

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finally made it to the end of term and what a busy term it has been. This term has finished very close to Christmas but we have loved sharing in the children's excitement as we lead up to the big day - I think it is fair to say, we have had a lot of festive fun: nativities, carol singing, Christmas dinner, festive trips, Christingle making and parties to name a few things. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you - our parents and carers for your ongoing support. Thank you to our children for being a delight to work with and making every day enjoyable. Thank you to our governors who generously give their time and support. And, finally, thank you to the staff team for your unwavering dedication to our families and to me, this never goes unnoticed and is never taken for granted.

I wish you and your families a much-deserved rest and hope the peace and joy of Christ at Christmas remains with you through the new year.



Mrs Dunne

School Admissions:

If your child is due to start school in September 2023, the closing date for applications is 4:30 pm on Monday 16th January 2023. If you know anyone who has children due to start in September and would be interested in applying to St. Gregory's, please do pass on this information.

Applications should be made via the Local Authority's website:

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/1494/Apply-for-a-primary-infant-or-junior-school-place>

Staffing update

We are delighted to share with you the news that Mrs McTavy has been appointed as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

From January, Mrs Sowerby will be covering PPA time in Y4 and Y5; Miss Christie will be covering in Y1, Y2 and Y3 and Mrs McTavy will cover PPA in Y2, Y3 and Y6.

We also welcome Mrs Bell to our team as she has been appointed as Teaching Assistant.

We currently have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant. This post is a permanent post and is for 27.5 hours.

More information about this post can be found on our school website.

Attendance

We have always taken pride in the fact that our overall attendance is excellent but this has dropped towards the end of term. We have had a lot of absences due to illness which cannot be helped, but we have seen a significant number of requests for holidays. We are unable to authorise holidays during term time. I realise some of you had planned activities thinking school would have been closed, so I will be sending out our term dates for next academic year in the Spring Term to help you plan your holidays.

Good attendance has a direct link on pupil achievement and we aim to work closely with parents to ensure good attendance and timekeeping for all of our children. Please note that if we are concerned about your child's attendance at school, we will contact you to see how we can support you with this.

SAPA

Thank you once again so much for all of the hard work that went into organising our Christmas Fair. Your support ensured the success of the Christmas Fair and we raised in total £1,126. A real team effort.

God of love,
The darkness that covers the earth has given way
to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.
Make us a people of this light.
Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Christmas Mass times:

Sacred Heart Catholic Church: Christmas Eve 6:30 pm

St. Gregory's Catholic Church: Christmas morning 9:30 am*

St. Oswald's Catholic Church: Christmas morning 11:00 am*

*Children are welcome to bring a toy along to Christmas morning Mass to be blessed.



Diary Dates:

Statutory Assessment Dates	
May 2023	KS1 SATs Test Period
9 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

Please note that dates may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

9.1.23	School re-opens for Spring Term	
11.1.23 @ 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Y6 SATs Booster club	
18.1.23 @ 4:15 pm	Y6 SATs parent information meeting	Parents only
19.1.23 @ 10:00 am	Y4 Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Parents welcome
24.1.23 @ 2:30 pm	Parents' drop in/coffee afternoon	Parents welcome
25.1.23 @ 3:30 pm	Y2 SATs parent information meeting	Parents only (children will be supervised in school library)
9.2.23 @ 10:00 am	Y3 Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Parents welcome
17.2.23	End of Half Term	
27.2.23	School re-opens after Half Term	
3.3.23	CAFOD's Family Fast Day	
15.3.23 @ 3:00 pm	EYs and KS1 Mothers' Day Liturgical Prayer	Parents welcome
17.3.23	Comic Relief Day	
31.3.23	End of Spring Term	
17.4.23	School re-opens for Summer Term	
8.5.23	School Closed – Bank Holiday for coronation King Charles III	
9.5.23 – 12.5.23	Y6 SATs week	
26.5.23	End of Half Term	
5.6.23	School re-opens after Half term	
20.7.23	End of Summer Term	