

Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School



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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Re: New Child joining Nursery**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023, we are looking forward to welcoming a new child to our Opal Learning Zone (Nursery). He is called Joel and he has Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. This is a type of cancer. Treatment for his cancer has affected both his immune system and also the strength in his lower legs. Joel tends to move around by walking on his knees and he also has a tube in place to his nose to allow for the administration of medication.

Joel has attended nursery today (Friday) for a taster session. He is a delightful little boy, full of fun and curiosity. He is incredibly resilient and there was literally nothing he could not do within the unit. He loved his visit and literally didn't want to go home which was lovely to see.

We have a plan in place to slowly increase his attendance at nursery and he will be starting by attending for half a day a week, then building up time depending upon: how well he is; how well he copes and the effect of his treatment on him physically.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, I will be doing some preparation work with the children in school so that they know more about Joel and his illness. This will take the form of a whole school story followed by a Q&A session during assembly.

The staff team have received advice, support and guidance from Joel's Nurse Specialist and we are confident that we can meet Joel's needs.

Due to the impact on his immune system, I am writing to ask for your support in helping us to keep Joel safe. Measles, Shingles and Chicken Pox can be life threatening to a vulnerable child like Joel and therefore I am asking that if you even suspect that your child has any of those illnesses or has even been in contact with anyone who has them, that you inform the school immediately. We can then inform Joel's mum and with advice, decisions can be taken to ensure he is safe. Chicken Pox is a particular risk as Joel would need to be given an injection within 3 days of any contact and therefore please inform us immediately if you suspect that your child has Chicken Pox.

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If your child has a cough or cold please be mindful that catching these can be so much more serious for Joel than for other less vulnerable children. If Joel catches a cough or cold, this could result in him being hospitalised and therefore please keep your child off school if they are unwell.

Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation but the safety and well-being of Joel is dependent upon the cooperation of all of our parents and carers.

We are delighted that Joel will be joining our Stanhope Barrington family, we will work flexibly with Joel's mum to ensure his needs are met and I am confident that everyone will welcome Joel and his family into our school community.

Thank you so much for your support, help and understanding. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that this letter has been written with the permission of and in conjunction with Joel's mum.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs D Cross*

Mrs D Cross  
Head Teacher

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