



28.4.2023

Dear Parents,

Well that was a busy week!

We hosted a meeting this week for the Headteachers from the other Catholic Feeder schools for St Nicholas and the new Headteacher of St Nicholas, Mr Burns attended. They all had a tour of the school and Mr Burns introduced himself to the Year 6 class. The children were a credit to you.

### **Morning Drop off**

It is a while since I have had to moan about this. This week some parents have been arriving very early in the morning and blocking the campus road down to Greenbank and St Wilfrid's. This causes their staff and ours issues with getting into school. Please do not come on to the campus until 8:15am.

A reminder too that children should not be left alone at the front of school before a staff member is present at around 8:15am.

### **September 2023 – Change to school start time**

The Department of Education has asked all schools to ensure that the school day adds up to 32.5 hours a week by September 2023. The details can be found by clicking on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/length-of-the-school-week-minimum-expectation>

It is an odd request as it takes no account of the numbers of break times in the school day or the length of the lunchtime break. Our KS2 children for example have a 15-minute morning break and a 45-minute lunchtime break. I know other schools where lunchtime is one hour or more and the children also have an afternoon break.

It has left a lot of schools short, ourselves included, by ten minutes a day. A lot of schools are just adding ten minutes on to the end of the school day. This is not an option for us as we need to be off the St Nicholas playground before they finish at 3:15pm and we changed the end of the school day to 3pm in 2017 to reduce traffic on the campus.

We are therefore going to bring registration in the morning forward by ten minutes. This means **the school day will start at 8:30am instead of 8:40am from the beginning of September 2023**. It means the side gate to school will be open between 8:15am and 8:30am. Any child arriving after 8:30am from September will be marked as 'late.' I have carried out counts on the gate and most children are in school before 8:30am so hopefully this will not be too much of an adjustment for most.

### **Parish News**

<https://www.stjohnvianney.co.uk/>

Some of our Year 4 children will be making their First Holy Communion at St Wilfrid's Church over the next few weeks. Please remember them and their families in your prayers. We are planning a

celebration Mass in school once all the children involved have made their First Holy Communion.

### **St John's Hartford**

All classes had the opportunity this week to attend a Coronation workshop at St John's. It was very informative and enjoyable. The whole St John's team are so welcoming to all schools locally.

### **The Coronation of King Charles III**

We will have a special Coronation assembly next Friday morning and we will then have a whole school picnic on the field at lunchtime to celebrate this special occasion. So far, the weather forecast looks kind.

### **Week commencing 9/5/2023**

There will be NO school snack for Years 1 to 6 during week commencing 9/5/2023. This is because it is the Y6 SAT week and we do not want to risk disturbing the children during their tests.

### **Sports Day**

This is not until next half term but I thought I'd make sure you had the date. It is Monday 12th June in the morning for all children.

Have a wonderful long weekend. We will see you all on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

God Bless,

Justine McEniff

Headteacher