



18th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19

As the Delta variant continues to push numbers up at a fast pace, and schools locally have had to start closing bubbles again sending pupils home, I am asking all families to follow the most up to date government guidance. If you or your child has been in close contact or live with someone who has positive please DO NOT bring your child/children into school for the pre-requisite 10 days. Please ensure that all family members isolate if any one of you test positive. I appreciate that these rules are wearing thin on everyone and most people are exhausted by the continual following of rules, however they are there to keep everyone safe. I would like to get through the last five weeks of the summer term without having to ask any class or year group to isolate again, online learning provides a challenge for pupils and staff alike.

COVID Self-Isolation Payments for low income families

Any pupil who is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 is required to self-isolate at home for a period of 10 days. If a parent or carer on a low income needs to take time off work to care for their child while they remain at home and this results in a loss of income, they may be eligible for financial support. Newcastle City Council administers a Test and Trace Support Payment scheme for which eligible parents or carers can apply for £500 one off support.

To qualify they must meet the following criteria:

- The parent or carer of the child or young person must live in the same household, **and**
- needs to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate (this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period), **and**
- They are employed or self-employed, **and**
- They are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result, **and**
- They or their partner are currently receiving at least one of the following benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - income-based Employment and Support Allowance
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Pension Credit

And

- The child or young person they care for:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting, **and**
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Applications can be made online at:

<https://newcastle.gov.uk/TestandTraceSupportPayments>

Supporting evidence will be required with the application including a copy of the letter from the child's school instructing them to self-isolate. As part of the verification process the Test and Trace Support Payment team will make contact with the school via telephone or email to confirm the applicable child has been asked to self-isolate by the school due to being identified as a close contact. This is not a GDPR issue as this check is made clear to applicants. Please pass this on to office staff who might take such a call.

The payment will be made within 3 working days of a successful application.

Getting a PCR test if you have no symptoms

You can also use this service if:

- you've been in contact with someone who's tested positive
- you've been asked to get a test by a local council or someone from NHS Test and Trace
- a GP or other health professional has asked you to get a test
- you're taking part in a government pilot project
- you've been asked to get a test to confirm a positive result
- you've received an unclear result and were told to get a second test
- you need to get a test for someone you live with who has symptoms
- you're in the National Tactical Response Group

The scripts for the 119 call handlers should now have been updated, so we shouldn't have any more confusion.

Parents meetings – June 2021

As we are still unable to have parents in school due to COVID-19, staff are spending a day, in 10-minute allocated slots talking to parents about their children. You have been asked if you want morning, afternoon or evening and staff have allocated time slots, staff will ring you and update you on your child's year in school. The three slots were 9am – 12noon morning, 1pm – 3pm afternoon or 3:30pm – 5:30pm evening. Anybody who did not express a preference will be phoned when there are gaps in the teacher's diary on their day.

If your child needs a SEN review, then this will be discussed and if you need any further information Mrs. Bury and Mrs Watanabe will also be available for personalised telephone conversation. There will not be EHCP review meetings during these times, they will be arranged in the Autumn 2022 term on an individual basis. Teacher's written reports will be sent home on week commencing 12th July 2021.

Teacher Name	Date	Year Group
Mrs Spencer	Monday 21 st June	Year 6
Mr Bonnar	Tuesday 22 nd June	Year 6
Miss McMaster	Monday 21 st June	Year 5
Mrs Rutherford	Tuesday 22 nd June	Year 5
Miss Prayle	Monday 21 st June	Year 4
Mr Peacock	Tuesday 22 nd June	Year 4
Mrs O'Neil	Monday 21 st June	Year 3
Mr Galley	Tuesday 22 nd June	Year 3
Miss Cherry	Monday 28 th June	Year 2
Miss Dean	Tuesday 29 th June	Year 2
Mrs Watanabe	Monday 28 th June	Year 1
Mrs Langford	Tuesday 29 th June	Year 1
Mrs Duffy	Monday 28 th June	Reception
Mr Cowan	Tuesday 29 th June	Reception
Mrs Lake	Monday 28 th June	Nursery Rainbows *Please note evening date change to 5.06.2021
Mrs Lake	Tuesday 29 th June	Nursery Sunshine *Please note evening date change 6.06.2021
Mrs Bury / Mrs Watanabe	Wednesday 23 rd and 30 th June	SENDCo

*Any parent in Nursery who has booked a 3:30pm – 5:30pm slot on Monday 28th June or Tuesday 29th June will be contacted at the same time but on Monday 5th July or Tuesday 6th July instead. Mrs Lake has been double booked and is also spending the whole week from Monday 28th June until Friday 2nd July meeting new nursery parents every evening. I apologise about the clash and if you cannot make that time slot please feel free to telephone the office and they will let Mrs Lake know.

Transition Meetings for Reception and Nursery Pupils

If you have a child starting with us in September 2021, you will have had a separate letter inviting you to a small COVID secure induction session after school. The reception and

nursery staff are spending two weeks meeting parents after school to support our new 112 pupils' transition into school in September 2021.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our Year 5 children who have made their First Holy Communion with Father Martin last week. The sun shone on all of our children and they celebrated making this important sacrament with their family at St. John Vianney church. On behalf of the whole school community, we send all of our prayers and congratulations to Josie, Lucy, Haydon, Thomas, Jack, Alfie, Luke, Harrison, Charles, Jack, Owen, Harry, Ronnie and Matthew – this was a very special occasion for them all. All of our Year 5 children celebrated their First Holy Communion with photographs in church followed by a communion party in school. Well done to all everyone – we are delighted that, in spite of the unavoidable disruption caused by COVID, our children have now all made their First Holy Communion with Father Martin and it has been a very special occasion for them all. I know Father Martin also appreciated all of your patience over the last few months.

INSET Day

A quick reminder that school will be closed to pupils on Friday 2nd July 2021.

Adam Bushnell – Author

Next week, Adam Bushnell, a fabulous children's author and teacher will be coming into school to lead two days of workshops with our children. I know from previously working with him that he is great and the children will come home raving about his wonderful, fun and exciting stories.

Parking around school

Please help us work with our neighbours around school by **NOT** blocking their driveways when you leave your car to collect your children. The advice has been given to local residents to alert the police if your car perpetually does this. Again, I appreciate your support with keeping our local community happy.

Year 6 – Leavers Assembly

Due to a recent delay in the Government easing of COVID restrictions, pupils are still preparing a leaving celebration, however I will have to make a last-minute decision on whether we can host it in person or film it and upload it onto the website. Government guidance nearer the time will help me decide on the COVID safety of the possible event.

We continue to hope to have you attend in person but to reduce the numbers still further we are now looking at splitting it up to Tuesday 20th July 2021 and repeated on Thursday 22nd July 2021. It is our hope, but it is by no means certain that we would invite a **MAXIMUM** of 2 adults per child. Mr Bonnar's class would be invited at 10:30am and Mrs Spencer's class would be invited at 1:30pm. Further information will come as COVID-19 restrictions change and allow, so please look out for letters nearer the time. I appreciate the uncertainty is difficult but we are working with guidance which changes daily. Some schools have taken the decision to cancel everything now, however I am trying to wait to the last possible moment in the hope that we can make something work, even if it is all outside...lets all hope and pray that the recent rise in COVID numbers start to reduce as soon as possible.

Year 6 – Holy Island Day Trip

I am delighted that, COVID-19 restrictions allowing and regardless of the weather, we are planning to take the whole year group to Holy Island for a day trip on 21st July 2021. If guidance changes, then once again I will let you all know at the last minute if we have to cancel it, however we are hopeful we can make it work for our pupils. We hope to leave school at 8am and return at approximately 6pm. The current plan is that the day will include a long walk, time at the beach, time spent looking for Cuthbert's beads, hopefully mass on St Cuthbert's Island and finally a stop at Seahouses for fish and chips on the way home. I anticipate being able to meet the costs of approximately £15 per child out of school funds for every child. I hope that the trip will enable pupils to celebrate some of their time here at St John Vianney with each other and with staff. Further details will follow in a letter nearer the time.

Sports Day

All of our pupils will be carrying out activities in their class bubbles, weather permitting over the next few weeks to support 'Sports Day' however unfortunately no parents will be able to attend again this year. Unfortunately, with 450+ pupils and all their parents the COVID security of the event would be impossible to manage safely. Nevertheless, pupils will still have the opportunity to take part.

As always staff, Governors and I continue to keep you and all of your families in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher