



Mrs A D Thorpe
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19th July 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

We are in the last week of term and the children have been wonderful despite the ragingly hot temperatures. All staff have encouraged all the children to drink lots of water and break and lunchtime have been inside; we do not have enough shade for the children to go outside safely in this unprecedented time of 39 degrees! Hopefully, it will be slightly cooler tomorrow, fingers crossed.

Year One – The Hula Hoop Challenge

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/laura-watanabe>

Year One are joining together to raise money for a cancer charity. Please click on the Just Giving link above if you would like to contribute please follow the link. They have collected an amazing amount so far - staff and children have been blown away by all of your amazing generosity – thank you all so much.



[SJV Year 1 Hula Hoop Challenge](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/laura-watanabe)

Help Laura Watanabe raise money to support Young Lives vs Cancer
www.justgiving.com

Uniform

As you set off to buy new uniform for September, please see that the school uniform policy has been set out clearly on page 41-42 of the school prospectus.

https://www.stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk/web/school_prospectus/572638

Long hair on boys and girls should always be tied up in a black, blue or red bobble. The children run around outside during PE lessons and at play time and they do not want to get it caught, also in lessons it needs to be securely tied up.

We have also collected and been generously donated a large amount of new and excellent second-hand uniform which has barely been worn by children during the pandemic, families have very kindly donated it to school. If you would like anything in particular please send an email in via



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office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org or a written note for the attention of Mrs Meldrum and she will sort out a bag of uniform to be sent home. We really want to give away everything we have been very generously been donated. Please do not be shy, just ask!

On the note of uniform, I am very happy that the sun has finally started to shine and children are able to wear lighter summer uniforms as they wish, however trainers especially white and brightly coloured ones are not part of our uniform policy. Please remember that black school shoes should be worn at all times. If you are facing financial hardship or difficulty please do not hesitate to ask as the SVP group from church are always extremely generous in their support of our families, particularly those in need.

Sports Days

This were all a huge success, so thank you to all the staff who made everything flow and to all the parents and grandparents for your support and patience with the weather. Your children were all amazing!

Year 6 Residential

This was a fantastic experience, I know some were sceptical about children sleeping out on the school field but the Outdoor Learning Team who facilitated the experience were brilliant. The children all have been raving about what a wonderful time they had, so thank you to all the staff who camped alongside the children overnight.

Year 6 Holy Island

This was a great day out and sun shone all day – thank goodness. We walked some distances and enjoyed the beach. Everyone was amazing – it was a super day out for everyone.

Year 6 Leavers week

Date, Time and Location	Event	Who is invited?
Tuesday 19 th July 9:30am School Hall	Whole School Leavers Mass	Children and staff in school only (no parents)
Wednesday 20 th July 9:30am School Hall	Dress Rehearsal of 'Peter Pan'	Children and staff in school only (no parents)
Wednesday 20 th July 5:30pm School Hall	'Peter Pan' Year 6 Production	2 guests/parents per child in Year 6 (This includes additional children, due to space)
Friday 22 nd July 9:30am School Hall	Year 6 Leavers' Mass	2 guests/parents per child in Year 6

All children in Year 6 have also received a 'Leavers Hoodie' for them to wear during the last week of term.

Holiday Dates

I have had several queries about holiday dates for next year, as families are rightly trying to book much longed for and needed breaks post pandemic. I have put an updated set of holiday lists for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 on the school website. I appreciate so many of you trying to book holidays which do not mean your children will miss school time – thank you for your efforts.

https://www.stjohnvianney.newcastle.sch.uk/web/term_dates/246365

Reports

End of term reports went out last week, I am so proud of how hard our children have all worked this year, it has been a pleasure reading what teachers have written about your children.

Finance

We recognise that at this time of challenging cost of living increases, families are presented challenges that they did not expect. If you are experiencing challenges that you need help with, please do not hesitate or be embarrassed in any way – please come and talk to Mrs Thorpe. There are a number of external agencies which you can be put in contact with to help you.

