



# St Joseph's

## Catholic Primary School

Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly: trusting in God.

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER: MRS. J BURGESS

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. C. HORSLEY

Front Street, Stanley, Co. Durham. DH9 0NP  
Email: [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com)

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

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Families



I hope you have all had a lovely holiday and that you are all feeling refreshed and ready to go. It is wonderful to see all our pupils and staff back, enjoying a sunny start to the new school year!

Pupils, you look extremely smart in school uniform. Let's keep that up.

We are sure the start to the new term has been particularly exciting, or maybe a little nerve-racking, for our newest pupils (and their parents) starting Nursery and Reception. We have been delighted with the way our youngest pupils have settled so far and we are confident all new children and their families will quickly get to grips with school routines. Moving classrooms, for others across the school, can also create a few worries. I am sure, given a little time, everyone will feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

### **Mrs Readshaw**

Speaking of new starters, we are delighted to welcome Mrs J Readshaw to our team. Great to have you onboard! To give advance notice, Mrs Readshaw has a pre-planned commitment next week, so Miss Walton will be taking Year 4 until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Mrs Ashby will be extending her week in Year 3 with the help of our support staff.

### **School Diary of Events/After-School Clubs**

Currently, we are putting together the school diary of events for the year. We appreciate the further you know the 'big' events in advance the better. We are also looking at after school clubs for the autumn term. Again, further information will be sent out as soon as they are finalised in the next few weeks.

## **General information/Reminders**

### **PE**

Please find below a list of the days that the children will be participating in PE sessions. On PE days, children should come to school in their PE uniform. This also applies when swimming. PE uniform consists of: T shirt in their team colour, black shorts, black jogging bottoms (no logos), trainers and school jumper/cardigan.

<b>Class</b>	<b>PE Day</b>
Y1	Tuesday & Friday
Y2	Tuesday & Friday
Y3	Tuesday & Thursday
Y4	Monday & Thursday (swimming)
Y5	Monday & Thursday
Y6	Monday & Friday

Children in EYFS (Nursery and Reception) will not be doing PE in the hall quite yet and should wear their normal uniform every day. To begin with, our EYFS team focus on settling children into classroom routines. Children have access to our garden and many physical activities on a daily basis. We will keep you updated when we do start our PE lessons in EYFS.

**School Start Time** – school starts for all pupils in Reception to Year 6 at 8:45 am. The children should be in the yard ready to come into school when the doors are opened at 8:45 am as there is no longer a soft start opening. Children in Reception come in through the Reception door in the yard to the left of the main school office, Y1 – Y4 come in through the main school entrance and Y5/Y6 children come in through their classroom door.

Nursery times differ and our Nursery pupils enter via the large wooden gates at the bottom of Thorneyholme Terrace (opposite the Job Centre).

**Earrings** - For health and safety reasons, earrings are not permitted in school. I realise some children will have had ears pierced over the summer holiday but it is now 7 weeks since term ended last academic year and that should have provided sufficient time for earrings to now be removed.

**School bags** – Space is limited in classrooms so please do not send pupils with oversized bags. Packed lunch boxes will fit in a small rucksack, which is more practical.

**Water bottles** – We ask that each child brings a clearly labelled water bottle each day. Please do not put juice in your child's water bottle. If pupils have packed lunch, it would be much easier for them if they have a water bottle in packed lunch boxes and a separate water bottle (labelled) for the classroom.

**Hair dye** – Please do not send children to school with dyed hair/excessively shaved or any form of 'patterned' hairstyle. This has always been a school expectation.

### **Tuck shop**

Tuck shop will resume on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Children can bring 50p to school and purchase 1 item from the tuck shop.

### **Safeguarding/Online Safety**

We will give safeguarding and online safety updates regularly throughout the year. Please alert us to any concerns you may have. It is better for us to know if something has happened which has worried you, in order to quickly address issues with pupils and offer support in an appropriate manner.

This academic year, we hope to explore a different general safety theme each month so that our pupils understand how to keep themselves safe and how to make sensible choices. We will start with online safety this month.

### **Year 5 Youth Village Trip**

Our Year 5 children are having a great start to their year. No sooner have they returned to school, they are preparing for a residential visit to the Youth Village next week. Brilliant! A big thank you, in advance to Miss Ryan, Miss Glendenning and Miss Sinden for giving your time so freely so that children can have such a great experience. I will also be joining the group during their stay.

### **School Improvement Priorities**

This year brings us many opportunities for all members of our school to grow and learn together. We are challenged to have the highest expectations in all we do. Every school produces its own version of a school improvement plan which list priorities for development. We have wasted no time at all and we have already met as a staff to agree what we will pay particular attention to this year. We will be adding this information to the school website very shortly and will let you know when the information is ready to view.

