



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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Mrs A D Thorpe
Head Teacher

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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

5th September 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

It has been an absolute joy to welcome all our children back to school this week. They have come in full of smiles and laughter, their positive start to the year has been exceptional. As we start the school year, this letter will act as a reminder of some the school's expectations. Our children are often commended when we go out about how respectful and well behaved, they are. We work hard with the children to continue these high standards and expectations in school. However, we also need parental support to back this up from home, and this support is hugely appreciated.

Uniform

Children have come into school looking incredibly smart. It has been a joy to see how proud they are of all their new school uniform. Please make sure every item clearly has your child's name marked in it. Remember school shoes should be black and appropriate for school, this does not include trainers or 'All stars'. Children wearing non-uniform items will be asked to change and pre-loved items will be provided.

Hairstyles

Please make sure that all long hair is tied up in a style that removes it from the child's face. This means they can focus on their work, and it is less likely to get caught during PE. Please do not take your child for radical haircuts, including shaved heads, tramlines or dyed hair etc

PE Kits

Pupils are asked to wear a school PE kit on one day of the week. Please make sure this is a white t-shirt (preferably with the blue school logo), blue or black shorts, blue or black tracksuit bottoms and their red school jumper. Please do not send them in non-uniform items such as pink crop tops, or football hoodies! The following days are the only days your child should come dressed in a school PE kit and school red jumper.

Monday	Reception
Wednesday	Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday	Year 5 and Year 6
Friday	Year 1 and Year 2

Earrings

No child, girl or boy, is allowed to wear earrings and that includes clear spacers. It is not safe for playtime, and they will be unable to take part in PE. Some parents are putting tape on their child's ear, please only do this if they have had their ears pierced in the last 6/7 weeks, otherwise the earrings should be removed at home, prior to coming into school. Your support with removing all forms of jewellery is much appreciated.



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Registered Office: Fenham Hall Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9YH.

Electronic devices

No child should be wearing wi-fi enabled watches such as apple watches to school. They do not need them, and school will not pay for their replacement in the event of them getting broken, lost, misplaced or shared with another pupil.

Mobile Phones

If your child is in Y5 or Y6 and brings a mobile phone into school to use when they walk home, it MUST be handed to the teacher secure box and turned off at the start of the day. It should then be collected at the end of the day. No child is allowed to keep their mobile phone with them during the school day. No child from Nursery to Year 4 needs to bring a mobile phone into school without prior permission from the head teacher.

Book Bags

Last year, school purchased a brand-new book bag for every pupil and gave them to every child free of charge. Reception will be given new ones this year. The classrooms cannot accommodate 30 large rucksacks, please ensure that your child only brings a school book bag and a small, packed lunch box, NOT a rucksack. Teachers will be telling pupils to leave them at home from Monday, the classrooms are simply too small to store 30+ large bags and lunch boxes.

Water bottles

Please can we ask for pupils to be sent in with small water bottles, every classroom has a sink so they can be re-filled as often as required. The huge 2.5L bottles are taking up too much space on each child's table!

The end of day school timings

Nursery	Parents come into the yard and collect at 3pm
Reception	Parents come into the yard and collect 3pm
Year One	Parents to come down the side path 3:05pm
Year Two	3:10pm
Year Three	3:15pm
Year Four	3:20pm
Year Five	3:25pm
Year Six	3:30pm

Please could all Y2 – Y6 parents continue to wait in the marked area at the back of the yard, until they are called forward. We must keep the narrow gate area as clear as possible. Please can you let all adults including grandparents know this change to the pickup routine. Your support and help with this is appreciated.

Attendance

90% attendance sounds good but means that your child misses on average:

- One half day every week.
- Nearly four weeks every school year.
- Over one school year in a school career.

2 weeks of leave in term time every year with no other absences means that your child:

- Can only ever achieve 95% attendance
- Will miss about two terms in a school career

Being just 5 minutes late every day adds up to missing about 3 days of school every year

Being just 10 minutes late every day adds up to missing about 6 days of school every year

There is lots of detailed information on the Newcastle City Website where all the information about fines and the legal ramifications of not ensuring your child attends school is explained.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/parent-information/school-attendance-and-absence>



Over the coming weeks, Jan Gurkin will be telephoning every parent whose child had an attendance below 90% last academic year. The school and governments expectation is that all pupils reach at least 97% attendance. These attendance figures will now be monitored every half term. From November 2025, parents will be requested to attend 'Attendance Contract' Meetings if their children's attendance is below 90%.

Lateness

The school day starts for Rec – Y6 at 8:45am, with the gate opening at 8:30am to facilitate a calm and orderly start to the school day. In line with government guidance all pupils are having their attendance regularly monitored, and those who are regularly coming in late, will start to receive telephone calls from Jan Gurkin and if it persists then parents will be issued with attendance contracts.

Holidays

Holidays during the school term are normally unauthorised. This year the attendance officer, Jan Gurkin, will be working closely with the local authority and families will be referred and fines will be issued. Alongside which this will impact the pupil's ability to stay above 97% which could result in attendance contracts being issued.

Arbor

We are aware that Arbor is not working for all our families, so all letters will be uploaded onto the school website at the same time. Mrs McDine is working hard to resolve the ongoing issues as we have switched over to this new system. Please be patient with us as it takes time to fix.

Dates for the diary

These are still being confirmed but a list for the whole of the Autumn Term will be issued next week.

And finally, a warm welcome to all our wonderful new starters, from Nursery, Reception and new staff, it has been a wonderful week full of smiles, happiness and laughter. We are so proud of all our children and look forward to continuing to work with you, as their parents, to ensure that every child flourishes at St John Vianney.

Yours sincerely,

A D Thorpe

Headteacher
Mrs A D Thorpe