



3rd December

2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

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 last week of term, 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 9th Dec and 16th 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.

PTFA

Tonight, the PTFA will be going ahead with the Doughnut Day, there have been a large number of pre-orders so please be [patient as you que to collect them.

Reminder - Training Day – School closed to pupils

10th 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

On Wednesday, we celebrated together and all had Christmas dinner. The children all had a great afternoon with lots of music and laughter.

Christmas Party Days

Next week, 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 th morning
Nursery Sunshine	Friday 17 th morning
Reception	Monday 13 th morning
Year 1	Monday 13 th afternoon
Year 2	Tuesday 14 th morning
Year 3	Wednesday 15 th afternoon
Year 4	Thursday 16 th morning
Year 5	Thursday 16 th afternoon
Year 6	Friday 17 th morning

Christmas Mass

We are planning on having a whole school mass on Wednesday 15th 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.

Musical Advent countdown to Christmas

Every class, lead by Mr Cowan and Mr Scholfield, have been recording a Christmas Carol as part of our advent countdown to Christmas. These recordings continue to be posted on Facebook for you to see. We have recorded a number of them several times to try and always include new parental permissions as they come in.

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.

End of term date

Please remember that we break up for the Christmas school holidays on Friday 17th December 2021.

Staff leaving

The governors would like to wish Mr Cowen every good wish as he leaves us to start a new career as a quantity surveyor. We are thrilled to announce that Miss Rice will be joining us in January 2022. We are delighted to welcome her to our St John Vianney family and I know that you will all extend a warm welcome to her in January. The children will all get to meet her next week as she is coming into school for several days' handover.

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