



Wednesday 7th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! We have had a fantastic first week and it is lovely to see the children happy to be back at school. I look forward to working with you and your families over the next academic year and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kindest wishes,

Mrs Dunne

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome our new Reception Class children and their parents to our St. Gregory's family. We also give a very warm welcome to Anastasiia and her family who join us in Year 5. I know they will receive a very warm welcome from you all.

Goodbye and Thank You

We say a very fond farewell to Mr Blackwood, our caretaker, who will be leaving us on Friday. We are grateful for all that Mr Blackwood has done for our school, staff and the children. Mr Blackwood will certainly be a huge miss on school trips and I know the children will miss him very much indeed! We wish him every success and happiness in his new job.

We also say goodbye to Sharon, our cleaner. Sharon has worked at St. Gregory's for 10 years and has decided to hang up her marigolds. We are thankful to Sharon for her hard work and wish her much happiness in all her future endeavours.

Parking

Yet again I have been made aware of the dangerous parking situation at the school gates and lack of care and consideration for the safety of our children. We are aware that vehicles are blocking pavements, driveways which is causing an obstruction for the children, parents, neighbours and other vehicles. We are sure you'll agree that this is a major concern as we take the safety of your children very seriously. We would like to work with parents and carers to ensure the safety of everyone and prevent any accidents or injuries. We are requesting parents and carers to please be considerate when parking a vehicle during drop off and pick-up times. Where possible please park in a safe place away from school and walk with your children to the site. This then would help the health of young people and helps promote road safety.

Healthy School

As many of you are aware we hold the 'Healthy Schools' award. We aim to promote a healthy lifestyle through healthy eating and physical activity. We have had occasions where parents have sent

in sweets or cakes to share with a class to celebrate a birthday, however, this puts staff in a difficult position as we are unable to distribute them. We ask for your support by not sending in treats.

Foodbank

We have been asked for donations of packets, tins, jar and toiletries. Your generosity is a lifeline to so many families who are struggling to make ends meet. If you are able to donate, please send the items in with your child/children. Thank you so much for your support.

Holidays during Term time

As you are aware, we are not permitted to authorise holidays during school time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

School Library

We would like to appeal for any books in good condition to replenish stock in our fabulous school library.

You will see from the diary dates that we will be welcoming a 'roving bookshop'. This will replace our usual Scholastic book fair later this term. Mrs Squares will be sending more information out very soon.

Wraparound Care

We run a breakfast and after school club for parents who need childcare at these times. Our breakfast club runs from 7:30 – 8:45 am and tea-time club runs from 3:30 – 5:30pm. If you are interested in using this facility, please contact Mrs Rochford in the school office who will be able to give you more information.

If you currently use wraparound care, please will you email bafclub@st-gregorys.co.uk to let staff know the dates and times required.

We are very flexible and if you need to book on the day either contact the school office or you can email bafclub@st-gregorys.co.uk.

Absence from school

If your child is poorly and is going to be absent from school, please will you contact the office before 9.30am. If we have not heard from parents or carers we will send a text to ask you to contact school. If we still do not hear then we will follow this up with a telephone call. It is important you tell us the reason why your child is absent as we have to record this differently depending on the reason.

SAPA

We had some very successful fundraising events last academic year and look forward to welcoming some new parents to our team. We will be arranging a coffee and catch up on Wednesday 12th October at 2:30pm. Many of our usual helpers were parents of children who have now left our school. We really need some new volunteers, so if you or a family member are interested in joining Jeanette and the team and have any time to spare or any good fundraising ideas, please do come along.

In the meantime, if you would like to support us and shop online, please consider signing up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk. This is one of the easiest ways of raising money for our school at no extra cost to yourself. Through the easyfundraising app you can access websites including John Lewis, Amazon, Argos, M&S and many more retailers and they will give a FREE donation to our school.

Diary Dates:

Please note that sometimes dates may be subject to change.

22.9.22	Roving Bookshop	Parents welcome
30.9.22	Reception and KS1 Liturgical Prayer	Parents welcome
5.10.22 @ 3:30pm	Healthy Minds Drop in for parents and carers	Parents welcome
7.10.22	CAFOD Family Fast Day fundraiser	
12.10.22	SAPA coffee and catch up	Parents welcome
17.10.22	Parents' Evening	Parents welcome
21.10.22	School closes for half term	
31.10.22	School closed for staff training	
1.11.22	Children return to school	
14.11.22	Flu vaccinations for Rec – Y6	
14 – 11.22 – 18.11.22	Anti-Bullying Week Children In Need	
18.11.22	KS2 Liturgical Prayer	Parents welcome
28.11.22 – 1.12.22	Y5 Bikeability	
28.11.22 – 2.12.22	Y6 Thurston	
5.12.22	Y4 Bikeability	
5.12.22	Reception Class visit to West Boldon Lodge	
12.12.22 and 14.12.22	Rec and KS1 Nativity TBC	Parents welcome

Assessment Dates	
May 2023	KS1 SATs Test Period
8 th -12 th May 2023	KS2 SATs week
5 th -23 rd June 2023	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
12 th -16 th June 2023	Y1 Phonics Screening Week

