

# 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)

13th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## COVID-19 The National Lockdown

We would hugely appreciate all of your help in maintaining the [rules](#) around the national lockdown. We have had parents inform school that some families are meeting up for play dates, tea at friends' houses and sleep overs. We really appreciate that the lockdown rules provide challenges for all of us and the lack of social contact is of particular difficulty for everyone, however there is also the real hope that soon the national lockdown will be lifted and we will all be able to see loved ones once again. I would ask you to please consider the families who have vulnerable people in their households and help them keep their loved ones safe by social distancing at all times both before and after School, whilst waiting to drop off and collect your children.

## Year 4, Y5 and Y6 collections

A huge thank you to Father Dermott who has very kindly agreed that school will be able to use some of the church grounds to dismiss some of our older children. This will hopefully improve the ability of parents to socially distance from, so starting from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> can you please continue to drop off as normal and then in the afternoon's the timings are the same, we have just been able to help you all create more physical space.

Year 6 Parents – Please enter through the church gates, turn right and wait on the path between the railings and church and wait for your child at 3:05pm

Year 5 Parents – Please enter through the church gates, walk straight ahead, past the path down to school and wait on the road between the hedge and church at 3:15pm (From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November)

Year 4 parents – Please wait on Thorneyholme Terrace pavement by the cemetery wall at 3:25pm.

After collecting your child, please either leave through the double gates onto Thorneyholme Terrace or walk through the church grounds and leave via the gates next to the Presbytery. Please **do not** park or drive through the church grounds. We all hope that this will help you and us keep everyone safe.

## Updated DfE Guidance

The [government](#) has issued updated guidance for parents about EYFS and schools on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It provides a great deal of useful information around COVID-19 for parents/carers.

## Covid-19 Update

Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible, by informing school [stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net](mailto:stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net) if your child or anyone in their household has symptoms or is awaiting a test result, we also appreciate the way parents have



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been so supportive by communicating the results of tests with school. Thank you so much for working with us to keep everyone as safe as we can.

## Y5 Bubble Closure

As you all will know, the Year 5 bubble closed last weekend and I want to extend our huge thanks to the way in which the pupils and their families have switched so quickly and sensibly over to the online remote learning. Pupils are emailing work in and talking to Miss Cossey daily, via their individual email, and this is a fantastic way to keep the teaching going. Pupils will complete their isolation period on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November and can return to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## Online safety

There are a large number of [links](#) which continue to be regularly updated, and additional ones have been added in since March 2020, which are useful to parents, pupils and their families. In this growing technological world, it is essential that we all work together to try and keep our children as safe as possible.

## RSE Consultation

A letter will be uploaded today onto the school website regarding the new RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) curriculum for your information.

## Children in Need

Thank you for your kind donations on Parent pay, so far we have raised £79.00 so far for Children in Need. Donations can still be made using Parent Pay throughout next week.

## Email

We have set up a new email system via Teachers2Parents whereby we can email individual parents/carers, whole class groups and/or the whole school. We will be testing the system on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, by sending this letter out and would be obliged if you could check your email account and advise the school office if you did not receive an email. If you think your email address has changed, since your child started school, we would be obliged if you could notify school of your new email address via [stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net](mailto:stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net).

## Nursery & KS1 Hot School Meals

Hot meals are proving very popular with our nursery children who stay all day as well as the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. If your child is not already having a hot meal and they would like to try them you can book them in via Parent Pay. A reminder that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive these meals **free**. There is a cost of £2.52 per meal per day for nursery children and £2.10 for all KS2 children. If your child is having a hot meal we would be obliged if you could book their selection from now until 18<sup>th</sup> December as soon as possible. This helps us to order



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the correct provisions and ensures the kitchen has the correct number of meals on a daily basis and the office is not having to ask your child what they would like and contact parents/carers to remind them to make their selections. We are continually reviewing the meal provision and hope to offer hot meals to our KS2 children in the near future. In the meantime, we can continue to offer children in KS2 a sandwich option which can be booked via Parent Pay.

## Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (Pupils)

Nursery & KS1 children will be having Christmas lunch in school on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The following day (Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December) Nursery & KS1 children will be having a packed lunch in the classroom in order for us to facilitate the KS2 Christmas lunch. I appreciate the support of the younger having a packed lunch for one day, enabling a full socially distanced KS2 Christmas Lunch day. Information regarding booking Christmas lunch will come out nearer the time. Children can wear a Christmas jumper (or a jumper in festive colours i.e. red, gold and green) instead of their school sweatshirt, along with the rest of their normal uniform on the day that they are having a Christmas Lunch. If they don't have a festive jumper, they can wear a festive hat/scarf with their normal uniform if they wish. **NO FANCY DRESS and NO PARTY CLOTHES.** Please note: **This is NOT a non-uniform day.** Donations for 'Save the Children' can be made via Parent Pay.

## Christmas Parties

As it is only 25 days until the end of term, yes really! So, we are planning how to enable our children to have some elements of the normal Christmas celebrations. As such, all classes will be having a Christmas party during the last week of term. In order to protect our bubbles these will take place over 4 days with one party in the morning and one in the afternoon. On your child's Christmas party day, they can come to school dressed in their party clothes and stay dressed in them all day.

Christmas Parties will take place on the following:

Class	Party Day
Nursery & Reception	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 1 & Year 2	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 3 & Year 4	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 5 & Year 6	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December

## Non-Uniform Day 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Thank you for your kind donations we raised £122.00 for School Fund via Parent pay. The School fund donation part of Parent pay remains open all year and we are hugely appreciative of all your kind donations.



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## Flu Immunisation

A reminder that Flu Immunisation will take place in school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November for those children whose parents have signed up to the Programme.

If your child is in Reception to Year 6 and you haven't signed up yet and would like them to have the nasal flu spray then please visit the link or scan the QR code below to consent for your child (one for each child) to receive their flu vaccine on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 in school. This consent must be completed asap (and at least 2 days before we are due in your school) to ensure we can vaccinate your child when we are in school. Please note the consent form has been improved and simplified.

You will be asked to enter a secure school code:

School Name:	Code:
St Joseph's	114245



[www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent](http://www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent)

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be a very serious illness and sometimes causes major health complications particularly in children and the elderly. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. Please ensure you read and understand all the information by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/> before you complete the consent form.

While preventing the spread of Covid-19 and caring for those infected is a public health priority, it remains very important to maintain good coverage of immunisations, particularly in the childhood programme. In addition to protecting the individual, this will avoid outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases that could harm individuals and increase further the numbers of patients requiring health services. **Note: The nasal flu vaccine contains trace amounts of products derived from pigs (porcine gelatine). More information is available from**



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[www.nhs.uk/child-flu-FAQ](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu-FAQ) The vaccination is free and recommended for children and is given via a quick and simple spray up the nose.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the NHS on: 03000 032554

## World Nursery Rhyme Week

Durham Music Service would like to remind you that it is World Nursery Rhyme Week next week - from November 16th-20th 2020! Launched in 2013, World Nursery Rhyme Week promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education each year. The initiative is open to parents and Early Years practitioners worldwide and all downloadable resources are provided free of charge. Since its launch, nearly 5 million children from over 100 countries have taken part. [Download](#) either the Early Years or Parent pack. All resources are free.

## Emotional well-being

The counsellors who work in school have offered to share some [resources](#) around COVID-19 to help support children who may have worries. We have uploaded the two documents to the school website for your information.

A reminder that all letters are uploaded to the school website on a weekly basis and a text message reminder is sent to parents/carers, if you do not receive these texts please contact the school office to ensure we have the correct mobile phone numbers on your child's record.

As always, I appreciate all of your patience and support as we move through this pandemic. We continually keep all of our pupils and their families in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. Thorpe  
Headteacher

