

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

Tel: 01207 232624

E.mail: stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk

29th June 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

It is wonderful to have so many more children back in school and we look forward to welcoming as many pupils as soon as it is possible to do so. Below are some reminders and further information I think you may find useful.

Pupils who are shielding either themselves or a family member

As we move forward we have been asked to identify all children who are either shielding to protect themselves or to protect a family member. We are aware of a number of children and families who fall into this category, however if you feel your child needs to shield themselves or someone in their household it would be extremely helpful for us to know this. Please could you either ring school **01207 232624** or email stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net to let us know. We of course will not be prying into your personal health information but it will help us target specific learning support to those children who are unable to return to school for completely understandable reasons. We want to support and work with you as closely as possible. I look forward to hearing from you and please be assured that all information will be kept in the strictest confidence, if you want to call and speak to me personally please feel free.

COVID-19 symptoms

Please remember you must **NOT** come to school if you or anyone in your family are experiencing any symptoms eg. Cough, Temperature or loss of sense of smell/taste. You need to book a test via the NHS 111 service and inform school that you are waiting to be tested. If you have received a positive test result please inform school immediately.

Entrances and timings

Parents and carers continue to support school by ensuring that they arrive at the allocated gate at the staggered timings and we really appreciate your continued support with this. Please also remember to continue to socially distance yourselves when you drop off and pick up. There are markings on the pavement to help with this.

Travel to and from school

A reminder that currently the guidance is where possible to walk or cycle to school and avoid using public transport if you can. If you need to use public transport then please remember to wear a face covering/mask.

Uniform

For the new academic year, the current COVID-19 guidance still states that children should come in freshly washed clothes every day, so we recommend that pupils have two sets of uniform. We will continue to relax the uniform policy and allow dark leggings, tracksuit bottoms and plain white tops to help you facilitate this. However, there



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will continue to be no football tops, jeans or sparkly brightly coloured fashion clothes allowed. If you want any new uniform to arrive before the start of the academic year then the uniform supplier has informed school that it needs to be ordered by the 1st August 2020 <https://studentuniform.co.uk/stjos120/>

Assemblies, Collective worship and Mass

The government guidelines currently prohibit any group gathering, however as a Catholic School the coming together to pray is an essential part of our school identity. We are uploading a number of free resources to the school website under the Catholic Life (Ten Ten) Section <http://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/catholic-life/tenten-resources/> and we hope that you can all go and access these to help you pray as a family together. There are also the updated Newsletters from Church on the school website. St Patrick's in Consett is going to be re-opening for private prayer soon.

Policies

Some of the school policies have been updated to ensure that they are up to date and in line with the new COVID-19 government guidelines. All updated policies are on the school website, the behaviour and safeguarding policy have both been recently updated.

Hand washing

All pupils **MUST** wash their hands whenever they are directed to by an adult in school, as this is part of the safeguarding risk assessment to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All classrooms have extra soap dispensers and there is a wide supply of antibacterial gel around school to be used as directed by staff. Please remember to ensure that your child washes their hands as soon as they return to their home after the school day.

Packed lunches and water bottles

Please remember to send all packed lunches into school in disposable paper bags so that they can be thrown away after the food has been eaten. Water bottles should be disposable bottles, which will be wiped with an antibacterial wipe on arrival in school and thrown away at the end of the school day. All pupils should also wash their hands as soon as they return to their home environment after school.

Sun lotion and hats

Please ensure that as the weather improves your child has sun lotion on and a hat where possible. Staff cannot put extra sun lotion on during the day so if your child needs it topping up they will need to put it on themselves, we recommend the application of the all-day sun lotion before they come into school.

Pupil Premium

As a school we have the discretion to review how this is spent in school and from September 2020 all children who attend breakfast club will now be charged £2.50 per day regardless of their Pupil Premium status. This is to enable



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school to target the money on educational provision in school instead. Pupil Premium money will continue to be spent in the best way possible ensuring that it brings the most benefit to the widest number of pupils possible.

School Meals

The price of school meals has changed and will be £2.10 per day from September 2020. Please remember that all menu choices should be submitted via ParentPay at least one week in advance; even if you qualify for Free School Meals you still need to enter your meal choices via Parent Pay.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have recently changed please feel free to ask for a FSM check to be carried out by the office via the County website. Can you email the following information: National Insurance Number, Your Date of Birth and your child's name to stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net ? This information will be forwarded to Durham County and they will inform school if you qualify or not. Even if your child accesses Universal Free School meals, because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, it is still helpful for school to know that they qualify as we can access extra school funding which can be used to support pupils in school.

Pupil Reports

All parents/carers will receive a written school report about their child via the post, in July. It will contain information up to the middle of March, when school was temporarily halted due to COVID-19. We hope you will find them reassuring and staff will be passing on all the information about your child onto their new class teacher before the summer.

Medical Information

This information needs to be updated annually, so if your child has a medical condition which we know about, an information form will be included with the school report, please ensure these forms are returned to school as soon as possible. If your child has a new condition, which we are unaware of, please ring the school office for a new form to be sent out to you.

Year 6 leavers

Obviously, due to COVID-19, Year 6 pupils will not be leaving primary school in the way that they expected, there will be no leavers Mass, Assembly Awards event or play. However, we have managed to organise leavers hoodies as a small token of our best wishes. Our plan is that at some point in the new Autumn 2020 term, we will be in a position to invite all the Year 6 pupils and their families back to an 'Awards Night', this will only be possible once the Government COVID-19 guidance allows. We will write to you all once we know more about what we are able to provide, however we hope that you will all take a small piece of St Joseph's away with you in your hearts, as you move onto your new secondary schools.



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Opening the new St Joseph's Nursery

We look forward to welcoming our new nursery children into school on 14th September 2020. This is an exciting time as our school continues to grow and support our Catholic community. If you know of anyone who would like to send their child to our new nursery please feel free to pass on our contact details 01207 232624 or stanleystjoseph@durhamlearning.net and encourage them to speak to us. We already have a number of new families signed up and we look forward to a long and happy time educating their children. Please note that all nursery children will need to apply for a place in Reception through the normal Local Authority application process and governors will use the existing admissions criteria to allocate Reception places.

Plans for September opening

School will close to all pupils on Friday 17th July ready for the summer break and will reopen to pupils on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. As Government guidance changes on a weekly and sometimes daily basis, I expect to be able to write to parents at the end of August to clarify how school will open in the new academic year. You will all receive a text alert to let you know that a letter has been uploaded onto the school website and I ask that you to read it carefully. It is expected that by waiting until then we will be in a position to issue the most up to date and accurate plan for welcoming as many of our children as possible back into school.

We continue to keep all of our families in our thoughts and prayers, especially all of those who are facing hardship and grief at this difficult time. Please always feel free to contact school if you need any help and we will always try and find the best and most appropriate support for each individual.

God bless all of our school and parish families.

Yours sincerely,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher

