



Mrs A D Thorpe
Head Teacher

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Hillhead Road
West Denton
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1DN

Telephone: 0191 2672233
office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org
www.stjohnvianneynewcastle.org

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

23rd June 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

It has been a phenomenally busy few weeks for all the staff and pupils at St John Vianney. Ever since the shocking news came through on Friday 9th June 2023, all staff have worked long hours, tirelessly every day, including weekends, to move every classroom and all their children firstly to learning online, then into a variety of different educational and non-educational settings to facilitate the quickest possible return to face-to-face teaching. Alongside this, staff have also tried to keep on the pre-booked trips going. I am so proud of the way all staff, pupils and parents have supported each other through these unprecedented times, most especially our children who have shown the most wonderful resilience and adaptability to their new surroundings, with humour and confidence.

A huge thank you goes out to the staff at Sacred Heart High School who have been so supportive in housing our Year 4 and year 5 pupils, also Sacred Heart Primary who have been so generous in loaning their fields to our children to have recreational space. The bus company for being so flexible and transporting our children back and forth, safely and quickly.

Another huge thank you goes out to the staff at West Denton Community Centre, who when asked immediately offered us some space next door to school for our Year 6 pupils. Their help and support is very much appreciated.

A huge shout out to all my fellow head teachers in various local primaries, particularly those in our local Newcastle Catholic group and the OWL Trust, who all came forward with offers of a classroom or hall in each of their schools to help us out. The support in our area for each other is fantastic. Newcastle LA have helped support school in locating transport so quickly.



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Last, but certainly not least thank you to our Local governing body including Fr Martin, Parish Priest at St John Vianney Church, BBCE Trust , the Diocese, DfE, various building contractors, scaffolding companies, contractors and multiple experts who have worked so diligently to put plans in place quickly, whilst prioritising the safety and well-being of our pupils and staff at all times.

This is not an exhaustive list, as you can imagine there are a number of other agencies and people who work behind the scenes to help and support everyone in our St John Vianney Community. Thank you to all and everyone who has been positive and encouraging of our endeavours to keep children in school as much as possible.

Plans for next week remain as published in previous letters, and I expect to be in a position to issue weekly updates from next week. Staff are updating Facebook on a daily basis so that you can see what your children are learning, at each of the various sites. I will also add in some building updates on a regular basis so you can see the progress being made.

I continue to appreciate all your kind emails, cards, phone calls, good wishes and votes of thanks for all the staff and their hard work. It is so appreciated knowing that their efforts are valued by you all. Please do not hesitate to contact school via telephone 01912672233 or via email office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org if you need anything. In the meantime, thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time.

Please continue to keep everyone in our school family in your thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher