

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

5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back – it has been a wonderful and extremely busy first week! The children have been working really hard and we have been delighted with their positive attitude to school.

COVID-19

As always, we appreciate you continuing to support school by wearing your mask and maintaining your social distance (Over 2m apart) when dropping off and collecting your children at the various entrances to school each day. We know that for some of our families the timings are tight but we really appreciate all your help with this.

Remote Learning Plans

In the event of your child having to isolate at home, due to COVID-19, there are year group specific learning plans on the website, to help support your child's learning at home. In the event of a bubble closure, daily plans will be uploaded to the school website. Children have all been issued with login details and passwords for their email addresses allowing them access to the school Office 365 and Teams system, these can be used daily in the event of a bubble closure. Some parents have asked if spellings and school projects could also be sent using this system, we are reviewing that and seeing what we can put in place to help you all. We are all learning how to change over to this new way of working and teaching and learning so we really appreciate your patience. KS2 children have been learning how to use the email, however they may well need some extra practice so please feel free to help them at home to send a couple of test emails. KS1 and EYFS children, parents please feel free to send a test email on your child's behalf to check that they are working. Obviously, staff are in school teaching fulltime so they will not be able to answer all 30 emails in each class immediately, so please bear with them.

Parent / Teacher telephone meetings

Thank you to everyone who booked time slots for the parent/teacher conversations via the new internet-based booking system. The feedback from parents and staff has been great. All the staff appreciated your positive and encouraging comments about how well all of your children have settled back into school since September, despite the differences brought onto all of us by COVID-19.

Lesley Sabourne - Parent Support Advisor/Attendance Officer

Prior to COVID-19 her role was focused more on attendance issues, however she has so much experience and knowledge to bring to our families that she has kindly agreed to develop her role and offer a wider range of family support. She is available every other Thursday to speak to anyone who would like any support, she regularly rings parents to chat and catch up and as most of you will now that during COVID-19 lockdown she contacted a lot of our families. She is there to help in any capacity, so feel free to ring her at school on 01207 232624 on either the 19th November or 3rd December.



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

Nursery

Following the government guidance issued this week about Extremely Critically Vulnerable staff needing to shield at home from 5th November until the 2nd December, the nursery children are forming an Early Year's bubble with the reception children. There are 4 highly experienced staff who will be working within this extended bubble, several of whom already work with the nursery children on a daily basis anyway. Mrs Quiney, our reception teacher and Early Years Lead, will oversee the Nursery and Reception for the next four weeks and Mrs Hull, will be planning work and dialing in to speak to the nursery children via Teams on a daily basis. This has been fully risk assessed by school and approved by the county Health and Safety Team in full consultation with the county Early Years Advisor and our Senior Educational Advisor.

Children in Need

This is booked as a national event on Friday 13th November and whilst we cannot do a large number of the normal fundraising events, we would love to invite all the children into school wearing their own clothes. They can choose, but do not have to, wear any Children in Need merchandise they like for the day. Donations can be made via Parent Pay.

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation

Due to the national lockdown, which started on Thursday 5th November, we have sadly had to cancel all six of the Holy Communion masses for our children. Nevertheless, Father Dermott and Father Radni were still able to come and support the children through their mass of reconciliation, in school, on Tuesday 4th November. We ask that you keep all of our year 5 children in your thoughts and prayers.

Advance notice of Antbullying week

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week> The whole school will be taking part in events all week from the 16th November. To start the week off, all children are allowed to wear 'odd socks' this is part of the national launch event. Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

Mental Health and well-being

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> This is a brilliant resource for schools and families to support our children through the difficulties of dealing with their emotions and feelings. They have some great resources to support your child with COVID-19.

Breakfast Club

Can we please ask that all adults who bring children to breakfast club to please wear a face mask whilst dropping your child off at the main school door? Due to the national lockdown we would as you to help us with these added precautions.

School Meals

A reminder that from Monday 9th November Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will be offered a hot meal. Children in KS2 can still order a school packed lunch. Please note that **all meals need to be ordered in advance via Parent**



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

Pay. We would be obliged that if your child receives these meals free that they are booked from Monday 9th November until Friday 18th December as this helps us to plan and order the correct provisions. Please note that once meals have been ordered you can still change the option if your child decides that they would like a different meal. Again, this needs to be done via Parent Pay. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact the school office 01207 232624.

Opening Times at St Joseph's

Due to the new national lockdown, church can only be opened for private prayer. St Joseph's will be open from 11am - 12noon every Thursday. Further information is to be found on the Parish Newsletter, which has been uploaded to the school website and a link texted to parents.

Feeding Families

Thank you to Feeding Families for their kind donation of food parcels.

As always, I would like to thank parents for all their support and encouragement at this most difficult time of national lockdown. We keep the whole parish and school community in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. Thorpe
Headteacher

