

# 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](mailto:stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net)

Tel: 01207 232624  
Website: [www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk](http://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy week in school and children are settling down into the new routines really well. They are becoming masters at washing their hands and ensuring that they remain in their class bubbles. We appreciate all your encouragement and support from home too.

## New Government Guidance and rules – local lockdown

As of today, the government has changed the rules in the North East of England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-measures-introduced-in-parts-of-the-north-east-to-tackle-rising-infection-rates> Please refer to the above guidance for further information.

## 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 one or more 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.

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.

## Covid Testing

We are aware that there is a nationwide back log for testing. Nevertheless, we strongly advise that you contact 111 for medical advice and 119 to book a test if you or any of your family experience any Covid-19 symptoms outlined above.



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## Work for a child in the event of needing to isolate and unable to access a test

Due to testing being so difficult to access, we have decided that teachers are going to upload a half termly plan for you all to use in the event of your child needing to isolate at home for a period of time. We are uploading these plans to support you in knowing what to focus on each half term, so whenever your child needs to isolate you can access these plans and support your child with their ongoing learning, ensuring that together we minimise the amount of school work they miss this year. Each half term there will be a new plan uploaded. We would appreciate it if you could support your child with their ongoing learning whilst they are unable to come into school.

## Returning to school following isolation or a negative test result

Please can you help us keep everyone as safe as possible. If your child has had a negative test result meaning they can return to school within the 14day window then please can you send us a copy of your child's negative test result into school prior to their return [stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net](mailto:stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net) If you cannot access a test, then unfortunately it is a 14day isolation period prior to returning to school.

## Hand Sanitiser

We have plenty of hand wash and hand sanitiser in school for children to use. Please can children not bring their own into school as they then want to share it with others.

## Catholic Collective Worship Resource

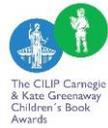
Every week in class, the children are taking part in their own bubble collective worship. We are subscribing to a new and wonderful interactive resource for pupils to access in school and for families to access at home. This following link will take you to the resources to use at home [www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/)

## Collecting after school

Please could you inform us if anyone else is meant to be collecting your children after school. Sometimes we have Grandparents or family friends arriving to collect, especially the younger children, and we don't know about it. We then need to contact home before letting the child go and this can sometimes understandably upset the grandparents.

## Water bottles

Please ensure that all water bottles sent into school only have water in. Some children are coming to school with juice or fizzy drinks in their bottles, we want to keep your children as healthy as possible and water is the best thing for rehydration and looking after teeth.



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## St Bede's Virtual meeting

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September St Bede's will holding personalised meetings for parents of our current Year 6 children – details to be found on their school website. <https://www.stbedes.durham.sch.uk/>

## Railings outside of school opposite the KS1 entrance

Please ensure that your child does not climb on the tall black metal railings outside of school as we don't want anyone to fall and hurt themselves. Once children have been dismissed they are parents/carers responsibility.

## Driving and Parking Around School

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are driving in a dangerous manner along Thorneyholme Terrace when dropping off and collecting their children from school. Could I please remind everyone to drive slowly and carefully on Thorneyholme Terrace and all the roads around school. Our Reception children come out of a different entrance and cars are using the road that they walk out onto to turn around. This is really dangerous and is putting our children and parents/carers at risk.

The car park inside St Joseph Church grounds (opposite the entrance to school) is for those attending St Joseph's Church, and Father Dermott has specifically requested that parents/carers do not use it to park in or as a drop off and pick up point for school. We respectfully ask that families at the school do not park in the Church car park. Thank you.

## PE Kits – Outside

As the weather cools down, it would be a good idea to send your child in with a sweatshirt which they can leave in their PE bag to use when doing PE outside.

I appreciate that the current letters are very COVID-19 heavy, so I would direct you to the school Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephsstanley/> which has lots of fantastic pictures and celebrations of all the wonderful things children are doing in school. 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

