



5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school following a chilly but well earned half term break. Our children have all come in happy and smiling and we are delighted to have them back in school despite the colder darker mornings.

### COVID-19

Please continue to take as many precautions as possible and if you have concerns then accessing an NHS PCR test is always advisable. School continues to follow a robust risk assessment to ensure that everyone can stay as safe as possible, but we also need your help with this. Please DO NOT send your child into school if they have COVID symptoms and please always try to access a PCR test whenever needed.

### Food bank contributions

A huge thank you to all of those who have sent items in already, we really do appreciate your generosity. They will all be collected at the end of next week – we have uploaded some photos to Facebook for you to see what coming together can make. Thank you all so much. As a school we are joining together next Friday to celebrate harvest festival and through our liturgy recognise our thankful we all are for the abundance of love, warmth and care we have for each other.

### Acceptable use policy

Please return the paper copy of the permission form as soon as possible as we are now uploading photos of your amazing children doing wonderful things in school and we want you all to be part of this.

### COP26

Pope Francis on Sunday urged people to pray so that "the cry of the Earth" is heard at the UN climate summit getting underway in Glasgow. Addressing worshippers in St Peter's Square, the pontiff said he hoped the crucial conference can offer "effective answers" for future generations. "Today in Glasgow, in Scotland, the UN Summit on Climate Change is starting, COP26. Let us pray so that the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor will be heard and that this meeting may give effective answers offering concrete hope to future generations," he said. Francis has made care for the planet's fragile environment a key plank of his papacy.

"It is time to act, and to act together" against climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and poverty, Pope Francis also warned in a text made public on Sunday by the Italian daily Il Corriere della Sera. Denouncing "an ecological crisis" and "a social crisis made deadly by a health crisis", the pope said that these crises also represent "opportunities" and a chance to "learn from mistakes committed in the past. It is time to think big, to rethink our priorities and to re-plan our future. It is time to act, to act together, it is time", concluded the spiritual leader of the world's estimated 1.3 billion Catholics.

The appeal from the pope came as G20 leaders, meeting at their summit in Rome, agreed on a goal of limiting global warming this century to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. The heads of the world's 20 richest nations, which account for more than 75% of greenhouse emissions, were negotiating on what commitments they are willing to make to contain rising global temperatures. What they agree is seen as vitally important in setting the tone for COP26 negotiations in Glasgow. The Pope also said he was thinking of the people of Haiti and urged the world not to abandon them. He also said he was praying for people who had suffered as a result of flooding in recent weeks in Vietnam and Sicily.

### **Diwali**

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

#### **When is Diwali?**

The festival is usually sometime between October and November, with the date changing each year. This year Diwali takes place over five days from 2 November to 6 November with the main day of celebration on Thursday 4 November.

Thank you so much for the beautiful gifts of sweets and candles which children brought in on Thursday to give to me – I have been really touched by your generosity and kindness.

### **First Holy Communion**

Please keep the year 5 children in your thoughts and prayers as they make their First Holy Communion on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Weekly Mass**

I am delighted to say that our Year 2 children attended mass on Wednesday with the parish to celebrate together. Every week a different year group join with our Parish of St John Vianney and we have been so proud of all the positive comments about how reverential our children are each week.

### **Training Day – School closed**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – please remember that school is closed to pupils on that day, whilst staff are all in attending training.

### **PTFA**

The PTFA have been hugely successful and from the own clothes day, doughnut sale and the fashion show they raised an amazing £1500, which school have agreed to match fund to buy books for our new school library. All of our children will benefit from this brilliant new and growing resource. I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of all the children and when the new delivery of books arrives I will post some photographs on Facebook.

As the doughnut sale was so successful the PTFA are suggesting they do another one on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021, but also ask that as many parents as possible pre order to avoid disappointment. A letter from the PTFA will follow.

### **Reception Visits**

If you or anyone you know is considering applying for a reception place at St John Vianney to start in September 2022 then we are running two open evenings where you will be given the opportunity to meet the Head teacher, the Deputy Head Teacher and some of the reception staff whilst also walking around our classrooms. These will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November at 4pm. Please can you ring the office to book a space and wear a mask on the visit.

### **Poppy Appeal**

We have been given a box of items from the poppy appeal to sell to raise money now they are able to start selling items once again, following COVID. If your child would like to buy an item then please send the money in a clearly marked envelope and staff will go around each class next week.

### **Advance Notice of Children in Need**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November it is the national Children in Need appeal. Pupils are all invited to come to school in their own clothes supporting the charity. The Theme this year is 'Together we can change lives' and it is a philosophy that we fundamentally agree with. Working together as a Catholic community we can all put our collective endeavour together and make a real difference.

### **Advance notice Anti Bullying week**

From 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November pupils will be focusing on specific activities around the Theme of 'One Kind Word' and on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> all pupils will be invited to come into school wearing odd socks – this will be a visual representation of what we will be focusing in on that week.

### **Winning House**

As part of our positive reinforcement of excellent behaviour in school all the children are coming together in their new houses to earn house points for making good and positive choices in both their academic and social interactions. This week, the house which earned the most points last half term has had a reward as a group.

### Attendance letters

We will be alerting all families where attendance has dropped and is starting to cause a concern. Whilst I appreciate there are many reasons for pupils being off and whilst COVID is still with us an abundance of caution is always necessary, some children are regularly off and should be encouraged to come to school as much as possible.

### Guy Fawkes

As every year, the 5<sup>th</sup> November sees people around the country celebrating together around bonfires and fireworks. We hope that you all stay as safe as possible and enjoy a well-earned time with the family.

### Advance notice of parent/teacher telephone consultations

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Staff Member</u>	
Nursery – Rainbows	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December Mrs Lake	
Nursery - Sunshine	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December Mrs Lake	
Reception	Mrs Duffy Duffy Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Mr Cowen Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
Year 1	Mrs Langford Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Mrs Watanabe Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 2	Miss Cherry Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Miss Prayle Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Year 3	Miss Dean Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Mrs Meldrum Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Year 4	Mrs Rutherford Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Mr Bonnar Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 5	Miss McMaster Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Miss Dolphin Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 6	Mrs Spencer Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Mr Peacock Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December

A letter asking parents to book their morning, afternoon or evening telephone slot will be sent out nearer the time.

### Behaviour policy

In line with our ambition to create a new positive behaviour agreement with our pupils; classes will be trialling new rewards and sanctions so that they can have a voice in creating the updated behaviour policy moving forward. We are really excited about this new collaborative approach between staff and pupils and expect it to celebrate the positives in school.

## Christmas

It is with regret, that in light of the persistently rising COVID numbers that the decision has been made to not have any in person Christmas performances this year. Pupils will all take part in carols by candlelight and a nativity stations pilgrimage around school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, but unfortunately no parents will be able to come.

Staff have spent some time considering the best way to celebrate with families but ultimately the health and well-being of pupils, staff and their families must come first. With 460+ children in school it would mean a minimum of at least 920 adult visitors, the logistics become too challenging when trying to keep everyone COVID secure and safe.

Father Christmas may also be able to visit school and hand out presents to the children, in a COVID secure way, from my office! The pupils will still have their Christmas parties during the last week of term and be able to take part in the many Christmas art, craft and musical activities linked to RE, which they love. Wherever possible staff will upload images onto Facebook to share with you all.

We hope to be able to make a more prominent event at Easter as part of the Lenten preparations, however all of that too lies in the balance of COVID.

As always, we keep all our families and our parish in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher