

# 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)

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is amazing how fast the time is whizzing by, Christmas will be here before we know it! The children only have three weeks left in school and we want those last ones to be filled with Joy and Christmas spirit. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those families working so hard to keep themselves and everyone around them as safe as possible, we know how hard it is to maintain the social distancing and follow the rules of no house mixing, but it will really help us keep all of the bubbles open and secure if you are able to follow all of the rules.

## Tier Three – High Alert

Whilst we totally appreciate how hard it is, we please ask you to [read the rules](#) and know what the new and updated changes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December mean to you and your family, hopefully we will all see a move down to Tier Two soon.

## Covid-19 Film update from the Dept of Health

The Dept of Health have produced [a video](#) to update families about how COVID-19 can be spread and what precautions you can take to lower your risk or mitigate against the dangers of spreading. It is an excellent resource and we encourage you all to watch it. Please click on the imbedded link, to access it.

## 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 develops 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.

## Remember – Hands, Face, Space

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings)

## Youth Friday

We have uploaded the [ppt](#) which children all used as their inspiration to celebrate the theme of 'Togetherness', you will have all seen the wonderful Facebook posts last week. Year 6 even had theirs reposted by the Youth Village team! We are so proud of the way our pupils engaged in the subject matter, it shows that despite everything which is going on they still understand the importance of being together, if not physically then in spirit.



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## Welcome back Year 5

The children have skipped in with gorgeous smiling faces, we are delighted to have them back in school. Thank you for all of your patience and support, all your positive feedback has been gratefully received. The hard work which you all completed at home was brilliant and you and your parents should all be very proud of what you accomplished, despite the lockdown.

## Advent at St Joseph's

The children are going to start their Advent Liturgies, using Teams, filming themselves for the rest of the school next week – we are really excited and know that our children are going to be amazing at sharing their thoughts and prayers with each other. We have also uploaded the [Mission Together Advent Calendar](#), to the school website, for you all to download and use over the coming weeks of Advent.

## Christmas Tree's

Christmas has started to arrive at St Joseph's just in time for Advent, there are two 15+ foot tall tree's up in school twinkling with beautiful lights to start the magic of Christmas off. This weekend, the elves may well come into the children's classrooms and decorate them – watch out for lights and decorations on Monday morning!

## 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 [Christmas gift](#) 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.

## Love in a Box – Christmas Appeal

Father Dermott and the Parishes of St Joseph's, St Patrick's, St Mary's and Sacred Heart are joining together with the 'Love Christmas' initiative, which pledges to give a million Christmas boxes across the UK. They are aiming, as a group of parishes, to donate some Christmas boxes to each of the four primary schools. They are asking parishioners to donate £10 to sponsor a Christmas box for a child, and hope to raise £600. If any families would like to support this appeal then you are able to forward your donations directly to church - Any donations can be posted through St Joseph's letterbox (it is on the front of the presbytery).

## Filming for Christmas

Every year group is learning a beautiful spiritual dance to perform and be recorded, celebrating Christmas in a unique and special way. The films will be uploaded to both the school website and the school Facebook page. Whilst there are a number of children who are not allowed to have their pictures on the internet due to parental choice, we are on this unique occasion, going to contact all the families who would not normally be filmed and give them the opportunity to be filmed, just this once. There is no problem either way, as all the children will learn the dance and take part in class, the only difference will be that they are not filmed for the performance. Next week, Mrs Kerry will ring those families and ask what they would like to do as sadly we cannot have any families in school this Christmas. All pupils, whose parents have given consent already for Facebook and the website, will of course be filmed.



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## Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch/Jumper day

The last two weeks letter, on the school website have all the details of both the class bubble Christmas parties and the class bubble Christmas lunches/jumper day.

## Flowerbeds outside of school

The flower beds outside of school have been fully refurbished with lots of new planting, at huge expense. Please could you help us keep our local environment looking so wonderful by keeping the children from climbing on the railings and treading over the plants.

## Year 6 Digital Literacy Programme

The work that our pupils are completing continues to be recognised on a national platform by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, based in London. A huge well-done to all the year 6 pupils who have submitted work and continue to submit work, both in photographic form and in writing. This is a fantastic recognition for our pupils.

## 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.

## Feeding Families

We continue to have boxes delivered to school so please do not hesitate to contact school if you need any help accessing food. We normally have boxes which we can send home straight away, with the kind support of the Feeding Families charity.

## Mental health and Well-being

Our pupils take part in weekly 'Jigsaw' lessons to help them develop their emotional resilience and well-being. It is a fantastic lesson, which covers all sorts of topics to support our children. But please remember it is never a bad thing to ask for help at any time. If you are struggling and need help please feel free to contact school and we can access a wide variety of resources for you. There is also a new [ppt](#) from the school nursing team, which has been uploaded onto the school website, under other resources.

As always, I appreciate all of your patience and support as we move through this pandemic, the kind and warm telephone calls and emails we have been receiving recently, are heart-warming for all staff who are working so hard for your children. 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