### **Behaviour Curriculum**

At St. Joseph's, we pride ourselves on the excellent behaviour of our pupils and have high expectations of the way in which children conduct themselves. This is so every pupil has the most positive experiences possible, both inside and outside the classroom. With this in mind, we are making some minor changes to the way in which we promote good behaviour and this year, we are introducing a behaviour curriculum.

Our school mission statement remains: Work hard, love tenderly; trusting in God

This will be enhanced with the principles of:

Be respectful;

Be responsible;

Be ready to learn.

These '3 Rs' encompass all elements of school life and offer a simple, easy reference for the teaching of good behaviour.

The behaviour curriculum will be taught alongside other subjects at the start of the school year, in order to familiarise children with behaviour expectations. It will then be frequently revised and revisited.

The teaching of behaviour principles forms a key part of school life. Our role is to educate and prepare children for the next stage in their lives – be that the next stage of their education, or for their roles as members of society. Learning to get along with others and to follow rules and expectations are as much a part of this process as learning to read and to use number. As with all curriculum subjects, we understand that some children will make mistakes. This is to be expected and forms a vital part of the way that children learn. In maths, for example, if a child makes a mistake with calculating, the mistake will be pointed out and the child will be shown how to correct it, practising this if necessary, perhaps with some support from home.

On occasions, you may be contacted about your child's behaviour. In the coming months, once the new system is embedded, we will begin to send notifications to parents to inform them of any low-level behaviour incidents. If this is the case, we ask that you first discuss this behaviour with your child and support them with behaviour choices, referring to our three key behaviour principles. As with all areas of learning in school, parental support is paramount and key to achieving the best outcomes for children.

### **Update from Mrs Cowan**

As you are aware, we are changing our parent portal and communication app from ParentPay/Teachers 2 Parents to ARBOR. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding while we have been making a few tweaks at the start of the year to ensure that everything is set up and running smoothly. We currently have 86% of parents who have signed up to the app. We will be using ARBOR to communicate with parents and we encourage everyone to sign up so no messages are missed. If you are having problems or have not received an email, please contact the school office.

### **School Meals/Packed Lunches**

Your child has been recorded on ARBOR as either having a school meal or packed lunch so there is no longer a requirement for you to book school meals. If your child wishes to change from school meals to packed lunches or vice versa, please email the school office [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com) giving 2 weeks' notice. We understand that there are some children who like to bring a packed lunch on a Monday – Thursday and have a school meal on "Fishy Friday". If your child would like to do this can you please email [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com) and we will ensure that this is recorded. Unfortunately, we do not have the option for children to be packed lunch some days and school meals on other days.

### **Breakfast Club/ Wrap Around Care**

If your child would like to attend breakfast club and/or after school wrap around care, this must be booked via ARBOR. If you make payment by childcare vouchers, please book your child onto the club on ARBOR as there is an option for you to pay with your vouchers.

### **Fr Damian**

We have said a fond farewell to Fr Damian this weekend, as he has been asked by our diocese to lead a new ministry in West Denton. We thank him for his time and energy that he gave to our school. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well as he begins his new chapter.

Fr. Shaun Purdy will be joining us from Ashington. We have heard wonderful things about him, and we look forward to giving him a warm welcome.

As you will expect with these changes, we are yet to confirm some of our mass dates as well as our First Holy Communion programme. As soon as Fr Shaun is settled, we will let you know of further dates in our Catholic calendar. We'll just give him time to unpack first!

### **Great North Run**

Good luck to everyone taking part or supporting in events this weekend. Enjoy it! You're doing an amazing thing! You can wear your medal with pride on Monday – we would love to see it.

### **And finally....Good luck to Year 7**

Last, but certainly not least, we wish all the Year 7 pupils well as they embark on their next adventure.

I know I speak on behalf of all members of staff when I say we are all very excited to get stuck in and help our pupils learn and progress. If you have any queries/concerns regarding any information in this letter please phone the school office or email: [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com)

Also, if you have any great ideas for us to explore, within our school community, please let us know.

Please remember, it is always better to deal directly with school to have queries/concerns answered, rather than rely on information which may filter through WhatsApp groups etc. The school office can always provide the most accurate information. Speaking to a member of the school office team should always be the first point of contact.

Thank you, for taking the time to read what has turned out to be a rather lengthy first letter. Apologies – although we do feel it is important to keep parents/carers well informed. When home and school work together, pupils will have the best chance of success.

We will resume our weekly newsletter from next week and this will be available on the school website every Friday evening: <https://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mrs Burgess  
Executive Headteacher