



27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge congratulations to pupils, staff and families, we have almost made it to half term in one piece. I have seen the weather forecast is one of sunny weather next week so I hope you are all able to go out and enjoy some of the sunshine.

### COVID-19

This week, it has been brought to my attention that some families suspect other families of breaking COVID-19 government rules. Whilst, I may on occasion feel like I am a COVID-19 rule enforcer, in actuality I can only ask you all to follow the government guidance and thus follow our school Risk Assessment. If you or your child has been in close contact or live with someone who has tested positive please DO NOT bring your child/children into school for the pre-requisite 10 days. Please ensure that all family members isolate if any one of you test positive. I know these rules are wearing thin on everyone and most people are exhausted by the continual following of rules, however they are there to keep everyone safe. I would like to get through the last seven weeks of the summer term without having to ask any class or year group to isolate again.

### Dogs on the footpath

Please be aware that some children are very nervous of dogs; some families loved and adored pet is another child's scary vision. Please be aware that when you bring your family pet to school and stand at the gate some children are scared and worried, I would ask you all to be sensitive to these children.

### Parents meetings – June 2021

As we are still unable to have parents in school due to COVID-19, staff are going to spend a day, in 10minute allocated slots talking to parents about their children. You will be asked if you want morning, afternoon or evening and then using that information we will allocate you a time slot, staff will ring you and update you on your child's year in school. The three slots will enable staff to book you in wherever possible into these slots. There will be an online booking system on the school website tab to book one of the time slots; 9am – 12noon morning, 1pm – 3pm afternoon or 3:30pm – 5:30pm evening. Please complete your preferences by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, if no choice has been made you will be allocated a free slot.

If your child needs a SEN review, then this will be discussed and if you need any further information Mrs. Bury and Mrs Watanabe will also be available for personalised telephone conversations, please note that on the booking tab. There will not be EHCP review meetings during these times, they will be arranged in the Autumn 2022 term on an individual basis. Teacher's written reports will be sent home on week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Teacher Name	Date	Year Group
Mrs Spencer	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 6
Mr Bonnar	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6
Miss McMaster	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 5
Mrs Rutherford	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 5
Miss Prayle	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 4
Mr Peacock	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 4
Mrs O'Neil	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 3
Mr Galley	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 3
Miss Cherry	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2
Miss Dean	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2
Mrs Watanabe	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1
Mrs Langford	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1
Mrs Duffy	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception
Mr Cowan	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception
Mrs Lake	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery Rainbows
Mrs Lake	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery Sunshine
Mrs Bury / Mrs Watanabe	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> June	SENDCo

### **Rosary Day – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

It was wonderful to see all of the children so excited about celebrating the feast of Our Lady on Monday. Pupils celebrated by reciting the rosary in class, designing and creating prayer stations based on Our Lady. Every child in every year group visited the prayer stations outside and spent time reflecting on the wonderful gifts of prayer Our Lady has given us.

### **First Holy Communion**

It is wonderful to be able to say that finally, all of our pupils will be able to complete their sacrament of First holy Communion on the first week after half term.

### **Fire Alarm Evacuation Practice**

As you can imagine, when we practiced our Fire Evacuation procedures this week all of our children were amazing and very sensible. The youngest children realised how loud the alarm was, but they were all so sensible – so well done everyone.

### **Adam Bushnell – Author**

Advance notice, we are fortunate to have been able to book two full day sessions for our pupils to work, in their bubbles with Adam. He is a fabulous children's author and teacher who has dedicated his time to inspiring pupils to write and be inspired by books. I know from previously working with him that he is great and the children will come home raving about his wonderful, fun and exciting stories.

### **Oxford Reading Buddy**

The launch of Oxford Reading Buddy has been really successful. Pupils who have struggled to access this at home are being offered places in a lunchtime club to help them access it. Pupils are reporting high levels of enjoyment and parents have been really positive about the wide variety and number of books available. We all continue to encourage as much reading as possible at home – It is wonderful to hear children talking about what they are reading and how much they are enjoying accessing books in a new way.

A reading diary/journal/communication with parents' book is being explored – we are looking into an online communication App to improve the daily communication with parents, so please be patient as we choose the correct method. As always if you want to speak to a teacher you can always contact school and request a phone call.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

In partnership with the Reading Agency, Newcastle City Libraries are piloting a new summer reading challenge approach. It is an effort to get all pupils, to sign up with the libraries and get reading over the summer holidays. There are some brilliant and fun competitions which they have included as a motivator.

This year's Wild World Heroes Themed Challenge is in partnership with WWF will launch in June/July 2021. We will share further updates in the coming weeks. Including: how to sign up and receive Challenge collector packs, 'assembly in a box' and the Summer Reading Challenge School Trophy.

For more information see the article on Newcastle City Council website.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/citylife-news/culture/reading-agency-pilot-integrated-model-summer-reading-challenge-2021-newcastle>

### **Texts on TV**

As another way of encouraging pupils to read we are promoting reading whilst watching the TV. The website which you can use is [www.turnonthesubtitles.org](http://www.turnonthesubtitles.org).

### **Parents with Early Years siblings**

When you come to collect your children from school please can you collect the youngest child first before the older ones at the school office entrance. We appreciate your support with minimising the crossing of contacts between pupils.

### **Parking around school**

Please help us work with our neighbours around school by NOT blocking their driveways when you leave your car to collect your children. The advice has been given to local residents to alert the police if your car perpetually does this. Again, I appreciate your support with keeping our local community happy.

### **School Photographer**

Reminder, only 220 parents have given permission for their child's school photograph to be taken on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Please note even if you do not want to purchase a photograph, permission should still be given so that your child can be include in the class photograph.

### **Year 6 – Leavers Assembly**

Advance notice, COVID-19 restrictions allowing, we are really hoping to have a leavers assembly on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It is our hope, but it is by no means certain that we would invite a **MAXIMUM** of 2 adults per child. Mr Bonnar's class will be invited at 10:30am and Mrs Spencer's class will be invited at 1:30pm. Further information will come as COVID-19 restrictions change and allow, so please look out for letters nearer the time.

### **Year 6 – Holy Island Day Trip**

I am delighted that, COVID-19 restrictions allowing and regardless of the weather, we are planning to take the whole year group to Holy Island for a day trip on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. We hope to leave school at 8am and return at approximately 6pm. The current plan is that the day will include a long walk, time at the beach, time spent looking for Cuthbert's beads, hopefully mass on St Cuthbert's Island and finally a stop at Seahouses for fish and chips on the way home. I anticipate being able to meet the costs of approximately £15 per child out of school funds for every child. I hope that the trip will enable pupils to celebrate some of their time here at St John Vianney with each other and with staff. Further details will follow in a letter nearer the time.

As always staff, Governors and I continue to keep you and all of your families in our thoughts and prayers, I hope you all have a safe and happy half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher