



28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 4 Children,

## First Holy Communion Programme 2020/21

The children in Year 4, who have been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church, should be starting to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time. This programme is lead in school, in conjunction and fully supported by the Parish. This year the preparation will have to take a slightly different format, due to the restrictions COVID-19 is putting on all of us.

The Sacramental Education Programme is Curriculum Religious Education and therefore it is taught to ALL pupils in Year 4 at St John Vianney, irrespective of whether or not they will be expecting to celebrate the sacraments. It is planned and assessed in the same way as any other RE topic in school. This Preparation topic will be delivered as a 6-week module related to the Eucharist. From next week, this will take place during the normal weekly curriculum RE lessons. Both pupils at home and pupils in school will be asked to take part and return their work to their class teacher.

I would ask that as the spiritual lead at home, parents support their child in this essential and hugely significant period of preparation in their lives, so that they are ready to take part in the Sacrament, when it is safe to do so. Class teachers will support you by providing voice-over PowerPoints, resources and activities to help you continue to prepare your child at home. Please remember that you are not alone in this task. The parish and school will always be ready to help. I know that you will all appreciate the value of engaging with these lessons and I look forward to your support. As parents and as a faith community, you know, our highest priority is to keep all of our families safe.

When all pupils can safely return to school, all the Year 4 pupils will take part in "Sacramental Booster Sessions" to ensure that every pupil has the secure knowledge and understanding required before they make this important Sacrament.

Working with the Parish and Father Martin, once we start to emerge from this Covid-19 Pandemic, I hope to be able to plan and let you know when your child's First Holy Communion will take place.

I fully understand and appreciate all the other demands which this national lockdown is placing on you all and simply ask that you help us prepare your children as fully as possible. I keep you all in my prayers and look forward to a time when we can join together and celebrate your child's First Holy Communion, in person. Meanwhile if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact school to ask for help.

Kind regards,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A D Thorpe  
Head teacher