



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to school after the Easter break – I hope you have all managed to spend some time with friends and family as the governments rules on meeting up starts to relax. It is wonderful to see and spend time with those you love and have missed over the last year.

### Reading Books

As you know, reading is at the center of everything we do, here at St John Vianney. As such we have a rolling program of purchasing new books to continually enhance our in school provision. Can I ask if you have any old school reading books at home we would really appreciate it if you could send them back to school to put back into our school reading scheme provision?

Additionally, if you have any good quality spare books at home which your children have grown out of we would love to have them here in school. We are in the process of putting together a new library for our children to use in school. All books would be quarantined after they had been donated before being put into the library.

### Parking and Speeding

It continues to be brought to my attention that parents of children at our school are parking in such a way that it is blocking the resident's driveways on Ashdale Crescent, also even more worryingly parents are speeding along Hillhead road and concerns have been raised by the traffic department at county hall that an accident will happen. Please be aware that I have informed the local police department and I have asked for their help in patrolling the area at both morning and afternoon points during the school day. I would really appreciate it if you could all be as considerate as possible of our local neighbours and not block their driveways in or speed as both cause real distress and upset.

### COVID-19 National Tutoring and Catch-up support

Over the coming weeks, months and years all of our pupils will benefit from a variety of different forms of support as a result of gaps being created through COVID-19; from quality First Teaching for all pupils, smaller targeted bespoke intervention lessons, small group national tutoring interventions, smaller challenge group interventions and many other forms of encouragement, support and challenge. Not every pupil will have every form of support all of the time, rather decisions will be

made about what is deemed most appropriate to support your child at any given time, these forms of support will continually evolve depending on the on-going and changing needs of your children. Please be assured that both governors and staff always hold your child's educational and emotional well-being at the heart of everything we do and we will continually review and change what we offer to best help your children. Please try not to compare what your child is getting at any one time with what another child is getting as each child's needs vary and change at different times and staffing provision always vary, we continually strive to provide the very best for all of our pupils, all of the time with the resources we have, at that given moment.

### **Uniform Policy**

Please follow our whole school uniform policy, which is available to read on page 27 of the [school prospectus](#). A point on shoes, I have totally understood that whilst shops have been closed children have worn trainers to school as they have grown out of their school shoes, however now as shops have been open for several weeks all pupils should be wearing black school shoes and not trainers. I also remind you that children need suitable hairstyles for school. No child should have shaved patterns of any sort or extreme hairstyles. Please ensure that where pupils have their hair tied back it is done using bobbles in the school colours, the amazing array of pink, purple and orange bows which are appearing are wonderful but best kept for the weekend. As always I appreciate your support with this.

### **School Bags**

Please help us by **NOT** sending your child in with large back packs – we have a very limited amount of space in each classroom to fit all the coats, bags and PE kits. Pupils are also not needing to carry very much back and forth between school and home so large bags are unnecessary and expensive – I recommend you buying a £6 small bag from [Tots to Teams based at Kingston Park](#).

### **Reports to parents**

Teachers will write reports for you to celebrate your child's achievements over the last year which will be sent home in July 2021.

### **Homework**

Several parents have been asking about homework. As you can imagine the most important thing over the last few weeks has been for teaching staff to settle your children back into school so that they are confident and happy. Staff have spent time working with pupils and assessing their strengths and weaknesses.

The current aim for homework is for pupils to:

- Read every evening (Minimum of 5 times a week) - pupils all have their Oxford Owl logins
- Revising spellings daily
- Year 1 are going to have a weekly worksheet

- Reception may be sent some bespoke work over Seesaw to support them
- Learn times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars – pupils have their logins (Y2 upwards)
- Using their login for IXL every day (Y2 upwards)

If every pupil spent time every night doing all of these things that would be hugely beneficial to their learning, these basic skills are the foundation and building blocks for all learning and we have seen since pupils have returned from the successive lockdowns that a large number of our children need these revisiting daily.

### **RSE Consultation**

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, the RSE consultation will be uploaded to the school website for your information. Please feel free to have a look at the excellent Ten Ten resources which are supported by the Diocese and the Bishops Conference for Catholic schools to use.

Please always remember that if you need to speak to anyone in school you can ring and book a phone call through the office. We have an open door policy meaning that we will always try to contact you as soon as possible.

As always staff, Governors and I continue to keep you and all of your families in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher