



St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful first three weeks, and all of our children have settled in beautifully – they are so sensible and a real credit to our school community. This is really an exciting time to be in our school and you will see below that there are a number of forms we would like you to complete and send back to school.

Entry/exit from school

I have so appreciated your patience and support as we work through our new entrance and exit routines. The pupils are coming into school so well and it has massively reduced the number of pupils who are late in the morning, which is fantastic news for everyone's learning. It is wonderful that everyone wants to be in school at 8:40am, long may that continue, we ask that pupils arrive at the school gate between 8:40am and 8:50am so that they can walk straight round to their classroom, without the need to hang around in the yard, especially as the weather turns colder. Please remember that pupils arriving late for school will be marked as late and the attendance officer will work with you if this becomes a persistent problem.

Some of our Reception Parents are currently still walking their reception children down into the yard in the morning, however we ask that you all stand next to the fence in a line to wait to drop off your child. Some of our reception children are already happy to walk down themselves and as others grow in confidence they can also start to walk down independently, it is fabulous to see. Our aim is that by Monday 11th October 2021 ALL of our reception starters will walk into school, between 8:40am – 8:50am on their own, waving goodbye to parents/grandparents at the gate.

In the afternoon, we ask that all our parents who are waiting to collect siblings stand up near the bicycle shelter or on the Reception grass patch. Currently, with parents standing in the main exit it is difficult for others to leave without walking through groups of people. Your support and help in this matter are as always, appreciated.

Curriculum Evenings

Normally, in the first few weeks of term, we would invite families into school to give them the opportunity to meet the children's new class teachers and find out about what they will be doing and learning in the year ahead. However, as we begin the term cautiously and with everyone's safety in mind, we have decided not to deliver these in the way we ordinarily would, in person. Instead, class teachers will produce a presentation and upload it onto the school website, they should all be available on the school website from Monday 27th September.

School Houses

The new House groups are being launched next week and they will be:

St Bede, St Cuthbert, St Aidan, St Hilda, St Bega and St Anne. Over the coming weeks all pupils will be introduced to their new houses and start to learn something about their saint, however if pupils want to research their saint at home and then amaze their teachers with some facts they have found out that would be wonderful!

Pupils will be given house points as rewards for doing something positive, be that hard work or polite manners etc. These points will be collated weekly and the weekly winning house will be recognized

and at the end of each half term the overall winning house with the greatest number of points will receive a popcorn and film afternoon as a reward for their collective group effort.

This reward will of course run alongside the current weekly Golden Book Awards, which the children really enjoy and are rightly proud of receiving. It is certainly the highlight of my week, celebrating success and positivity in school with the children.

PE Value Awards

As we start the new academic year we are now going to re-instate the PE Value Awards celebrating positive examples of Teamwork, Passion, Respect, Determination, Self-belief and Honesty. We know that our children are able to be exemplary role models and want to celebrate and recognize them in their efforts. These awards will be given out in Golden book Assembly.

Reception/Year 6 Buddies

Our reception children have now been in school for a few weeks and they are settling in so well. This week they had the chance to meet their new Year 6 'Buddy' who are there to support and help them in and around school. The Year 6 children are so excited by this new responsibility and as a great start they have gifted all their buddies with a new St John Vianney teddy. We encourage all of our reception children to take their SJV teddy out with them on family trips and adventures and take photos to bring into school to share with their friends and their buddy. Over the course of the year the Year 6 and Reception children will meet up and spend treat time together.

Acceptable use policy

Please can you all read the new online acceptable use policy and complete the relevant permissions form for all of your children, which are now on the website news page. Could you all try to complete the permission form by **Friday 15th October 2021** as we want to launch the new page as soon as possible, as once these forms are completed we will be able to move forward with some of our new communications tools.

SJV Facebook page

We are so excited about this new way of communicating with parents and I am sure you will start to see and celebrate with us all of the wonderful things your children do in school too. As part of signing the acceptable use policy you are giving permission for your child's photograph to be used on the school Facebook page. This will be an excellent way to celebrate and share with you all the amazing things happening in school. There is a separate letter on the school news page which has more details about this and the QR code to access the page.

Sickness and Diarrhea

We ask that if your children have symptoms of sickness and/or diarrhea you follow NHS guidance and keep your child at home for 48hours, this helps prevent the spread of infection. Your support is appreciated.

Fashion Show

The current members of the PTFA are arranging a fashion show to raise funds for school. Tickets are available of the following link <https://sjv-ptfa.sumup.link/> As we start back into a more normal school life it would be wonderful to have more families involved in the PTFA. Contact details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Big Ask – The Big Answer

Last term I advised you all that there was a national consultation for pupils and parents to take part in. The response from the children's commissioner is available <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer/>

Football trials

These took place last week and our pupils from Y3-Y6 had a great time, we were all so proud of their efforts and enthusiasm. I am delighted to say that some of our Y5 and Y6 pupils attended their first tournament this week. What a great feeling it is to have our pupils competing once again, in this new 'living with COVID world.'

Weekly Mass

The Year 6 pupils certainly have started us off well this week, as we resume attendance at weekly mass at St John Vianney. Each week a different year group will walk to mass on a Wednesday morning to join in with the parish. It was wonderful this week and the parish welcomed our fabulous children with open arms.

