



Mrs A D Thorpe
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Through following Jesus, we aim to be a caring, happy school, where everyone is valued and appreciated and can reach their true potential. We hope to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE

10th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge welcome back to all our children and families. I hope you have all had a restful and peaceful Christmas holidays, the children have certainly all come back excited and refreshed ready for a new term.

Christmas Liturgies

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the various Christmas Liturgies last term. A huge thank you to Father Paul and Father Damian for letting us all use the church; it provided a wonderful space for us to all come together and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. The music, reading and prayers all contributed to a wonderful month of reflection and celebration; we hope it also helped you all feel the joy of Christmas too.

Cold Weather

It has been incredibly cold over the last week, please make sure all the children are sent to school with a coat and jumper and on the very cold days a hat and gloves would be great too. It is often still chilly even at lunchtime, and the children are all outside getting some well needed fresh air, but they need to be wrapped up warmly.

Reception Applications

The deadline to apply for a reception starter place for September 2025 is on Wednesday 15th January 2025. <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-reception-places> Please click on the above link and make sure you get your application submitted in time. Late applications are always more difficult to process.

New dates

The new Spring term calendar with dates is coming out on Monday. There was lots of positive feedback from parents from the early release of the Autumn Term list of dates, so we hope these new Spring 2025 dates prove useful to you.

There are several new events we are going to trial, such as inviting parents and carers to take part in their child's class Celebration of the Word. The children take part in these weekly and they are all very used to them, it is a time for prayer and reflection. We wanted to invite you all to become part of these times, however they are not performances, and most children will sit quietly and listen to music, scripture and prayer. It is very much aimed at giving the children the time and space for reflection. We hope you can all come and enjoy being part of them with your children.



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Ready, Respectful, Safe

Just a quick reminder that all our children are encouraged to follow the above three principles in everything that they do. This term the focus is on being respectful to others around us and of all the school resources we use. This week pupils are being reminded daily about being respectful to each other and to the school around us. We would appreciate it if you could also remind your children that being polite and respectful is a positive thing.

Staff Changes

Mrs Spencer is sadly leaving us at the end of February, after 12 fantastic years of working tirelessly to create some fantastic outcomes for our pupils. She will be a huge miss, but we all wish her well as she focuses on the next phase of life, spending some truly valuable time with her young children.

Mrs Meldrum is taking over this extremely important role of school SENDCo, and I know that you will all support her in this. She brings a wealth of experience having previously been a SENDCo and she knows our families well. I have no doubt that she will continue the high standards of SEN support and care which St John Vianney is renowned for. Mrs Spencer and Mrs Meldrum are going to be working extremely closely over the next 6 weeks to ensure the smoothest of transitions for all our pupils with additional needs. Mrs Black will continue to teach the pupils in Year 6, and I am hugely grateful to her for agreeing to move into the class teaching role full-time, with immediate effect.

Some of you will also notice that some of the Teaching Assistants have moved around slightly and taken on different responsibilities, as always, they all continue to work tirelessly to support your children to achieve the best possible outcomes.

All our staff have made amazing adaptations over the last term as the school has moved and learned to live in our new building, following the challenges of the RAAC school closure. They never cease to make me so proud, they always prioritise every child's well-being, and school would not be the place it is without the staff in it. So, as we start this new term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their on-going hard work.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher