



Mrs A D Thorpe  
Head Teacher

## St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter a third week of this challenging period in our school's journey, I can only continue to express how grateful I am to all those parents and their families who have been unstinting in their support and understanding. We are working with every sense of urgency with all the external parties and agencies to ensure that school is made totally safe for as quick a return as possible.

Once the final works have been completed and the building has been deemed safe, an explanation of what remedial work has been undertaken will be explained to parents once it has been completed so that you can be assured, **once reopened, our school will be fully safe.**

### Our plans for the coming week (w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> July) are as follows:

Year group	Start time and venue	Collection time and venue
Nursery	8:45am To continue daily in school	3:00pm To continue daily in school
Reception	8:45am To continue daily in school	3:00pm To continue daily in school
Year 1, Year 2, Year 3	8:45am See rota below	3:05pm See rota below
Year 4 and Year 5	Sacred Heart High School travel via bus every day	Sacred Heart High School via bus every day
Year 6	9:00am To continue daily arriving at school	3:15pm To continue daily arriving at school

Date	Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Rota for attending school and home learning
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 3 in school
	Year 2 in school
	Year 1 HOME LEARNING
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1 in school

	Year 3 in school
	Year 2 HOME LEARNING
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 in school
	Year 1 in school
	Year 3 HOME LEARNING
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1 in school
	Year 2 in school
	Year 3 HOME LEARNING
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3 in school
	Year 1 in school
	Year 2 HOME LEARNING

Whilst I totally understand how difficult the current arrangements are for all parents but especially those in Y1, 2 & 3, staff are bending over backwards to try and make things work; and to provide the largest amount of face-to-face teaching possible. Staff are also still organising and running trips and residential for pupils. It is not possible to continually swap Reception and Nursery children with Year 3 children for example as the equipment needed and the toilet sizes are only appropriate for the relevant age groups. It is also unfortunately not possible to take down and then set up Reception and Nursery classrooms on a daily basis.

We have obviously explored every option to have every child in school every day, and my staff have also all taken the proactive choice not to strike for either of the two days next week to maintain as much face-to-face learning as possible, yet they are being spoken to by parents in an aggressive and/or derogatory way. Some parents are now demanding to know why Reception children are not all back in their own classroom as they have been looking through the windows and have seen some props in place. As you can obviously appreciate, I cannot and will not send pupils and staff back into a building until the work in that area has been completed and then approved as safe by the official bodies.

I would put out a plea for some appreciation by parents of how hard and extremely difficult it is for all staff currently, moving children between various sites whilst maintaining the children's face-to-face education as a top priority. To then be faced by anger and abusive at the school gates, on the phone or via email from parents is really unhelpful. We are all doing everything we can and the contractors are working 6 day weeks, 12 hour days.

### **Strike Action**

A huge thank you to all the teaching staff, who despite their full right to do so, have decided unanimously not to strike this Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and close classes. They have made this decision due to the current unique set of challenges being presented to our school by the structure of the building. Staff are all acutely aware that it has been very problematic for parents. It is a credit to their dedication to our school family that they have decided this and I for one am extremely appreciative of their dedication and commitment.

### Parents picking up and dropping off out of school hours

If parents need to drop off or collect children during the school day, please wait outside the metal green gates and ring school, a member of staff will come and meet you. Please **DO NOT** walk onto the pupil's pathway around the side of school.

### Thank you

We appreciate that these changes continue to be a real challenge and as soon as I can safely get pupils back into the main building, I will. However, I would like to reassure parents that this is the best temporary solution which allows for children to be educated face-to-face and keeps children with their own teachers and their friends. Please do not hesitate to contact school via the school telephone number 0191 2672233 or school email address [office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org](mailto:office@stjohnvianneynewcastle.org)

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. A.D. Thorpe*

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