty.

Public Health England have also advised us today that as a school we should be keeping all control measures in place until the end of term. To allow this event to go ahead in a way that is not safely socially distanced inside, they have advised that we do not go ahead. Whilst the technical guidance has changed from the government the LA guidance recommends that schools consider not having events which increase the number of contacts. Any close contacts who later developed COVID-19 would create a 10-day isolation advice from Track and Trace as this requirement does not currently end until mid-August.

I have fully consulted with the Chair of Governors, and it is felt that ultimately the cautious approach to safety, health and well-being in line with the most up to date guidance today from the local Public Health England is what is best for our pupils and our school.

I appreciate your disappointment at not seeing your children's final assembly in person, however I hope you understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and that your children's safety and well-being is always at the forefront of everything we do.

Kind regards,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe  
Headteacher