

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



HEAD TEACHER: MRS. A. D. THORPE

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. C. HORSLEY

Front Street, Stanley, Co. Durham. DH9 0NP
E.mail: stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net

Tel: 01207 232624
Website: www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk

11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of our second week back in school and our pupils are settling back into the new routine exceptionally well. I appreciate that this is all new for the pupils, parents and all of the staff, however we really appreciate all your support as we find our way through this new normal.

COVID-19 Update

The Prime Minister has announced a significant change to the national rules, which will take effect from Monday 14th September. Please do your very best to follow them and keep everyone in our community as safe as possible. The latest government updates can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and the overwhelming message is **'Wash hands, Cover Face, Make Space'** in groups of no more than 6 at any one time. As you will be aware the children, within their bubbles, are washing hands and using antibacterial hand gel at frequent intervals throughout the day in school.

Drop off and Collection times

It is really important that parents/carers help us by sticking to the timings which were given out at the start of term, this is to ensure that bubbles do not cross over as the children enter school. For families with children in different year groups – thank you so much for helping us by walking between the various entrance points and sticking to your timings, it really is important that we keep all of our children in their class bubbles. If you are unavoidably late, then you are asked to ring school and the office will tell you where to wait and an adult will come and collect your child; where possible we will bring the late child in quickly, however due to the demarcation of the bubbles you may need to wait for a period of time. Please **do not** open the KS1 gate and simply send your child in or send them down the cemetery path as there are no adults waiting for children, every adult in school is allocated a bubble.

Other people collecting your child

If you have asked another adult to collect your child, then please can you ring the school office, we cannot let children go with new adult, even if they are school friends without a telephone call, also we ask you to be mindful of the new government advice of no more than 6 people. If year 6 pupils want to walk home, please can you send an email to confirm which days you want this to happen. stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net

COVID-19 Symptoms and testing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#symptoms>

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange.



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The above advice comes from the government website, if your child has any one or more of these symptoms they need to stay at home and isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result. Tests can be booked by yourselves by ringing 119 or online. School is aware that there is a national delay and some families have been asked to travel significant distances, we have been told that if you keep trying to book online or via the telephone the distances and waiting times can reduce. This is completely out of our control as it is the national testing system run by the government.

Evidence of negative or positive test

If you have sought a COVID-19 test for your child, as they have one or more of the above symptoms, then your child needs to be isolated for 14 days or until a negative test result has been received. The child can return to school either after the 14 day isolation period if no test is taken or upon the result of a negative test if that is sooner; please email in your negative notification to stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net

Receiving a positive COVID-19 test

If your child or anyone in your family, who lives with one of our pupils, receives a positive COVID-19 test, then you **MUST** inform school as soon as possible. In the event of any positive test notification being received by school, we will work very closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority, taking their advice about informing the community and what appropriate actions should be taken. Please be assured that we have a detailed Risk Assessments in place, combined with COVID-19 protocols, the Local Authority and Public Health England we will follow all the most up to date guidance.

Whole School Attendance

We understand during these worry times that parents are concerned about following the rules around COVID-19 and we really appreciate that, however to reassure you, unless your child presents with covid-19 symptoms, then they can be sent to school with the normal slight sniffling nose and/or cold. We are delighted to tell you that this week the whole school attendance is 97.4%. This is fantastic, well done to everyone and keep it up; we want to have all the children in school and learning.

Notification of Absence

If you leave a recorded message to say that your child is going to be absent from school, please can you detail their symptoms eg. Temperature, sickness bug etc, simply saying 'unwell' is not enough, we really appreciate all your help with this.

Actions in the event of a sibling in another school being told to isolate

The government guidance, dated 10th September states, "Household members of those who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child/young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms." So please send your other children to St Joseph's unless they/you have been contacted individually to self-isolate due to close contact with the positive case in another school.



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Minimising items transferred between school and home

As you know, we have asked for children to only bring their lunchbox and water bottle into school on a daily basis, their PE kit should now be in school and in their personalised box in class. All letters will continue to be uploaded electronically to minimise the transfer of paper between school and home. If you are unable to access the school website then please ring school 01207232624 and we will make a paper copy available on an individual basis.

Home Learning / Homework

Last term all pupils were given their logins to Oxford reading Buddy and either Numbots or Times tables Rock Stars, depending on their age. This term, teachers are going to revisit these packages with the children and encourage them to use them at home, this is in part to physical homework not being sent home. We are currently looking at ways to send home the weekly spellings pupils need to learn, however whilst we look for the simplest way for parents and children to access them at home, children are practising their spellings in class. There are also Curriculum maps uploaded onto the school website, informing you of the topics your children are learning about in school, they can be used to support children creating their own learning projects at home.

Online / Home Teaching

The full class online learning provision, for you to use at home to teach your child, will only be uploaded to the school website, in the event of a year group or full school closure due to COVID-19.

Reviewing our rewards system

During these new COVID-19 secure times the guidance says that there are no whole school gatherings. We would normally reward children during the Friday assemblies and talk about wonderful things which have happened during the week, of which they should be really proud. Unfortunately, no certificates or the such like can be sent home from school. So, we are continuing with all the positive praise and celebrations in each individual class bubble, but we are also reviewing what we can do on a whole school level, we will keep you all up to date.

Flu Vaccination Programme

If your child is in Reception to Year 6 and you would like them to have the nasal flu spray then please visit the link or scan the QR code below to consent for your child (one for each child) to receive their flu vaccine on 26th November 2020 in school. This consent must be completed asap (and at least 2 days before we are due in your school) to ensure we can vaccinate your child when we are in school. Please note the consent form has been improved and simplified.

You will be asked to enter a secure school code:

School Name:	Code:
St Joseph's	114245



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www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be a very serious illness and sometimes causes major health complications particularly in children and the elderly. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. Please ensure you read and understand all the information by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/> before you complete the consent form.

While preventing the spread of Covid-19 and caring for those infected is a public health priority, it remains very important to maintain good coverage of immunisations, particularly in the childhood programme. In addition to protecting the individual, this will avoid outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases that could harm individuals and increase further the numbers of patients requiring health services. **Note: The nasal flu vaccine contains trace amounts of products derived from pigs (porcine gelatine).** More information is available from www.nhs.uk/child-flu-FAQ The vaccination is free and recommended for children and is given via a quick and simple spray up the nose.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the NHS on: 03000 032554

Medication review letters

If your child has a medical condition, irrespective of whether or not we administer medication in school, we require a new Individual Health Care Plan to be completed every year. If your child does need regular medication during the school day a parental agreement form also needs to be completed.

It is really important that we have up to date medical information for your child in case of an emergency and without the signed plan and agreement we will not be able to administer any medication. These forms were sent home, last term, with the school report and a copy can also be found on the school website <http://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/?s=medicines>. We asked for these to be returned by Wednesday 9th September at the latest and there are still a number outstanding, please can you send them in as soon as possible.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Cowan in the school office between 8.00 am and 3.30 pm. If details change throughout the year, please let us know as soon as possible.



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Breakfast club update

If you want your child to attend the breakfast club provision, then their place will shortly be able to be booked and paid for via the Parent Pay App, which you all have access to via your mobile phone. This is expected to go live by the middle of next week, so as part of the transition could you email or telephone if you have not already done so for next week and as this goes live we are more than happy to help you through the login process for booking in the following weeks.

Children should arrive at school between 7:40am and 8am and walk down the cemetery path, no parent can come into the building to drop off. Where possible, could you help us manage the numbers by booking your child in by Wednesday for the following week, however we recognise things may change at the last minute, so children can be booked in up to the day before, the more notice we get the easier it is for us to plan. Bookings can be made weekly, monthly or termly, so if you have a regular day then please feel free to book it all in advance. If your child is absent from school and you have already made a booking the office staff can make the necessary adjustments.

Lunches - new choices bookable on line

Having listened to your feedback about the packed lunches we have asked the lunch providers, Taylor Shaw, to review the packed lunch offer. They have come up with a wider choice for all pupils and these need to be booked via ParentPay, regardless of if you pay for your child's lunches or not. Please could you all book lunch choices for w/c 14th by Saturday 12th September.

Feeding Families – charities

We have been working closely with the Feeding Families charity who have kindly donated approximately 300 boxes of food, since March, and we can only thank them for their huge generosity in supporting our families during this difficult time. Last term and continuing into the summer holidays, we delivered large numbers of these boxes to families homes; moving forward there will be weekly deliveries to school and any family who would like a box of food is asked to ring school and book a time slot for them to collect the box from school.

School Fund Donations

We hugely appreciate all your on-going support and have opened up the School Fund Donation option on ParentPay, thank you to everyone who has already contributed, and any further donations are very gratefully received. You can donate on an ad-hoc, weekly, monthly or termly basis, these funds go towards providing the little extra curriculum enhancements we would like to provide for all of our children, but cannot afford from our budget. We also use these funds to subsidise school trips and we hope to start them up as soon as the rules around COVID-19 allow us to do this safely.

Year 6 Parents only

The admissions system for your child's senior school place opens on Monday 14th September. There is a copy of the Durham County letter on the school website in the same section as this letter. There is a guide to school admissions and then you can apply online via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions



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Welcome to Nursery pupils

Our new nursery is finally opening on Monday 14th September. We are delighted to welcoming these new children and their families into our school community. Remember all nursery parents should still apply for their Reception place via the normal application process. Please feel to share the new nursery and spread the word that we are open. If anyone would like to book their child in they can contact the school office 01207232624 or stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net

We keep you all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time and as always appreciate all of your continued support.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. Thorpe
Headteacher

