

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: stanlevstjoseph@durhamlearning.net

Tel: 01207 232624
Website: www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk

15th July 2020

Dear parents/carers of Year 6 pupils,

As this year is ending, it has provided us with a very different ending to what you and your child would have expected. I have received a number of requests from parents saying that they would like their children to get together to say goodbye, as headteacher I am always mindful of the safety of our children, staff and parents during this COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot facilitate or condone end of year parties as this goes against current government guidance.

We have ordered 'Y6 Leavers Hoodies' and were assured that they would be in school by 6th July, unfortunately Emblematic still have not delivered them, as soon as we get a delivery date we will let you know – hopefully it will be before the end of term, if not we will drive around and deliver them once they arrive during the holidays.

Normally at this time of year, the Year 6 children would have been looking forward to celebrating the end of their time with us with a school play, a leavers mass and an awards ceremony, unfortunately due to COVID-19, none of these can take place. As in the previous letter, I am planning on inviting all the Year 6 pupils back to an evening at some point in the Autumn term, if and only when, the COVID-19 rules allow for a belated awards ceremony, we will contact parents when we are able to do so.

Pupils would normally have the fun of going around and getting their t-shirts signed by everyone, but again the rules do not allow for any crossing of the bubbles so pupils will not be able to do that. Miss Ryan has prepared a couple of small surprises for all pupils to access virtually, nearer the end of the week!

I have been told that children are planning on coming to wait outside school on Friday to say goodbye to their friends and rather than simply having groups of children gathering at the top of the church gate in a random way, I am proposing the following. This is to both stop groups gathering and to try and support pupils coming together to say goodbye in a socially distanced and COVID-19 safe way.

- Y6 Pupils, who are already attending school during the week can attend on Friday morning even if they do not normally, so that they can stay in their allocated bubble, timings remain as they have been for every Friday so far.
- The remaining Y6 pupils, who have not attended school, are invited to form a socially distanced single bubble at **11:00am** standing at the top of the church gate on the socially distanced markings.



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

They will be collected by a staff member and given hand gel at the top of the church path to use prior to walking down into the KS2 yard. This group WILL NOT be allowed to come into school for any reason including using the toilets, or in the event of rain, as I need to maintain the COVID-19 security of all the remaining bubbles currently in school.

- Year 6 pupils will be able to wave across the school yard in their three socially distanced bubbles, but they MUST NOT cross over said bubbles.
- Social distancing and COVID-19 rules will be maintained at all times as per the whole school risk assessment and the staff who are already allocated to Year 6 will be outside, but other staff WILL NOT be able to come out and wish the pupils goodbye.
- NO parent/carer will be allowed onto the school yard or to stand on the church paths to say goodbye as social distancing with that many people cannot be maintained.
- NO pupils from any other bubble will be in the KS2 large yard during that 30 minute time frame.
- All three groups of Y6 pupils will be walked back out to their collection point outside church at the normal times and I ask that parents continue to maintain the social distancing on collection which they have been doing to date:
 - **Extra Y6 bubble 11:30am (Only on the school yard for 30 minutes 11:00am – 11:30am and they are not allowed in the school building for any reason)**
 - **Miss Ryans' bubble 11:45am**
 - **Mr Haveron's bubble 12:00pm**

This is all within the constraints of the COVID-19 government guidance and our school risk assessment. Please help us to ensure that everyone stays safe by keeping socially distanced and not grouping around at the church gate after school. I appreciate how disappointed you all are to finish is this way, however I know that St Bede's has arranged a great deal of support over transition moving forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the children well in all that they do at senior school and God's blessings on you and your families.

Yours sincerely,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher

