

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

20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Time is simply flying by, and now it is only four weeks until we break up for the Christmas holidays. Our children are working wonderfully hard and we are so proud of all of their efforts. Please look at the school Facebook page for some of their wonderful endeavors.

COVID-19 The November National Lockdown

We hugely appreciate all of your help in maintaining the [rules](#) around the national lockdown. We are being informed regularly that some families are meeting up for play dates, tea at friends' houses and sleep overs. As you are all aware this is not in line with current national guidance. We really appreciate that the lockdown rules provide challenges for all of us and the lack of social contact is a particular difficulty for everyone, however we all hope and pray that the national lockdown will be lifted at the end of November and we will all be able to see our loved ones once again. I would ask you to please consider the families who have vulnerable people in their households and help them all keep their loved ones safe.

Covid-19 Update

Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible, by informing school 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 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 during these challenging times.

Youth Friday

It is Youth Friday today and this weekend pupils can also celebrate Youth Sunday. There are lots of resources online for you to use together at home <https://nationalyouthsunday.com/what-is-national-youth-sunday/>

Christmas Cards

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions of COVID-19 and having to quarantine items which come into School, this year we have decided to ask the children not to bring in Christmas cards for their friends or teachers. Instead, each class is going to vote and choose a <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/World-Gifts/Christmas-World-Gifts> and we are asking families to donate some money using Parent pay, which they would normally have spent on Christmas cards. School will use these donations in each class to choose an item and purchase it for those who are less off around the world.



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Email to parents

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 again on Friday 20th 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, could you notify the office of your new email address via stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net.

A reminder about Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (Pupils)

- Wednesday 9th Dec Nursery & KS1 children will be having Christmas lunch
- Thursday 10th Dec Nursery & KS1 children will be having a packed lunch in the classroom in order for us to facilitate the KS2 Christmas lunch in the hall in a socially distanced way.
- Pupils 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. Donations for 'Save the Children' can be made via Parent Pay.

A reminder about Christmas Parties

We are planning 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 th December
Year 1 & Year 2	Tuesday 15 th December
Year 3 & Year 4	Wednesday 16 th December
Year 5 & Year 6	Thursday 17 th December

Christmas performances

Due to Covid-19, this year everything is a little bit different. Every year group is going to be learning and then being recorded celebrating a spiritual dance to music, from the More than Dance company, which will be shared on both our school website and school Facebook page. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 rules no parents are allowed in school to watch any of the performances, and children will remain in their single year group bubble to be recorded. Any parent who has requested that their child not be on Facebook, will be contacted over the next two weeks to ask if they would like their child to be included in this recording as a one off, in the full understanding that it will be shared



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on the website and social media. Those who do not allow Facebook/Website posts will all still take part in the learning and performing in School, they will simply be removed for the recording slot only.

Feeding Families

Thank you for all of your donations of food and toiletries – they are currently being quarantined in school. If anyone still has items which they would like to donate please send them into school in a bag with your child, there are quarantine boxes in every classroom.

A reminder about Flu Immunisation

A reminder that Flu Immunisation will take place in school on Thursday 26th November for those children whose parents have signed up to the programme. We hope that as many children as possible can take part in this vaccination 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 26th 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

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



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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 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

Texting to parents

As always, the weekly letter is 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