The SVP society from church are also hugely supportive of school and our families.

Attendance

The government have issued new guidance to schools, which will be in place for 1st September 2022. Please be aware that there will be new attendance warning letters being sent out to families following this new government guidance. The principle behind this new initiative is that pupils need to be in school to learn. If your child is absent from school for any reason then school will be obliged to follow this up. We really appreciate you working with us to ensure that all of our children are in school as much as possible.

Grant Short, our attendance officer, will be contacting families on a regular basis, from September 2022, to follow up any periods of absence from school. He will be able to support families where needed, but also issue guidance about sanctions and fines as applicable.

Linda Lashley, our parent support advisor, will also be contacting families from September 2022, to offer support where issues around attendance, regular late arrivals or early collections are identified.

It is our aim to work with families to support you and ensure all of your children are in school learning all of the time. Where this is not the case the Government will require us to speak to families and find out why their child is not in school, persistently late or regularly collected early. The Local Authority will be required to issue fines to families accordingly.

Art therapy and resilience work

Year 5 have been completing a unit of work focusing in on supporting them with their feelings around confidence and resilience. We have been fortunate enough to have an educational psychologist come into school and work with the whole year group for 6 sessions. It has proved very popular and children in both classes have responded positively to it.

Advance Notice of 'Bike-ability'

2022-2023 Year 4

- Mr Bonnar - Thursday 8th September 9.30am-3pm on the school yard
- Mr Peacock - Friday 9th September 9.30am-3pm on the school yard

2022-2023 Year 5

- Miss Dolphin Monday 19th September & Tuesday 20th September 9.30am-3pm including going outside of the school grounds on the local roads
- Miss McMaster Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd September 9.30am-3pm including going outside of the school grounds on the local roads

All four of these classes will have the above sessions on safe cycling and road safety. We would like you to bring your child's bike into school on the above dates.

Rec-Y6 Parents invited into school to meet their child's new class teacher – September 2022

In September 2022, all parents are invited into school to attend a curriculum update meeting with their child's teacher, in the school hall. It will give you all the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, have an update of curriculum expectations and ask any key questions. I am delighted to be able to offer this chance to meet your class teacher again post Covid and I am sure you will all be thrilled to come in, it seems a long time since we have been able to meet in so many groups. You only need to attend one session on each evening.

Year Group	Date	Time Slots (Choose One)
Reception Miss Rice Mrs Duffy	19 th September 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Year One Mrs O'Neil / Mrs Watanabe Miss Young	3 rd October 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Year Two Mrs Langford Miss Dean	27 th September 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Year Three Miss Cherry Mrs Meldrum / Mss McLean	22 nd September 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Year Four Mr Bonnar Mr Peacock	30 th September 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Year Five Miss McMaster Miss Dolphin	20 th September 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm
Year Six Mrs Spencer Mr Allen Mrs Black	29 th September 2022	3:45pm – 4:15pm 5:00pm – 5:30pm

School day timings for September 2022

Year Group	Start Time	End Time
Reception	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 1	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 2	8:45am	3:20pm
Year 3	8:45am	3:20pm
Year 4	8:45am	3:25pm
Year 5	8:45am	3:25pm
Year 6	8:45am	3:30pm

Having listened to parental feedback, and following the loosening of COVID restrictions, we will be starting the whole school at the same time for all year groups to make the morning drop off easier and reducing the amount of time parents need to wait to collect siblings in the afternoon.

Reception and Nursery pupils will be dropped off and collected by an adult in the EYFS yard from their classroom door. All other children from Y1-Y6 will be dropped off at the top of the gate to walk in to

school in the morning. In the afternoon parents will continue to line up, but as social distancing is no longer an issue we will hope to be able to get through dismissing the classes quicker.

Safe holidays

Governors, staff and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday, and we all look forward to pupils returning on Tuesday 6th September 2022. Staff will return to school on Monday 5th September for a staff Inset Day.

Open Door Policy

As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you need anything, staff are all here to help in any way possible.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher