



5th December, 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well done to our Football Team!

Well done to our Under 9s Football Team - to Reece, Adam, Owen, Luke, Kieran, Ethan and Oliver. They won the Newcastle Catholic Primary school's Trophy, fighting off stiff competition from other Catholic schools in the area, to bring the trophy home to St. John Vianney for the second year in a row. Their Sportsmanship was excellent and they really did our school proud. Well done to them and to their coaches, Mr Cowen and Mr Bonnar, who have worked very hard again this year to achieve this.

Our Year 5/6 Football team are also doing us proud as they strive to win The Duffy League, a League for schools in the Outer West, for the third year in a row. We are currently 3rd with 3 games to go. Whatever the outcome, however, our team have also been a credit to our school in the way they have played and behaved on the pitch. Well done to the team and to Mr Bonnar and Mr Cowen, who have done a wonderful job as their coaches.

Christmas Parties

The Christmas Party dates are as follows:

Rainbows Nursery: Monday 19th December
Sunshines Nursery: Thursday 15th December
Reception: Wednesday 14th December
Year 1: Friday 16th December
Year 2: Thursday 15th December
Year 3: Wednesday 21st December
Year 4: Wednesday 21st December
Year 5: Monday 19th December
Year 6: Monday 19th December

Children should come into school wearing their party clothes on the day of their party. However, please be aware that the children will have their playtimes outdoor as normal (unless it is raining) so all children should wear appropriate footwear and bring their coat/hat/scarf etc. as normal. Since Year 3 and Year 4 will be having their Christmas party on Christmas Dinner Day, they can wear their Christmas jumper over their party outfit if they wish. Your child's class teacher will write to you nearer the time with more information so please keep a look out for this letter!

Christmas Dinner

Just to remind you that, this year, the children will be having their Christmas Dinner in school on Wednesday 21st December. If you have not received the separate letter that we sent out regarding Christmas Dinner, please see Mrs Blenkinsop or Mrs Whittaker in the school office. Children are allowed to come into school wearing a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper on Christmas Dinner Day but they should wear the rest of their school uniform as normal.

Contacting Teachers

We offer an Open Door Policy with all of our staff and they are always more than willing to talk to you. However, please be aware that, when the whistle blows on the school yard, teachers are responsible for taking their children straight into class to begin lessons. Therefore, if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please come to the school office well before 8.55am when the whistle blows or after school and our office staff will kindly go and get your child's class teacher for you. If you need longer to speak to them then please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time at the school office. Thank you for your co-operation.

Spare School Uniform

Father David and Miss Elliott would be very grateful for any worn School Summer dresses you may have at home. They would love to take them to Muhoroni, when they make another visit in January, for the children there to wear them to school. If you were going to throw any away, please send them into school and Miss Elliott will be delighted to pack them in her suitcase!

Our School Choir

Our School Choir have been invited to sing at a number of events in the lead up to Christmas. As we write this, they are singing at Eldon Square to raise funds for *Josie's Dragonfly Trust*, a charity close to our hearts at St. John Vianney school. Our School Choir is an asset to our school and they are a delight to take to public events. Thank you to them all and to Miss West and Miss Elliott for all of their hard work.

As we head towards Christmas, we look forward to sharing the Christmas message with you at our various Nativity performances. Can we please remind you to bring your ticket with you to your child's performance as we will be collecting these at the door. Many thanks.

With every good wish,
Mr Duffy, Mrs Meldrum and Mrs Thorpe

