



2nd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It hardly seems like six weeks have passed since the last day of term, I hope you have managed to have a restful and peaceful summer break. Staff have all been in school over the summer holidays, working hard to create a new and bright working atmosphere in all the classrooms and communal learning spaces; there are some exciting new additions such as the Reading Hub with a new school library, and the new Learning Hub. I know that our pupils will continue to benefit from the continual improvements we bring to school.

Welcome to all of our Reception & Nursery starters

We are really looking forward to all of our new pupils who are joining our St John Vianney family this year. You have had your letters with all the individual timings for your staggered entrance times for the first couple of weeks, please follow all of those timings but also feel free to contact the office if you need to ask any questions. Year 6 will be really excited to welcome their new Reception Buddies and we are setting a new system of pairing Reception and Year 6 pupils together to offer support and encouragement to our new starters.

Good luck to our Year 6 pupils who are starting at their respective senior schools this week, we keep you as always in our prayers.

COVID-19 Rules

As we all look forward to the return of pupils back into school I would like to take this opportunity to update you all about some of the new COVID-19 rules and guidance which have changed over the holidays. In line with the new guidance school has an updated COVID-19 management outbreak plan which, if needed would be fully supported and reviewed by Public Health England and the Local Authority. As we all know these things continually change, with the latest Government Guidance published on 27th August, we will always try to be flexible and ready to change at short notice. However, at the present time the following systems will be in place from 7th September until further notice.

Pupils will no longer need to work within isolated COVID-19 secure bubbles and so school has reviewed the break times, lunchtimes and group working plans. Staff will work closely to support all of our pupils to start mixing and interacting across the year groups again. This is a really positive and important step forward in promoting and supporting pupil's mental health and well-being. There are huge advantages to mixing socially and academically across the class and year groups.

COVID-19 Isolation and PCR Testing update

NHS Test and Trace will work closely with any family of a pupil who receives a positive PCR test result to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the

individual as being a close contact. We would hope that this is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

If any child presents in school with any of the COVID-19 symptoms or is unwell, school will contact the family and ask for the child to be collected; we will strongly encourage parents book a PCR test as appropriate. Currently, as bubbles no longer exist, the class would not be sent home, even when a pupil in that class receives a positive PCR test result. Staff will continue to carry out their own twice weekly LFD tests. However, it would still be really helpful if parents could inform school if anyone in their household has received a positive test result.

Entrance and Exit timings of the school day

Morning routine

The school gates will be opened at 8:40am; all pupils should be dropped off at the top of the path to enter school through the main gate, there will be no queuing/waiting so pupils, including siblings, can arrive at any time between 8:40am and 8:50am. Pupils will walk directly to their classrooms, where teachers will be waiting to welcome them in. All pupils are expected to be in school sat down in their classroom by 8:55am for registration. Any pupil arriving after registration time will be marked as late. Continual late marks will lead to a discussion with the attendance officer, where support on helping families arrive on time will be offered.

Afternoon routine

All pupils will remain with their class until their class is dismissed; siblings will no longer be pulled out of class early to be dismissed. If you are a parent waiting to collect more than one child please arrive to collect your youngest first and then there is a new allocated waiting area beside the school bicycle shed to stand between class groups. Whilst I appreciate that for a few of our families they will need to wait for a short while, the need for pupils to be present for all their educational learning time in school is paramount as we come out of the pandemic. Pupils cannot afford to miss any more of their education moving forward.

Signs will be placed at the top of the path and parents will be invited to come in and line up at their allotted time slot, we hope that after the initial few weeks of staff learning parents/grandparents faces the process can speed up to reduce the waiting time between year groups. Initially we need a 5-minute dismissal slot for each year group to enable every group of 60 children to be dismissed safely. I appreciate all your support in helping staff make this work quickly and efficiently, the faster we make it work the quicker we can reduce the time gaps between year groups. If your child goes home with a child minder then the child minder is requested to arrive to collect the youngest first and then wait to collect each child from their class group.

Year group	AM Morning drop off	PM Afternoon collection time	Place
Nursery – after induction period	9:00am Wed 8:30am -11:30am	3:00pm Wed 12:30pm – 3:30pm	EYFS Yard line up
Reception – after induction period	8:40am – 8:50am	3:05pm	EYFS Yard line up
Year One	8:40am – 8:50am	3:05pm	Parents line up
Year Two	8:40am – 8:50am	3:10pm	Parents line up
Year Three	8:40am – 8:50am	3:15pm	Parents line up
Year Four	8:40am – 8:50am	3:20pm	Parents line up
Year Five	8:40am – 8:50am	3:25pm	Parents line up
Year Six	8:40am – 8:50am	3:30pm	Parents line up

We also ask that any adult collecting your child continues to follow the one-way system of entering through the top gate and leaving across the carpark as that also helps to speed up the dismissal process. Obviously, you will all be aware that masks and social distancing are no longer mandatory, we do request that you all continue to line up on the spots as it actually makes it easier and quicker to dismiss children.

