



NEWSLETTER



I hope you have all had a good summer holiday.

Well here we are again at the beginning of a new academic year. All the children look really smart, happy, eager and have already settled well into their new classes. We have welcomed 30 children into Reception class - they are already proving to be a joy.

There will be a **WELCOME MASS** in Church on **Wednesday 23rd September at 9.30am for years R-6** (Reception class will be present for the first 15 mins.). Please come along with friends and family to help us to celebrate a new school year.

Y6 Class Mass will be held on Thursday 17th September at 9.30am in Church. Everyone welcome! Dates for other Class Masses to follow.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please come and join us after the Welcome Mass for a coffee morning to help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations of cakes would be very much appreciated. We will also hold a cake sale at the end of the school day if we have any cakes left over.

Children in **Y3** are going **swimming on Monday mornings** this half term. They will need to bring their swimming kit (including swimming hat), a towel and a warm coat as they will be walking to the Louisa Centre each Monday.



LOST ITEMS OF UNIFORM/PE KIT

At the end of last term there were a number of items of uniform/clothing left in school. These items will be in the school hall on Friday (11th September) between 3pm and 3.30pm. Please come along and collect any items that belong to your child. Unfortunately we do not have space to store any unclaimed items and therefore anything not claimed will be donated to charity.



To give you the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and visit their new classroom, I have organised a **coffee morning or afternoon** for each year group. As well as being able to have a chat with the teacher and other parents, you will also be informed of class routines.

I hope that these informal meetings will be useful and informative and will start the year in a positive way, encouraging a real and meaningful school/parent partnership. I have arranged each meeting at a different time to accommodate those of you who have more than one child in school.

An information sheet will be handed out at the meeting and if you are unable to attend, the same sheet will be sent home. The coffee morning/afternoon times can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please complete the reply slip and return it to school as soon as possible.

Year 6 SATs

We have received notification that the 2016 Key Stage 2 tests will take place from 9-12 May.



Each week during the school year we explore a different '**Statement to Live By**'.

These statements help children, families and staff, think about who we are, what we believe and what we hope to become. We hope that together we will nurture a sense of what it is to be fully human and alive as children and adults sharing in this Christian community.

There are 36 statements in all which are linked to our RE programme and the Catholic life of the school. The first statement we have explored is: 'We are all special'.

A number of times a year we will send home a list of coming weeks' statements and sometimes a simple activity you might carry out with your children. Sometimes we may ask you to return the completed activity to school.

Please try to work with us as we seek to help our children grow in love and understanding of themselves and others and of God in their lives. Teachers will always be happy to explain the activity to you if you would like them to - just ask.

The statements for the first 4 weeks will be sent out this week.

Thank you for all your support as we work together for the good of the children.



After School Clubs - The **Dance/Gym Club** will start again on Monday 7th September. The club runs from 3.15pm to 4.15pm and is open to all children. (Reception Class children can join from Monday 21st September and they will be supervised by school staff from 3pm until the club starts.)

The club is run by Leah Tallentire who is a qualified coach. There is a weekly charge of £2 per child and children will need their PE kit. Money should be sent into the school office every Monday in an envelope marked Dance Club with your child's name and class.

When collecting your child(ren) from the club, please use the main entrance through the cemetery.

Please note there will be **NO DANCE/GYM CLUB** on Monday 9th November due to Parent/Teacher meetings.



During their time in school children learn about road safety and about being a responsible citizen and we build on the values that parents/carers and families instil in their children at home. We appreciate your continued support in all aspects of school life and ask that you explain to you child why it is important to use designated parking areas. There are a number of car parks in Stanley that are only a few minutes walk from school and don't have any parking charges. Please ask any family member or friend who brings your child to school or collects them at home time to use the nearby car parks.

Please do not park on the double yellow lines or the pavement at the bottom of the Front Street even to drop off or pick up your child. I am very shocked to report that people have even been seen driving off the pavement straight onto the zebra crossing. The safety of all our children and their families as well as members of the public is paramount!

Also please do not use the Church grounds for parking. Access to school through the church gates is strictly on foot only. The car parking spaces within the church grounds are for people visiting Fr Kevin or for parishioners attending church. Access into the church grounds needs to be kept clear at all times e.g. for funerals, disabled access. When walking up and down the cemetery path, please make sure that your child stays on the path and out of respect does not run among the graves.

