



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you do not need me to tell you that there are only 9 more teaching days until the Christmas break. Staff and pupils are working extremely hard and we continue to be immensely proud of all that they do every day.

### COVID Update

In light of the new national governmental concern around the new Omicron COVID variant, we have reassessed our COVID risk assessment. Following government guidance staff continue to not wear masks in front of the children when teaching and learning. Nevertheless, for the next 9 days, when parents or grandparents are collecting their children and talking to staff, they will wear a mask and we ask that you also wear a mask.

I appreciate that no one likes wearing them but we have a large number of potentially very vulnerable adults collecting children and we all want to have a safe and happy Christmas free from COVID. So, whilst I cannot enforce this request, I simply ask that you are all as supportive as possible, no one really wants to be ill over Christmas. Staff will also wear mask for the next 9 days when speaking to parents collecting from school. I am hopeful that this is a time limited precaution, that can be swiftly removed in the new year. We will re-evaluate the risk assessment in January, once we return to school in 2022.

### COVID Booster Jab – car park busy

We have been made aware that the community center at West Denton will be being used as a COVID booster jab center on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec and 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, therefore the car park will be full. As always, you can use the car park at St John Vianney Church and walk across to school to drop your child and collect your child. Please be very considerate of all of our residential neighbour's and not park in front of their driveways.

### Flu immunisations

For those parents who have already completed their form, children will have their flu immunisation on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### Holiday Dates 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

These have been updated and are now on our school website for you to see. We appreciate you all trying wherever possible to book holidays outside of term time, attendance continues to be a real focus and we want all of our children in school, all of the time.

### PTFA

We are going ahead with the Doughnut Day on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December and this is the link for pre-orders. Please could you send this out and can we ask for pre-orders by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December please? <https://sjv-ptfa.sumup.link/>

### **Golden Book Awards**

We continue to be delighted with the number of certificates and awards which are brought into school by our children, on a Friday morning, to show everyone and celebrate together. All of our children are wonderful and the number of extra-curricular activities our children have managed to re-join and take part in this term has been fabulous. Staff continue to delight in all the great things your children do so please look out for the Golden Book Award stickers and ask your child why they got it and the certificate – you will all be so proud!

### **Parent phone calls**

Thank you so much for all your continued support and positive feedback of school and staff. Staff really appreciate knowing that you value all the hard work and effort they put in to making your child's time here a huge success.

### **Reminder about - Training Day – School closed to pupils**

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

### **Christmas Cards**

Some of the first handmade cards have started making their way into classrooms and I am really impressed by the creativity children are showing in making a single card for all of their friends. If, however you do not quite feel up to making a homemade card, please feel free to encourage your child to send a card into all of their friends to share in class.

### **Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner Day**

Please feel free to wear a Christmas jumper as part of the national Christmas Jumper Day for the Save the Children Charity, or non-uniform if you would prefer. The actual day is on the 10<sup>th</sup> December when we are closed to pupils, so we have decided to move our day to **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, when all children are also invited to have a Christmas dinner, this means that they will not miss out. <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>

### **Christmas Party Days**

During the last week of term, every class will be able to come in to school on their allotted day in their Christmas Party clothes to take part in their Christmas party, school will provide drinks and sweets for everyone, considering their allergies.

Date	Year group and party time (Party clothes to be worn all day)
Nursery Rainbows	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> morning
Nursery Sunshine	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> morning
Reception	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> morning
Year 1	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> afternoon
Year 2	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> morning
Year 3	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> afternoon
Year 4	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> morning
Year 5	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> afternoon
Year 6	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> morning

### **Christmas Mass**

We are planning on having a whole school mass on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021, led by Father Martin, all the children will take part and it will be a beautiful way to finish of the term, photographs will be uploaded onto Facebook.

### **Day of spiritual reflection for Advent**

We are planning a spiritual day of reflection where every class will set up a prayer station in the hall and every class will take part in thanking god for all that they are grateful for at this time of peace and anticipation of Christmas.

### **Musical Advent countdown to Christmas**

Every class, lead by Mr Cowan and Mr Scholfield, will be recording a Christmas Carol as part of our advent countdown to Christmas. These recordings will be posted on Facebook for you to see. If your child does not have permission to be on Facebook they will of course take part in the carol singing but not be filmed. We have been delighted with the first few postings...and remember if your child is not being filmed they are still taking part 'Off Camera.'

### **Year of the Eucharist**

The diocese continues to celebrate the year of the Eucharist, the bishop has provided an update for you to read <https://diocesehn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YOTE-Update-November-2021-FINAL.pdf>

### **Now>Press>Play**

This is a superb new resource we have purchased for all of children to use. It is designed to stimulate their imagination through the use of headsets to listen to voices, recordings, music and sounds. All the children have had a go using it in their classes and have really enjoyed it. Please ask your children about some of the things they have learned about using our new pink headsets.

### **TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS**

We have been made aware that there has been an issue with children's logins tot heir accounts this week. We have worked with the company and have been assured, today, that it should be fixed by next week and all children will once again be able to access their accounts to take part in their daily times tables revision at home. We really appreciate your patience with this.

### **First Holy Communion Year 4 – May 2022**

Prior notice of the dates for your child's First Holy Communion – Father Martin has confirmed that he is able to celebrate with our children.

Mrs Rutherford's class – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Mr Bonnar's class – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### **Year 4 Centre for Life Trip**

Our Year 4 children were simply amazing yesterday wen they went to the Centre for life. Staff there all commented on their fantastic behaviour and wonderful questions. We are so proud of all of them., well done Year 4!

### **Facebook**

Thank you so much for the many new forms being returned, we really appreciate it. Of course, if you do not want your child or if your child is unable to go onto Facebook for safeguarding reasons we of course support your decision as a family. Please be assured that if your child is not on the photograph it certainly does not mean your child is excluded, they will of course have taken part in all of the activities you will see, simply that their face is not included on the photograph.

### **School Library**

Our school library continues to take shape and is growing all the time thanks to your kind donations and the PTFA fund raising efforts. I will share some photos next week on Facebook – I know that you will all be amazed at what we have been able to create and we are still adding too week by week!

### **End of term dates**

Please remember that we break up for the Christmas school holidays on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### **Staff retirement**

The governors would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Mrs Rutherford, who is finally retiring after a long and illustrious teaching career. We are therefore also delighted to announce that Mrs Scott, another teacher in school, is going to take over the full-time teaching responsibility in Year 4 from January 2022. She has been working closely with Mrs Rutherford over the last couple of weeks and getting to know your children. We are extremely fortunate to have had such an extended period of transition ensuring that all the pupils are comfortable with Mrs Scott.

At this busy time of year, we continue to keep everyone in our prayers, as for some of our families Christmas is a joyful time of year whereas for others it may well present challenges.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher