

# 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: [stanlevstjoseph@durhamlearning.net](mailto:stanlevstjoseph@durhamlearning.net)

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

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

What can I say – we have made it to half-term! Well done to everyone who has helped us all stay as safe as possible over the last eight weeks. I would like to personally thank you for all your support through the returning of pupils back to full time education. We have been so proud of all the children and the way they have embraced and accepted all of the new COVID-19 rules. The governors, staff and I hope that you are all able to have a restful and thoroughly enjoyable half term holiday.

## **COVID-19 positive tests – A Message from Amanda Healy and Richard Crane**

Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health for County Durham has requested that school ask parents the following:

Dear parents/carers,

It is in this respect that I (Amanda Healy) write to you today. With the high rates of COVID-19 in County Durham currently, I am asking parents to let the school know if their child tests positive for COVID-19 during the half term break. If your son or daughter receives a positive COVID-19 test after Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 please contact the school immediately on [stanlevstjoseph@durhamlearning.net](mailto:stanlevstjoseph@durhamlearning.net) and provide the following information:

**Name of child:**

**Class/year group:**

**Date of the COVID-19 test:**

**Does the child have symptoms? Yes or No**

**What date did the symptoms start?**

**What date did the child last attend school?**

I apologise for earlier confusion. It is very important that you provide this information so that the school can identify any close contacts that your son or daughter may have had in school during their infectious period. The school will then decide about possible bubble closures on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November to prevent the further transmission of COVID-19. Parents will be informed via text on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> not to come to school and then letters on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November will be sent home, ONLY if a bubble has to close. Please note that you should also report any close contacts that your child has had outside the school setting through NHS Test and Trace. Over half term, whilst school is closed, please make sure you have provided information of all close contacts to NHS Test and Trace.

In addition, I know our children and young people will still want to see their friends during the holidays, but please can I remind all parents that children and young people must not meet up in groups larger than six people (of any age) and that young people should not be gathering indoors with friends. Please also remember where they do meet



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*up in groups of six or less they should still observe social distancing and good hand hygiene. Helping our children and young people to understand the importance of this will help to keep us all safe and healthy. Thank you again for your help in this matter and I wish you a safe and well half term break.*

*Your sincerely,  
Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health for County Durham  
Richard Crane, Head of Education and Skills*

## **Reminder of the Parent/Teacher appointments**

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 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Reception	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 1	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 3	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Year 4	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	11.00 am – 5.30 pm
Year 5	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	11.00 am – 5.30 pm
Year 6	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	9.00 am – 5.30 pm

Information on how slots can be booked has been sent home and a large number of parents have already booked their appointment time. We hope you agree that this is a much simpler and quicker booking system. Please also note than any parent, whose child has a short note or Sen support plan will also be talked through and have a chance to discuss the updated plans at this meeting. If after that, you would like any further information, you are welcome to contact Mrs Haveron, school SENDCo, to speak to her on the telephone, please contact 01207232624 to book a telephone appointment after speaking to your class teacher.

## **Reading books**

Reading books have been sent home over the half term holiday to support you and your child with their reading. Can you please help us by bringing them back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov to give them time to be quarantined after the holidays.

## **KS2 Science Learning Packs**

A huge thank you goes out to the Ogden Trust for their support – every KS2 child was sent home with a science learning pack, which is yours to keep! It has resources and ideas to help you have fun with science over the holidays, year 5 are assessing the project so they would appreciate it if you could return the feedback forms either via email or in paper, which



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will be quarantined. We hope you all agree that our children have been really lucky to benefit from this fully funded project?

## First Holy Communion

The Year 5 pupils have been allocated a day to enable them to take part in their sacrament of Holy Communion. Alongside this, Father Dermott has also organised to come into school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov to hear the children in their First Reconciliation. We really appreciate him working with our children as he has so many schools to look after, please keep him and all the parishes in Pontop Partnership in your prayers.

## Parking outside School

We have had a number of complaints from local residents about parents driving quickly up and down Thorneyholme Terrace and parking on the yellow lines on Stanley Front Street. Please help us keep your children safe by parking in the local carparks and walking your children to the entry gate, we appreciate you helping us and the local community all stay safe in these difficult times.

## Non-Uniform Day

Yesterday, was the non-uniform/Halloween costume day, the children have had a wonderful day and the costumes have been fantastic. I think you have all excelled yourself in your costume designs! A voluntary donation, towards school fund, of £1.00 per child can be paid via Parent Pay. It has certainly felt like a happy and fun way to start the half term break.

## The Forge – Year 6 Digital Literacy

Year 6 continue to design some amazing images – we are hoping to get a book printed including their photographs, projects, written explanations and poetry in it – please watch out for it!

## Advance notice of Anty-bullying week

### **Anti-Bullying Week 2020: United Against Bullying**

ABA are official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week. Anti-Bullying Week 2020 will take place from Monday 16th November - Friday 20th November 2020. The theme is United Against Bullying. <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

## Christmas Performances

As you can imagine, with COVID-19 Christmas is not going to be the same as normal for any of us, but we do continue to all pray that we can all see our families over this festive season. In School, we are working on plans to record children and make a film of them together, in a socially distanced and safe way, for you all to enjoy. Please bear with us as plans are not fully finalised, but please know that there is a lot of planning going on behind the scenes. Currently, we are unable to offer a Christmas mass as church does not have a safe COVID-19 capacity to have parents and children in together, so we ask that you keep the whole parish community in your prayers this season. We understand how disappointed you will all be



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about this however we are endeavoring to make it as COVID-19 secure whilst also trying to make it as special for the children as possible.

## Christmas Lunches

All pupils are going to be invited to enjoy a class Christmas lunch in the hall in a safe socially distanced way in December – details will come out soon about how to book a place for your child.

## Christmas Parties

We are planning to hold a year group specific Christmas party for each group in the lead up to Christmas, unfortunately no bubbles will be allowed to cross. Pupils will be invited to come into school in their own clothes/party clothes and dates will be sent out next half term.

## Operation Christmas Child

Normally, at this time of year we ask for shoe box donations, however due to COVID-19 we are unable to accept any this year. Nevertheless, the Your Move Estate agency in Rowlands Gill and Consett are collecting boxes in so please feel free to take your contribution to one of those drop off points.

## St Joseph's Nursery

In some more exciting news, our new nursery will be extending its hours to a 30-hour provision from 2<sup>nd</sup> November, please share the good news and if anyone you know wants a place then they can contact school and speak to Mrs Cowan on 01207 232624 for an information and booking pack.

As always, we appreciate all of your support and prayers during this difficult time and hope to see you all back smiling on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, God Bless and stay safe.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. Thorpe  
Headteacher