Absence procedures

Please make sure that you inform school by telephone or email when your child is going to absent from school and the reason why. If your child is marked absent on the register and no reason has been given you will be contacted by text message to ask for a reason. If you do not reply you will be telephoned and if no contact can be made this will become a safeguarding issue and contact with the relevant authorities will be made.

Attendance

We have to ensure that all of our pupils are in school whenever possible. In line with the updated COVID-19 guidance attendance is going to be monitored again; pupils will be given a traffic light ranking according to their attendance. Letters will be sent out to parents on a regular basis to highlight concerns and as appropriate the attendance officer will be asked to visit your house to offer support and issue parental contracts where necessary. We would hope that all families want their children in school learning at all times, if you have problems with attendance and need help then please contact the office and we will support you.

Homework and Reading Books

We continue to want to promote active and purposeful homework tasks for all of our pupils, and as such as the rules for COVID change it is our hope and expectation that reading books will be sent home weekly, however we also need your support and ask that you send reading books and diaries back to school daily as we do not have thousands of books to have home readers, in school readers and library books! We also continue to encourage you to use all of the online resources such as reading Buddy and Times Tables Rock stars which we have purchased to support children at home, if you need another copy of your login details please contact the office.

Year Group	Task	Time scale and frequency
Nursery	Tasks to promote engagement and a love of books set as appropriate by staff – Mrs Lake will communicate with parents on a regular basis	3-5 times a week 10 mins
Reception	Reading Phonics tasks – set by teacher Regular tasks set by teacher to support in class learning	5 times a week 10-15mins
Year One	Reading Spellings Phonics work – set by teacher	5 times a week 15 mins

Year Two	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling	5 times a week 20 mins
Year Three	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling	5 times a week 20 mins
Year Four	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling	5 times a week 25 mins
Year Five	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling Class work to support in school learning on an adhoc basis	5 times a week 25 mins
Year Six	Reading TimesTables Rock stars Spelling SATS Preparation work Adhoc specific tasks to support in class learning and becoming KS3 ready	5 times a week 30 mins

Research tells us that pupils who engage daily with their learning will thrive more in school so we ask that all pupils work hard to engage with their home learning tasks. There are new homework/reading record diaries for every pupil, which will be sent home with new reading books. Pupils should bring their reading record and books into school daily so that staff can also support reading in school. We ask that every time a child has read with an adult, either at home or in school, a comment is written in their written record. This aims to boost and encourage pupils with regular reading habits.

Thrive

There is a new mental health and well-being program which will start to be introduced to all pupils this year. Miss Cherry and Mrs Watanabe will lead this and I know that all of our pupils will grow and benefits from this amazing program of support – it is an exciting and new development for school and we hope to become a lead beacon school for this new and innovative project to the benefit of all of our pupils.

Uniforms

All pupils must wear full school uniform including black school shoes, not trainers and discrete hair ties for any pupil with long hair. All pupils can bring in a lunch bag and a small school book bag, please DO NOT send in large rucksacks as we do not have the space to store them in class. All classes now have pegs in their classroom to create learning spaces in corridors so it is much smaller and anything big takes over from learning space in the classroom. All of our uniform can be sourced from [Tots to Teams](#), details of which can be found in the school prospectus.

PE Kits

We strongly advise that PE kits are brought into school in a small school drawstring bag and left on your child's peg during the week, PE kits should be in school all week as outdoor PE is subject to the vagaries of the weather and so the timetable sometimes changes at short notice. Please ensure that the white PE T-Shirt has the school logo on it, purchased from Tots to Teams. Please do not send in large rucksacks as there is no room to store 30 in each class.

School Houses

I am delighted to tell you that staff are going to work closely with pupils to develop a bigger and more recognizable House structure, there will be an enhanced rewards system and pupils

will be encouraged to take part in group activities as well as class activities. Please keep an eye out for further information.

Parents in school

We continue to ask parents to contact school via the school email or telephone. If you need to speak to a teacher then the office staff will let that teacher know and they will contact you outside of teaching time.

We are ever hopeful that we can have parents back in school soon; as such we are planning a set of year group liturgies, Christmas Carol concerts and various celebratory events for you to delight in your child progress in school. As you would expect the Risk Assessment will be bespoke and carried out as close to the event as possible to ensure that as many people can attend as possible. Please watch this space as a list of '*possible dates*' will be sent out soon. Obviously, due to the nature of COVID-19 and the possible last-minute changes to the rules and regulations, these will all be very tentative list of dates and events. Nothing will be confirmed until the last minute. We feel it is much better to work towards events in an optimistic way then cancel at the last minute rather than simply not encouraging the children to work towards anything.

Once again, I wish you all a safe and happy last few days of the holiday and as always staff, Governors and I continue to keep you and all of your families in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Tuesday 7th September, fully refreshed!

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher