



4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of a very productive first week back after the half term holidays.

Ash Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Father Martin came into school to celebrate the start of our Lenten journey by distributing ashes to all staff and children. Our children were reverent and thoughtful and came up with a number of ways we could as a school community to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Food bank collections – Family Fast Day 11th March 2022

As part of our Lenten preparation, we are going to encourage our children to try to walk into school on CAFOD Family Fast Day (11th March 2022).
<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

We will be encouraging our children to wear their own clothes, that day, and in return we have asked if they could collect items to donate to the local foodbank. The way that our children have responded to the call to help others is a real credit to them and they are passionate about doing things that would help others. I am really proud of them. If you feel able to donate any of the following items we would hugely appreciate it and we will take a large collection to the local foodbank before the Easter holidays.

- TEA BAGS
- COFFEE (INSTANT)
- SUGAR (500G)
- CEREAL
- PASTA
- PASTA SAUCE
- MILK (UHT OR POWDERED)
- FRUIT JUICE (LONG LIFE)
- TINNED TOMATOES
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TINNED FISH
- TINNED MEAT
- BISCUITS/SNACK BARS

- TINNED RICE PUDDING
 - RICE
 - SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER
 - SOAP / SHOWER GEL
 - NAPPIES / WET WIPES / TINNED BABY MILK
 - ANYTHING ELSE WHICH IS NOT PERISHABLE
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Weekly Mass

Our children are going to recommence attending weekly mass on a Wednesday morning at St John Vianney, this was a lovely marker of the week before Christmas and the parish commented on how wonderful it was to have the children back in church. It was paused again in January; however, I am delighted that it will recommence on Wednesday 9th March with our Year 5 pupils.

World Book Day 3rd March 2022

The children had a fabulous day, working across all year groups and mixing, celebrating books, authors and illustrators. The celebration of reading and books was fabulous and everyone had a super day.

History Timeline

Over the half term holidays, Mr Bonnar arranged for an amazing 25m long timeline to be set in the grounds of the school playground for all of our pupils to use. It is wonderful and already the children are commenting on historical events in time and where our school fits in. There will be some updated photographs going onto Facebook for you all to see.

COVID Update

Please can we ask that with the ongoing changing of the rules, if your child tests positive for COVID you do not send them into school. I would ask that parents ensure, where possible, that children test negative before they return or stay at home for 5 days whichever is the sooner. In line with new government guidance, we are not insisting on a negative test, however Newcastle Local Authority and Public Health England are supporting schools in asking parents to help us to minimise the spread of COVID.

Attendance Officer

We have a new Attendance officer working with school, called Grant Short. He is here to support both yourselves and school with improving pupil's attendance, if concerns arise he may well contact you via phone or visit you at your house to help support you in encouraging your children to attend school. We need our children school on a daily basis to be able to learn.

Attendance Letters

The colour coded attendance traffic light letters will be sent out to parents next week, these will cover last half term. You will be aware that we try to encourage a minimum of 96% attendance in all of our pupils.

House Points

St Aidan won the house point challenge for last half term and those children had their reward this week. Well done to all of our pupils in earning house points for all the wonderful behavior and attitudes to learning we see on a daily basis.

Thank you from Governors

Over the last few months, governors have started coming back into school, post COVID, as part of their role; evaluating and monitoring standards across school. At the recent full governing body meeting in February 2022, governors thanked staff stating that on every one of their visits this year all the children have been exceptionally well behaved. They noted that wherever they went around school, pupils were seen to be working hard and learning. Governors noted that parents should feel reassured that all pupils are included in all lessons and that inclusion and positive support for all was patently obvious.

Traffic awareness

Please be aware that we have been notified by the police that there have been a number of reports of cars being driven on Hillhead road by drivers using their mobile phone and/or speeding. The police are aware of this and they are monitoring the situation. They are also noting cars being parked in an unsafe way on the residential roads around school. Most of our parent's park in the carpark next door, but please be aware that blocking houses with your car on residential streets is not acceptable. Father Martin also informed school some time ago that the church carpark could be used before and after school and parents could walk their children to school from there. The only request I would make is to be sensitive if a funeral appeared to be taking place during those times.

Crossing the road

In tandem with the above note, please be extra careful and vigilant when crossing the road with your child. There are two crossings on either side of school with traffic lights, as well as the un-manned crossing outside of school.

As always, we continue to keep all of our families and school community in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe

Head Teacher