



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



27th JANUARY 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

Another busy week! It is great to see all children taking such an interest in their new topics. Where there have been staffing changes, teachers and pupils are already getting to know each other well and, I am glad to say, a smooth transition has been evident. I learned quickly, when joining St Joseph's, that staff and children are very adaptable.

Communication

We ask all parents/carers to communicate via the school office. Mrs Cowan and Miss Greenwell will always be happy to assist and, if necessary, will arrange a call back from a member of staff. Please remember that staff are teaching, or may be in meetings, therefore a call back will be arranged as soon as the member of staff is available. When you request to speak to a particular member of staff, Mrs Cowan/Miss Greenwell will ask for a brief explanation of your call. Please be assured, this will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Brief information, however, can assist us in making sure that the correct person deals with your query. It may be that the office staff can deal with your query immediately, which can save both you and staff time.

Nursery and Reception parents can still continue to use Class DoJo, but that should not be used to report absences/appointment times etc.

We use our weekly newsletter to share essential updates and provide reminders of general school rules and expectations. Moving forward, we would like to hear your views on what additional information/features you would like us to include.

Whilst it is important to share these reminders, we want to ensure reading our weekly newsletter is both positive as well as informative, celebrating all the wonderful and varied aspects of school life. Next week, we will send you a link to complete a short questionnaire to find out what you would like to see included.

St Joseph's Church

Fr Damian is very keen to see as many of our families as possible at church on Sunday. There is an expectation that all children who are making their First Holy Communion, this year, attend church this Sunday, and the last Sunday of each month. Mass at St Joseph's Church is at 11:00am. This is, of course, an open invitation to all of the children in school and not just those children making their First Holy Communion.

Dates for your diary

A full list of dates for your diary will be published shortly for this term.

Swimming Gala

Some children from KS2 will represent St Joseph's at the Swimming Gala, at the Louisa Centre, on Monday 6th February.

Y3 Oriental Museum

Y3 will be going on a trip to the Oriental Museum on Wednesday 15th February.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on Monday 6th March between 1.30 pm & 5.30pm. A link to the booking system will be sent to parents/carers in due course.

Absence Reporting

Pupil absences should be reported to school **by 8.50 am** and a reason for absence given. Please advise us of the reason/symptoms rather than saying "feeling unwell", as we need to monitor any trends. If your child is absent from school, and we have not received a message, Mrs Cowan & Miss Greenwell will telephone parents/carers. If we cannot contact a parent or carer, we will work our way through the contact list linked with your child. It is very important to keep us updated at all times as a child missing from education is a safeguarding issue.

Attendance and punctuality

Arriving on time is really important for pupils and we regularly monitor these areas to ensure that any concerns are addressed as soon as possible. The doors open at 8.45 am and all children should be in school by 8.50 am. Registration is 8.55 am. Being late for school can be upsetting for children. If pupils miss the input at the start of the lesson, or miss the instructions for the activity, they can panic or feel 'lost'. It also disrupts the lesson for others in the class. If your child arrives after registration and they arrive at school between 8.55 am and 9.10 am, they are marked as late. If they arrive after 9.10 am, it is marked as a U which is an unauthorised absence. If you require any support regarding your child's attendance, or punctuality, please get in touch and we will work through any concerns together.

Uniform

Wearing the correct school uniform is very important for all children in school. It gives them a sense of belonging and of being part of the same school family. A copy of our policy can be found at <https://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-school-uniform/>

A reminder that:

- No jewellery (except watches) allowed. Please note this includes earrings, regardless of when a child's ears were pierced.
- No oversized or brightly coloured hair accessories are allowed. Please stick to blue, white, grey or black plain hair ties/bobbles or slides.
- Long hair must be tied back at all times.
- No oversized bags are allowed. Most year groups have a cloakroom area within the classroom and therefore we recommend school book bags and PE bags as space is limited. Book and PE bags are available to order with uniform (again this is optional).
- Children must not come to school with dyed hair, shaved in lines or any extreme styles.

We have very few rules in school, but those we do have are often related to safety and/or safeguarding. When discussing the above items with your children, as we do in school, please emphasise the reasons behind having rules and procedures and why it is important to accept and value them. We rely on your support and you know, as we do, the pressures of media and peers placed upon your children in our society today. Maintaining these expectations is a shared responsibility across our school community.

As mentioned earlier, please contact us if you have any queries.

Thank you for your continued support!

Star of the Week



The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this week:

Nursery	Cobey	For lots of lovely listening during group time and for using some of our topic words
Reception	Noah	For being super sensible during carpet time and busy time
Year 1	Harvey	For trying so hard in maths. Keep up the hard work
Year 2	Lucas	For working so hard and trying his best in everything he does
Year 3	Ellie	For being hardworking and enthusiastic in all that she does
Year 4	Esmee	For making us all proud when showing real resilience when practising at the swimming baths
Year 5	Lily Beau	For working so hard in maths this week
Year 6	Harrison	For some excellent work in science this week classifying mammals



House Points

We have re-introduced the House Points system in school. Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. The house points for this week are:

St Aidan – 351

St Oswald – 291

St Cuthbert – 293

St Bede – 265

Well done to everyone

As you know, attendance is hugely important and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

This week's attendance is: 93.9%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.2%	96.4%	94.8%	99.6%	92.3%	95%	94.2%	88.7%

It's Big Garden Bird Watch Weekend

Counting the birds where you live is fun and fascinating because nature might deliver the unexpected. Apart from cheeky blue tits and busy blackbirds, you never know what might land in your patch in one weekend in January.

The Big Garden Birdwatch long weekend is here! There is still time to sign-up and take part. Just spend one hour between Friday 27th and Sunday 29th January counting the birds, and help monitor how birds are faring. It's free, fun and a great way to keep an eye on your local wildlife. Wherever you are, whatever you see, it counts!

Flu Vaccination Clinics

Please find a list of flu vaccination clinics. This will be the last opportunity this year for your child to receive the flu vaccination.

Please note all clinics are drop ins & open for appointments, apart from the clinics that state **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. If your child is having an injection, can you please call the number below to book an appointment.

*These clinics are for Primary School children (**reception to year 6.**) Children who attend a SEND school from reception to the day before their 18th birthday & for Secondary School children (**Year 7, 8 & 9 only**)

Saturday 28/01/23	10am to 2pm	The Louisa Centre	Front Street, Stanley, Co Durham DH9 0TE
Thursday 02/02/23	3.30pm to 5.30pm	The Beehive	Lingfield Point, McMullen Road, Darlington DL1 1YN
Saturday 04/02/23	10am to 3pm	Thornaby Family Hub	Tedder Avenue, Thornaby, Stockton-on- Tees TS17 9JP