



Mrs A D Thorpe
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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

25th April 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

A warm welcome back after the Easter holidays, although they seem like a distant memory! I have been so impressed that the children have come back to school refreshed and happy, ready for an exciting summer term. There are a number of events planned for later on this term, so some of this letter will include early notice for you to add events into the diary.

Lambs

Last week, the lambs were kindly brought into school on Wednesday, for everyone to enjoy and support. All the children really had a wonderful day, as I am sure you have seen through some of the photos which have been posted on Facebook. I am not going to lie, I really wanted to take one home with me, they were wonderful. A huge thank you to Daisy, in Year 5, and her mum and dad for their generous time and patience in both bringing the lambs into school for the day and letting every child stroke the lambs and ask questions. We really appreciated it, I am sure it was a day none of our children will forget.

Poet

Tony Peek, a published poet, has been in school all of this week working with all the classes. The children's response has been fantastic and they all report that they have had a wonderful time and really enjoyed working with him. A huge thank you for all of his time and patience with our fabulous children. He will offer to sell books from a table outside of school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday slot after school this week.

Dance

I am delighted to announce that we have managed to secure a 10-week block of specialist dance teaching for all classes. The year groups will be split into two sets of 5 week blocks the first of which will start tomorrow, pupils will be able to wear their PE kit.

There will also be an additional after school session just for the Year 6 pupils starting on Wed 17th May 2023 to learn some of the dances for their summer performance. This club will be run from 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

Coronation Day Celebrations

As a school, we are going to celebrate the King's Coronation on Friday 5th May 2023. We are asking children to come into school dressed in any combination or single colour of Red, White and Blue (No football strips please). Pupils will take part in a wide variety of activities in their classes linked to both this and previous coronations.



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Weather dependent, in the afternoon, we would like to take all the children from Nursery to Year 6 onto the field to have a tea party celebration with music and dancing. If you could provide a snack and drink for your child to enjoy, the kitchen in school will also bake biscuits and muffins for every child to have.

Adam Bushnell

This is an author, who we have had into school on previous years. In May he will be in school for two days working with classes on story writing skills and how to become a more creative writer. In previous years the children have really enjoyed his workshops and they always produce some fabulous writing from it.

Year 6 SATS examinations

As parents of Year 6 pupils, you will all know that the children have all been preparing extremely hard for their exams which start on Tuesday 9th May and last until Friday 12th May 2023. I know that each and everyone of them will do their best and we are so proud of their positive attitude. That week please drop your child off at 8:30am so that they can come into school and enjoy a 'continental breakfast' prior to their test.

First Holy Communion

This week, the children are attending their lesson at church and parents are requested to collect their children at 4:30pm directly from there.

A reminder of the dates for First Holy communion to be held at St John Vianney Catholic Church:

- Mr Bonnar's class on Saturday 13th May at 10am
- Mr Peacock's class on Saturday 20th May at 10am

Safeguarding Workshops and support

I am delighted to be able to invite staff from our external safeguarding team, Clennell Education Solutions, to come into school over the next few weeks and work with children on how to interact with others safely and when and how they can report issues which may occur either in or out of school.

Whole school Art project

Over the next few weeks, the whole school will be taking part in a creative art activity, involving painting stones around the theme of being 'United Together' The final art piece and photographs of the creative process will then be exhibited in the Discovery Museum.

Multi faith workshops

In response to feedback from parents asking for more multi faith work, Mrs Meldrum has organised for all classes to take part in a multi-faith workshop on Wed 17th May 2023, run by Deanna, from the Jewish community.

Outwood Bound Learning

This continues to move on at pace and it is brilliant that our children have had so much time to explore the outdoor forest school area, take part in team building exercises and challenge activities. The children have reported that it is a fantastic day and they love taking part in it.

Car parking

Once again, I have been contacted by a local resident from Ashfield Terrace who was blocked in by cars dropping of children at our school this morning. Please can I ask you all again to have consideration for our neighbours and not block either their driveways of the road.

Advance notice of sports day

This is of course all weather dependent and the days will not take place if it is pouring with rain. Times will be confirmed nearer the time. But the table below will indicate morning or afternoon to help you plan.

Date	Morning / afternoon	Year groups
Wednesday 28 th June	Morning	Nursery and Reception Sports Day
Wednesday 28 th June	Afternoon	Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 29 th June	Morning	Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 29 th June	Afternoon	Year 5 and Year 6

Advance notice for Year 6 Leavers

The following dates are subject to change, due to unforeseen circumstances, but wherever possible we will keep these booked in the diary to help you with organising possible time off work.

Date	Event
Tuesday 18 th July @ 9:30am	Leavers Mass for Year 6 pupils and parents
Wednesday 19 th July @ 4:30pm	Year 6 Production for parents
Friday 21 st July @ 10:00am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly for parents

NEU Strike Action

As you may have seen in the news, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted for strike action for teaching staff on **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023**. Currently, there is only one class due to be shut on 27th April and those parents affected have been texted directly. As soon as I know more about the 2nd May, I will let you all know.

Teaching staff at our school have a legal right to take part in the planned strike action, however, it is important to emphasise that the dispute and strike action is not specific to our school. The industrial action is in relation to the NEU's dispute with the Government over the nationally agreed pay rises when considering the pressures faced by staff with the increased cost of living which we are all experiencing. It is a national issue, affecting all schools in England.

There is also a risk that teaching and support staff at our school might be impacted if their own children's school is closed. It is possible that some staff may need to take last minute time off to care for their own children, as a result of actions outside of our control. We will closely monitor this situation.

Please be assured that we shall do everything reasonably possible to keep the school open, provided that we are satisfied we have enough staff in school to comply with our legal obligations and duty of care to pupils.

If we feel this is not possible and we need to consider closing the school (to some or all pupils), then we shall try and provide you with as much notice as possible of this decision. This could be a whole school closure, or we may need to consider reducing pupil numbers by limiting attendance on the above strike days.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you need any further information about any of the above events.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher