

# 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)

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25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Drop off and Pick up

Please be aware that we have put a lot of time and preparation into keeping the bubbles of children safe and secure, I would appreciate it if you could help us keep doing this by ensuring that you drop your child off at the correct gate at the correct time so that no child mingles with a bubble that is not theirs. Whatever the weather, please do not just drop your child off at the top of the cemetery path for them to walk in on their own. We really appreciate all your help with this.

## New Government Guidance and rules – local lockdown

Last week, the government has changed the rules in the North East of England. [NE COVID-19 Measures](#)  
Please refer to the links for further information. There was also a new update on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2020 – please make sure that you are fully aware of what this means for you and your family - [22.09.2020 Update](#)

## Informal childcare arrangements

Following the updated guidance, informal childcare arrangements are now allowed to take place.

[Childcare arrangements](#)

## COVID-19 Symptoms and testing

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any one or more of the following: [Symptoms](#)

- 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.



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## 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.

## Mask and visors

As you are all aware, staff are wearing visors to collect and drop off your children to help protect everyone. We are aware that remaining socially distanced at all times can sometimes be challenging, however we really appreciate all the efforts you are making to remain at least 2m apart. As in normal time, it may on occasion be necessary for staff to catch you at the gate to let you know something quickly about the school day, could you all help us by bringing a mask with you to wear in the event of needing to speak to a staff member? Please also see the letter from Durham County Council uploaded to the school website from Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health.

## Windows and Doors

Please remember that part of the COVID-19 risk assessment and guidance is that all rooms throughout school need a continual flow of fresh air from outside – so windows and doors are open. Please make sure that all children come to school wearing a school jumper and I would suggest that as the winter comes that tights and vests are a good idea. Currently, the classrooms are fine however in anticipation of the winter please do not children in thin cotton summer dresses and short white socks with no cardigan. We appreciate all your support and help with this.

## Durham Library Service

[Durham Library - Borrow Box](#) is a fabulous new free resource which you can all access to borrow books online. If you are not a member of the Durham Library Service you can join online [Free Login](#). You can access hundreds of amazing books free of charge. We would actively encourage all children to logon and virtually borrow the latest books. It is a fantastic resource – and all for free! And for your parents all the newspapers are free too!

## Nursery

After half term, the new nursery will be opening up to encompass a 30hours a week provision. Please contact school if you would like further information and as always feel free to let friends and families know about our fantastic new nursery provision.



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## Online Learning

The isolation learning grids will be uploaded over the coming week for you to access in the event of your child needing to isolate for a period of time. Teachers have prepared full year plan grids and then each half term there will be an updated half termly learning grid. In the event of a full bubble closure then weekly grids and links to extra online provisions will be uploaded.

## Year 4 Music Lessons

Durham Music service gave a presentation to Year 4 pupils earlier in the week. For more information and to sign your child up to this service please visit [www.durhammusic.org.uk](http://www.durhammusic.org.uk). Please note that this is only available to Year 4 pupils at the moment.

## Long Hair

If your child has long hair, please ensure it is tied back each day before they come into school.

## Lip Balm/Vaseline

If for medical reasons your child is required to apply lip balm/Vaseline during the school day, please complete the relevant over the counter medication form which is available on the school website and send it into school with your child. The lip balm/Vaseline will be kept in the school office and will be administered as required. Children should not carry these on their persons as it is even more important during this time that children do not share lip balms.

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. As always 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

