



Mrs A D Thorpe  
Head Teacher

## St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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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**

30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

Time is flying by and it does not seem like a month since we all returned from the Christmas holidays. The children are working so hard and they are all really embracing the new behaviour policy. We are very proud of how well they have responded to it.

Golden book assembly has now had to be split into two sessions because our pupils are receiving so many positive awards – it is a joy to see how proud they are of each other, so please keep sending in details of their success.

### **Strike update**

Please be aware that on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are asked to stay at home, this is because the school can only be safely opened to a limited number of children, due to the national NEU teacher strike action. Please see the detailed letter which was sent out on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### **Staffing update**

Mrs Spencer has started her parental leave and I know you will all join us in being thrilled for her and her family as they all start on this exciting new adventure. I am therefore delighted to tell you that the current Year 6 booster teacher, Mrs Black, has stepped in and agreed to teach full-time in the Year 6 class. She has a wealth of experience teaching Year 6 and we are lucky to have her. The booster Year 6 teaching role is therefore, currently being undertaken by Mr Shaw. Mrs Watanabe has also kindly agreed to take over the whole school MFL French teaching on a Friday so Mr Shaw will be teaching in Year One every Friday as well.

Miss Campbell has joined us a full-time Teaching Assistant who will be based in Miss Dolphin's Year 5 class. We are delighted that she has decided to join our school, she brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the role.



### **Outside classroom learning**

Our pupils are going to be taking turns over the remainder of this academic year, working with an outside learning specialist who focuses on building resilience, confidence and improving the well-being of our children. Pupils reported that they loved the 'taster' sessions which some of them attended last year. Please watch out for a text informing you of when your child's class will be taking part. Pupils will need to wear 'old clothes, wellington boots or old trainers' as they will get muddy and dirty.

### **Safer Internet Week**

Advance notice that the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 sees the start of Safer Internet Week. It is essential that all of our pupils understand how to treat people online and how to keep themselves safe online.

### **Art Project – Angel of the North**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 it is going to be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the Angel of the North as piece of iconic public art, which is now part of the national map. Pupils will all be making, painting, building or creating projects based on the work of Anthony Gormley.

### **Parking update**

Please can we ask again that parents and carers drop off and collect their children safely by using the car parks at the community centre or church. Please DO NOT block the driveways of the houses around as we always try to keep positive relations with those in our community.

### **Driving**

I understand that the road works on Hillhead Road are causing delays with the traffic, however cars have been seen stopping on the main road and children have been getting out of cars and running into school. Please be aware that the police regularly patrol the road and that this is highly unsafe.

### **Reception Cooking**

It was fabulous to have so much support from parents and grandparents attending the recent cooking afternoons, thank you all so much.

### **Lenten Liturgies**

As the Advent liturgies were such a success and the feedback from parents was so positive we are going to organise another series of liturgies, this time to celebrate Lent. Further details will follow, please watch this space.

As always, all staff and governors continue to keep all of our families in our prayers.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

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Headteacher