Medical Records

If your child is not on the medical register and they have any medical conditions we need to be aware of please let us know as soon as possible.

School Meals/Packed Lunch



As you know, from September 2014 children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free School meal every day. Reception children will be bringing home a menu so that you can choose with them their meal for each day. Meal choices for Y1 - Y6 will continue from last term until the menus change in October.

If your child is in Y3-Y6 and is having school meals, please remember to send dinner money in on a Monday morning.

The cost of a two course, school meal is still **£1.95 per day (£9.75 per week)**. Please send Dinner Money in an envelope with your child's name and the amount enclosed. Lunches are ordered by 10 o'clock each morning, so if your child is going

SCHOOL DINNER MONEY	
NAME	
CLASS	
DATE	
AMOUNT £	
SCH 160	

to be late please let us know so that we can order them a lunch. All lunches ordered by 10 o'clock need to be paid for, so if your child has any appointments and won't be in for lunch it is important to let us know so we don't order them a lunch and you don't get charged for it. If your child has to leave school after 10 o'clock (e.g. for an appointment or they are unwell) and a meal has been ordered for them it will still need to be paid for.

If your child is changing from packed lunch to school dinner or vice versa please notify us beforehand - at least 2 full weeks' notice please as the catering staff have to place orders in advance. Whatever lunch your child is having, e.g. school meal, this choice must continue throughout the week as we are unable to accommodate daily changes.

We remind children on packed lunches, not to swap any of their food with any other child. I would be grateful if you would reinforce this message at home. Children may think that they are being generous but they are not always aware of allergies other children may have and we know that the food you have put in their lunch boxes is meant for your child only. For health and safety reasons, please do not include cans or glass bottles in your child's lunch. Although plastic bottles are allowed, please remember that fizzy drinks can burst ruining your child's lunch.

Thank you for your help and support regarding meals. We know you are as keen as we are to ensure that the children have a healthy meal at lunchtime.

It is very important that we have up to date contact details for all parents. If any of your details have changed e.g. mobile phone number, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Breakfast Club

As you know we run a Breakfast Club each morning before school which is open to all children in school. The cost is £2.50 per day and the menu includes

Cereals
Milk
Water

Scrambled
Eggs
and/or
Baked Beans
(with or
without toast)

Yoghurts
Fruit
Crumpets
Toast/Preserves

Breakfast Club starts at 7.40am and children should not be left unattended before this time as there are no staff on duty to look after them. If it is raining parents and children can come into school to wait until breakfast club starts but children must not be left either in school or in the school yard without an adult before Miss Glendenning/Mrs Cranston start breakfast club. Please help us to ensure your child's safety. Those children wanting a cooked breakfast need to be in school before 8.15am at the latest as these foods will not be available after this time. Cereals, toast, crumpets and cold drinks will be available after 8.15am. There is no need to book beforehand. Reception Class children can come along from Monday 21st September.

Starting School - Admissions (Reception Class 2016)

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2016 and you are considering applying for a place at St. Joseph's, we would like to invite you to visit our school on Wednesday 11th November 2015 at 10am. During the visit you will have a tour of the school and be able to ask any questions you may have.

From 11th September 2015, Durham County Council will make the Parents' Guide to School Admissions and Common Application Form available to parents. Full details can be found online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Please note that the deadline for applications is 15 January 2016.

If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions Team, using the details below.

The School Admissions and Transport Team.
Children and Adults Services
County Hall
Durham
County Durham
DH1 5UJ
Telephone 03000 265 897
email: schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk



Holidays in Term Time

As you know, legislation makes it clear that schools may not grant any leave of absence from school during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. This will mean that applications for leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday in term-time will be refused unless parents can demonstrate and prove there are exceptional circumstances relating to the holiday request. Children attend school for 190 days per year which leaves 175 days during school holidays and weekends for family events.

Exceptional circumstances could include:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays. This applies to regular armed forces personnel only (Army, Navy & Air Force - not reserves, auxiliary etc.)
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
4. To attend a funeral of a person close to the family.
5. To attend a wedding of a person close to the family (this does not include an extended holiday).
6. Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside of 1 to 5 above, the Headteacher will give due consideration to each individual request.

If you take your child out of school without permission this will be recorded as unauthorised absence (truancy) and noted on the child's Record of Achievement and may result in each parent being issued with a fixed penalty fine for each child taken out of school.

THE EDUCATION (PENALTY NOTICES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007

Amendments have been made to the 2007 Regulations in the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (with effect 1/9/13).

Amendments to 2007 regulations will reduce the timescales for paying a penalty notice. Parents must, from **1 September 2013, pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days**. This brings attendance penalty notices into line with other types of penalty notices and allows local authorities to act faster on prosecutions.

Please note Fixed Penalty Notices are now issued to **all parents who have parental responsibility**. In practice this means that both Father and Mother will receive separate fines and in cases of unauthorised holidays in term-time relating to more than one child in the same family, the fines are multiple, as each child's absence is classed as a separate offence.

ADVANCE NOTICE - PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

The dates for this term's Parent/Teacher Meetings, in case you need to make arrangements and a note in your diary.

Years 1, 2 and 3

5 minute slots between 1.15pm and 4.15pm on Monday 9th November in the school hall.

Years 4, 5 and 6

5 minute slots between 1.15pm and 4.15pm on Tuesday 10th November in the school hall.

In order to accommodate parents/carers, can you please indicate below which time frame you would prefer i.e. a slot between 1.15pm and 2.15pm or 2.15pm and 3.15pm or 3.15pm and 4.15pm, or whether you have no preference. Please complete the slip found at the end of this newsletter and return to school by Monday 21st September. Whilst we will try to accommodate your preference, we do have over 200 appointments to allocate so it may not always be possible. We will allocate preferences on a first come-first served basis. You will be informed of your exact time slot by Friday 2nd October. If we do not receive a preference slip before Monday 21st September we will allocate a time for you.

The children look so smart this week - thank you. Just a reminder about uniform. Apart from the colour -GREY- we do not specify style of skirt, pinafore, trousers. Again, apart from the colour - WHITE- it does not matter where you buy polo tops, blouses, shirts or whether or not they have the school badge.

The only specific requirement of the uniform is that a school sweatshirt or cardigan is worn as this displays the school badge and motto. The children will be able to tell you how important the badge and motto is to us. Wearing our uniform and displaying our badge shows that we all belong to St. Joseph's and that we are all equal. We explain to the children the importance of uniform in life - jobs, clubs, sports groups etc. We also talk about being proud to wear our uniform and how everyone outside of school recognises us. Please encourage your children to take a pride in their uniform and help them to understand the value of it.

PE

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit. PLAIN BLACK SHORTS (no cycling shorts), PLAIN SHORT SLEEVED T.SHIRT in their TEAM COLOUR (available to order if necessary), PLIMSOLLS/TRAINERS.

Please note children must do dance and gymnastics lessons in bare feet. If children are going off-site to participate in sporting activities they will be informed if they can wear a tracksuit over their PE kit.

If your child forgets to bring their PE kit to school or if they bring unsuitable items they will be given a spare kit from school which they will bring home that night to wash and return to school the next day.

SCHOOL PRIDE

Wearing the correct school uniform is very important for all children in school. It gives them a sense of belonging and of being part of the same school family. Please find details of our uniform below. Uniform, **including PE kit**, is applicable to all children from Reception through to Year 6.

Uniform

- Blue St. Joseph's sweatshirt/cardigan **with school badge**
- White polo shirt, blouse or shirt
- Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
- Blue and white checked/striped dress or grey shorts (Summer Term)

Coats

- Suitable for the weather conditions as children will be outside every day whenever possible
- Blue St Joseph's Stormproof Coat (optional)
- Blue St Joseph's Fleece (optional)

Shoes

- Black/mainly black flat shoes (trainers can be worn if they are mainly black)
- No heels or wedges
- Shoes must be suitable for a variety of activities as children will be moving around school, going up and down the stairs and playing in the playground.

PE

- Black shorts and t. shirt in team colour (whole school)
- REC, Y1 & Y2 - black plimsolls
- KS2 - Black plimsolls or black/mainly black trainers

Swimming

- Swimming trunks/costume, towel, swimming hat and goggles

It is recommended that school clothing and personal property should be clearly marked with the child's name. (Uniform ordered through school can have your child's name embroidered on at no additional cost.)

How to Order

Order forms are available from the school office however we are currently in the process of setting up an online service where parents/carers can order directly from our supplier and have their order delivered to their home address. More details to follow.



