

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

18th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Further to the letter on Monday 16th March 2020, please find a further update with regard to the Coronavirus situation:

Both the Headteacher and Governors take the health & safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We are continually updating our procedures and now have the following measures in place:

- Every child washes their hands with soap and water at regular intervals during the day for at least 20 seconds:
 - First thing in the morning
 - Breaktime
 - Before lunch
 - After lunch
 - Afternoon breaktime
 - Before they leave to go home
- Every child in school has been given a bottle of water with their name on to minimize the spread of germs. No water bottles from home should be brought into school
- Window's will be open in each classroom to support ventilation
- Visitors to school are being kept to a minimum and those that do need to come to school are requested to wash their hands on entry to and exit from the building
- After school clubs and Y6 booster sessions have been temporarily cancelled
- Whole school events such as assemblies, liturgies, mass and mother's day lunch have been cancelled



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- Children who have either a temperature and or a new persistent cough are being asked to self-isolate following new government guidelines and the self-isolation advice has been changed from 7 to 14 days.
- Family's have been advised that if one person in the household have the above symptoms then the whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days.

Future provisional plans

In the event of an unprecedented school closure, **which as yet has not happened**; it would be our hope and expectation that we would be able to support you and your child's learning through the school website classes page. <http://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/> Currently, teachers and technicians are working behind the scenes to set up this communication tool which teachers, so long as they are also not ill, would be able to use to post updates on. These would offer support and guidance, such as alerting parents to new educational packages as they become available free of charge. It would be expected that staff would be able to update the website by 10am on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, so long as they are also well enough to do so. As this is unprecedented and has not yet been trialed there maybe the odd glitch and we ask that you bear with us as we try our very best to make this work for everyone. Staff are also busy preparing home education packs for every child. Pupils are being provided with logins to learning support packages paid for by school and parents will be sign posted to new websites which children can access free of charge. In the event of your child already being off school we will post these packs out to you. Please could you inform us if you do not have access to the internet, if that is the case we will try to organise an alternative way of alerting you?

As you can imagine this is an evolving and quickly changing time and it is providing challenges for all of our community in lots of different ways. As a school we will do all that we can to support you.

Contact telephone numbers:

The following telephone numbers are also important:

- First Contact Safeguarding concerns to report children in danger or causing real concern: 03000 267 979
- If you feel in need of extra support and would benefit from some Early help or family support please contact One Point on: 03000 261 111



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There are a wide number of charities both local and national which are also able to provide help and support:

- PACT House, Stanley 39 Front Street DH90ST Stanley, Durham, United Kingdom Tel: 07598 034763
- Stanley Food Bank – The Venue Stanley Day Centre, Wear Rd, Stanley DH9 6LU Tel: 01207 233512

I have been informed by Richard Crane, Head of Education and Skills, Durham Local Authority that there is a fake email going around, containing information around the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. I would just like to confirm that this is a scam email and is **not** from the local authority. I urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond and delete it immediately.

Please let the office or myself know if you are a family in need and we will do our best to support you to access the most appropriate support network.

We have also received an update from Vincent Cardinal Nichols as the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales about Mass and how we can celebrate our faith moving forward in these difficult times. Please refer to the school website Letters to Parents Section. <http://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/parents/letters-to-parents/>

Can you **please all ensure that we have an up to date mobile phone number** to contact you on – if you received a text about cancelling mother's day lunch then we do have an up to date phone number, if you didn't please contact school urgently so we can update our records.

The Staff, Governors and I appreciate all of your continued support through what is a difficult and challenging time. We are keeping our whole community in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe

Headteacher

