

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

16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who have been so supportive of school by maintaining the bubble drop off and collection system for the children. I know the weather has been simply awful and you have been so well wrapped up with winter coats, umbrellas, hats and scarves. I appreciate how difficult it is waiting between bubbles, however we are unable to bring groups of siblings into school together as this would involve mixing bubbles, I do not have the staff to cover all the bubbles before school or after school safely. Please know that all staff appreciate all your support keeping the children in their bubbles and thus keeping all of our staff and children as safe as possible. I am in the process of reviewing the timing of the bubbles coming into school to see if we can safely reduce the gap between each bubble, meaning you will not have to stand waiting for quite so long. The new timings will be issued next week to start after the half term, however we will need you to really help us by sticking to the entrance times, if there are lots of pupils who are arriving late and crossing the bubbles we will need to revert to the longer gaps between groups.

Secondary School Place – Year 6 parents

We are aware that a number of parents have not yet made their application for a secondary school place, and you may be at risk of missing a place at your preferred school if you miss the deadline for on-line applications. We strongly advise that all year 6 parents make sure that they all apply **BEFORE** the **31st October 2020** deadline. It is hoped that this reminder message will ensure that as many parents as possible submit their applications on time, in turn giving their child the best possible chance of gaining a place at their preferred school. If you require any assistance with your application, please contact DCC on 03000 265896.

World Mental Health Day

As I am sure many of you will have seen, on Saturday 10th October it was World Mental Health Day. Please use the following link to access further resources and information <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>

Mental Health and well-being

There are a number of agencies out there ready and willing to support our families. Please feel free to contact any one of them for support at any time.



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- NHS - If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the NHS on: 03000 032554
- **MindEd** – a free educational resource from Health Education England on children and young people's mental health - <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/>
- **Rise Above** is a website co-created and produced by young people <https://riseabove.org.uk/>
- **Every Mind Matters** includes an online tool and email journey which aims to support everyone to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>
- Barnardo's **See, Hear, Respond** programme, focusing on finding and reaching out to vulnerable children around the country who are experiencing negative impacts on their health and wellbeing, as well as those at risk of harm; and are not being seen by statutory agencies <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond>
- **Bereavement UK** and the **Childhood Bereavement Network** provide information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff. <http://www.bereavement.co.uk/>
<http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/>

Times Table Rock Star

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who are **number 1** in the region for Times Table Rock Star. Can we please encourage every child from year 2 upwards to practice their times tables for a minimum of 10 minutes a day and see if we can become the top school for every year group? Year 4 pupils sit a government timetables test in the spring so we want to give them the best chance of success.

Learning Support books

Year 6 have been given their SATS preparation booklets to support their learning. They can use these at home to help support them when they are working from home. I appreciate all the voluntary contributions which have been made through Parent Pay to help pay for them.

Year 4 have had a timetables revision book sent home to support their test build up too, and again I appreciate all the parental support in voluntarily contributing towards the cost of these via Parent Pay.

New Email contact system (In the event of a bubble closure)

Over the next week, or so, all pupils will be issued with a personal school email address, to use in the event of a bubble closure. We would hope not to have to close any bubbles, however we need to be prepared for



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the possibility. The older children will have been shown how to login at school and had a quick practice, but it would help if you could allow them to have a go once they bring their laminated cards with the address and password on home, (Please do not change passwords as then they will be unable to log back in at school) In the first instance staff will ask pupils to send a test email back to their class teacher, to ensure that it works from home, then after that the email address will only be used in the event of a bubble closure. For the younger children staff will send home their login details and we ask that you use the email address. We hope that you will agree that in the event of a bubble closure it would be helpful to be able to email the class teacher with any teaching and learning questions or to send work back into school to celebrate what you and your child have been doing at home.

The staff contact details are for their pupils to use in each class:

nursery@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
reception@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
year1@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
year2@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
year3@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
year4@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
year5@stjosephsstanley.co.uk
year6@stjosephsstanley.co.uk

These email addresses are to be used in conjunction with your child's email address to discuss work, only in the event of a bubble closure, after the initial test to make sure it has worked. If a bubble is closed and you have a question about their work and/or need help from the teacher, then please ask the question via your child's email address and not your own personal email, as all work needs to be kept secure. These email address will be reviewed by teaching staff between 9am-10:30am and 1pm – 2:30pm every weekday, in the event of a bubble closure. We appreciate your help and support.

Bonfire safety messages

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year will make it even more difficult for our Fire service operational crews to deliver Bonfire safety messages to schools across the County, therefore I have included the links below and kindly ask if you could read it and share the messages with your children as appropriate.

<https://www.ddfire.gov.uk/bonfire-and-firework-safety-primary-schools-2020>



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Parent/Teacher Meetings

Due to COVID-19 parent/teacher meetings will be conducted via a 10-minute telephone call on the following dates:

Class	Date	Time
Nursery	3 rd November 2020	1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Reception	3 rd November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 1	5 th November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 2	2 nd November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 3	4 th November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 4	5 th November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 5	6 th November 2020	11.00 am – 5.30 pm
Year 6	4 th November 2020	9.00 am – 5.30 pm

Information on how slots can be booked will be sent home next week as we have purchased a new online booking system to support this new way of carrying out parents' meetings. Nevertheless, we wanted you to be aware of the dates as soon as possible.

Parental Survey

Last Friday, a survey was sent home with every child. Some parents have emailed their responses back and some have sent back the paper copies, which we will quarantine. Please could everyone send back a completed copy to help us shape our support moving forward by Wednesday 21st October. Even if you do not want to comment we would like the survey back to say that. We really appreciate all the positive feedback we have received so far and thank you for all your on-going support during this challenging time.

Reading Books

Parents/carers of KS1 children have been contacted individually to start a trial of sending books home on a weekly basis. They will be sent home on a Monday and returned on a Friday to be quarantined over the weekend. We hope to expand this home reading plan to the whole school after half term. Reading is an essential part of learning and we want to support our children on their learning journey, however we need parents to help us with this too. All pupils are also reading in school both individually and in groups, but we encourage all children to read at home at least 3 times a week, the older children especially can access Oxford Reading buddy where there are thousands of books to read online. Staff from both Year 1 and Year



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2 have really appreciated the positive feedback from parents about books being able to be sent home, please remember to send them back on a Friday so that we can quarantine them over the weekend.

Fire Service attended school on Wednesday!

As I am sure some of you will have heard, we had some lovely visitors who attended school on Wednesday afternoon. Durham Fire Service came, following a fire alarm activation. All the pupils were amazing and evacuated the building very sensibly and quietly, we were so impressed. They then all waited outside whilst the Fire Service came and checked school thoroughly and made sure it was safe for everyone to return into the building. So, thank you to all of our wonderful children for being so sensible and a huge thankyou to Durham Fire Service for keeping us safe.

Non-Uniform Day

On Thursday 22nd October children can come to school in non-uniform/Halloween costume – please note no football tops. A voluntary donation, towards school fund, of £1.00 per child can be paid via Parent Pay. We hope the children will enjoy a day of celebration for their last day in school before the half term holiday.

Inset Day

Please note that there is a school Inset day for staff only on Friday 23rd October, so school will be closed to all pupils.

As always, we appreciate all of your support and prayers during this difficult time.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. Thorpe
Headteacher