Just some reminders for this half term:

- Please **check your child's hair on a daily basis**.
- Please try to **avoid large bags** being brought into school - there is not enough space on the pegs in classrooms.
- If your child is **vomiting and/or has diarrhoea the exclusion rule must be followed** i.e.

If your child has only one episode of vomiting within a 24 hour period and they are otherwise well, they may return to school after the 24 hour period. However if they have more than one episode of vomiting or if there is an outbreak of gastro-enteritis at the school your child should remain away from school for at least 48 hours after the vomiting has stopped.

If your child has any diarrhoea (even if he/she has only one episode) they should be kept away from school until at least 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and until they are well again.

If your child is vomiting and/or has diarrhoea and has been to see his/her GP and you know the cause of the illness, please let the school know as soon as possible as it may help prevent further cases.

Anyone who has been in contact with someone who is vomiting and/or has diarrhoea but does not have the symptoms themselves may attend school as normal.

Parents of any children who are vomiting and/or have diarrhoea in school will be notified immediately so that they can be taken home.

- If your child is absent from school for any reason please notify us on the **first day of absence**. Please **telephone us if your child is going to be late**.
- If your child is changing from packed lunch to school dinner or vice versa please notify us before hand - 2 week's notice.
- Please, please **label your children's clothing** - it causes us great problems when trying to identify items if they don't have a name in them.
- Please remember to give your child a **bottle of still, unflavoured water** to drink in school (labelled with your child's name) - it is so important not only for hydration but to help your child concentrate and remain alert.
- Please remember that children line up at **8.50am** and registration is 8.55am.
- **JEWELLERY, INCLUDING EARRINGS, IS NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL**. If your child has pierced ears please remove earrings before they come in and they can be put back in as soon as they leave school. **If your child arrives in school wearing any items of jewellery they will be asked to remove them and if they can't do so themselves, a parent/carer will be contacted and asked to come into school to remove them.**

We have very few rules in school but those we do have are often related to safety and/or safeguarding. These rules have been verified by the Governing Body and are written in accordance with advice, regulations from the Diocese, Local Authority, Government etc.

One such rule is the wearing of jewellery as the potential risk to the children is great. There is also a risk of items being lost or damaged as well as the potential for 'competition' amongst pupils. There are many occasions in school where children are very active, as well as times when they are using their hands. Jewellery is a hazard - you know yourself if you are doing housework, sport, cooking, DIY etc. you would usually remove any items of jewellery to reduce the risk of harm or damage.

- Please be **sensible about hairstyles** for boys, avoiding cut-in lines and patterns.

When discussing the above items with your children, as we do in school, please emphasise the reasons behind having rules and procedures and why it is important to accept and value them. We rely on your support and you know, as we do, the pressures of media and peers placed upon your children in our society today.

- As you know, School Fund is used to subsidise trips, activities and events for children throughout the school year. We ask that voluntary contributions to School Fund be sent in each half term or term. Thank you very much for all the support you give to school, it is very much appreciated and it allows us to give the children more opportunities than they would otherwise experience.

School closes for half term on **Thursday 22nd October** and re-opens on Monday 3rd November.



I hope your child has a happy and successful year but remember if you have any queries or concerns don't hesitate to speak to the teacher concerned or myself.

Thank you
Mrs. J. H. McBride
Head Teacher

Newsletters are available on our school website: <http://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk>

REPLY SLIPS

COFFEE MORNINGS/AFTERNOONS

Friday 11 th September	details to follow separately	REC
Monday 14 th September	9.10am - 9.55am	Y2
	10.45 - 11.30am	Y1
	2.15pm - 3.00pm	Y3
Tuesday 15 th September	9.10am - 9.55am	Y4
	10.45 - 11.30am	Y6
	2.15pm - 3.00pm	Y5

COFFEE MORNINGS/AFTERNOONS

I am able/unable (please delete as appropriate) to attend.

Signature.....

Printed name.....

Name(s) of child(ren).....

Year group(s).....

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Name of Child	
Year Group	
I would like a slot: (please tick 1 option)	
Between 1.15pm and 2.15pm	
Between 2.15pm and 3.15pm	
Between 3.15pm and 4.15pm	
I have no preference	
Name of Parent/Carer	
Signature of Parent/Carer	