Harvest Festival/Charitable Food Bank Collection

With Harvest on the horizon, we wanted to use this year's Autumn school charitable endeavour and ask families to help us support the needier in our community, so we are going to collect items for Newcastle West End Foodbank. We cannot overstate how important donations are for their Charity as they face an ever-increasing demand for their services, particularly as the proposed £20 Universal Credit cut and energy price increases come in to force. Please visit www.newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk for more information. If you can donate any non-perishable food stuffs or toiletries then we will quarantine them in school and create a single large collection. Please could donations be brought to school by Friday 15th October 2021.

United Against Bullying

This is a new whole school approach, being led by Mrs Langford, she is using nationally produced resources which have been developed and introduced to our pupils this week, this will continue to develop over the coming weeks and months. We are all united against bullying of any type and our pupils know how to get help from but also how to help others. Please see the school website where there is a poster with more information

School Place Applications

Primary school places for Reception starters need to be applied for by 15th January 2022 and secondary places (Our current Year 6 pupils) need to apply for their secondary school places by 31st October. Please make sure you all apply for your school places before these dates as no one wants to end up in a position without any school place, the following link www.newcastle.gov.uk will take you to the 'apply for a school place page'

Parking when collecting/dropping children off at school

Please can we ask parents to use with West Denton Car park of the church car park at St John Vianney. There are plenty of free places and a number of traffic light-controlled crossings to facilitate getting to school safely. A number of our parents are parking in front of residential houses and the local residents are very unhappy about having their driveway's blocked. Please always consider the safety of your child when crossing the busy roads around school.

Earrings

As part of our uniform policy we ask that no child, girl or boy, wears any sort of earring be it jewellery or plastic spacer to school at any time. The reason is that we do not want any accidents and children can get hurt if ears are caught by accident, most especially when our children are taking part in PE and daily playtime.

Attendance figures for each class

As you know, attendance is regarded as hugely important in school. If a pupil is not in school they cannot learn, and being that as we move out of the bubble closures we all can recognise the negative impact of pupils missing time in school. If you are having problems and need support please contact

school, the attendance officer and parent support adviser can work with you and your child to improve attendance.

Class Group	Attendance figure for the week	Class Group	Attendance figure for the week
Year 6 (Mrs Spencer)	96.02%	Year 6 (Mr Peacock)	97.60%
Year 5 (Miss Dolphin)	97.73%	Year 5 (Miss MacMaster)	95.57%
Year 4 (Mrs Rutherford)	99.44%	Year 4 (Mr Bonnar)	96.65%
Year 3 (Mrs Meldrum/Mrs McLean)	98.89%	Year 3 (Miss Dean)	98.00%
Year 2 (Miss Cherry)	98.22%	Year 2 (Miss Prayle)	94.54%
Year 1 (Mrs Langford)	96.89%	Year 1 (Mrs Watanabe)	92.56%
Reception (Mrs Duffy)	91.69%	Reception (Mr Cowan)	97.01%
Nursery Rainbow (Mrs Lake)	89.92%	Nursery Sunshine (Mrs Lake)	52.56%

The attendance officer will start telephoning families next week, where concerns about attendance, this term are starting to emerge. The last week of this half term all families will be issued with traffic light attendance letters to highlight any concerns. If you need any support with being on time or getting your child to school please do not hesitate to contact us.

Parental controls on home computers

As most of our pupils have devices which access the internet, this is a good time to do some 'housekeeping' on your child's device. Keeping children safe and secure online, especially as the evidence tells us that more and more of our younger children are at risk of sexual exploration, online. Please access some of the excellent resources on the [National Online Safety Website](#). It is especially important to speak to our children about how to navigate the online world safely; our advice is to discuss with your child openly about some of the dangers online and how they can best keep themselves safe. Of course, at school pupils are taught about online safety both as part of the curriculum but we always appreciate your support and help as well.

Keeping Children Safe (Particularly online)

It is essential that we all work together to keep all of the children in our community as safe as possible. There has been a great deal of information in the press and sent out from the Government about the pitfalls and challenges facing our children. The NSPCC has a wide range of fantastic resources for you to access at home to support your children <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/> There are some really informative film clips to help support parents to understand how to keep their children safe online <https://www.childnet.com/our-projects/project-deshame> and how best to approach what for some parents is a difficult and unfamiliar conversation to have <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/talk-to-your-child/> Finally there is a really informative PPT which we have uploaded to the school website to help you at home, with these conversations and fact sharing with your child.

Year 6 boys

St Cuthbert's will be offering a Year 6 Open Evening from Monday 27th September until 22nd October 2021, they will be offering Year 6 families the opportunity to book a personalised visit to the school. During this visit, you will be able to see the school with your son as part of a small group. You will be guided around the school by a senior member of staff and a few of our current pupils. You will be able to visit lessons, ask questions and find out about the school. This way we will be able to tailor your visit to the questions that you and/or your son may have and the questions that you have. You may have questions about the Catholic Life of the School, Pastoral Care, academic achievement, Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities or sports, music, and co-curricular activities. A personalised visit will give you the opportunity to focus more effectively than during a larger gathering. To book a visit,

please use the link below. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-6-tour-of-st-cuthberts-catholic-high-school-tickets-170279800467>

Parental view Questionnaire

As is normal at this time of year, I am asking parents to fill in a parental view's questionnaire. I would appreciate all of your feedback and I know staff appreciate all of your supportive comments. A paper copy will be sent home with each child and we ask that you send it back as soon as possible. It helps us to consider and respond to your views and opinions. Could all forms be returned by **Friday 1st October?** All forms can be completed with your name on or anonymously.

And finally....

If you have managed to get through all of that well done! I hope you have a great weekend and as always, we keep all of our parish community in our school prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher