

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

We give thanks to God, work together and always try our best

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Newsletter no 1 Autumn Term Acting Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy Wednesday 4th September 2024

Upcoming Diary Dates

Friday 6th
September -Fit for
the Finish Trip Y6

Thursday 12th
September 2024
Dr. Bike in school
(fixing bikes)

Wednesday 18th
September 2024
Stone Age
Workshop Y3

Wednesday 25th
September
Reception 2025/26
Opening Evening
3.45pm

Acting Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our lovely children and families back this week after the summer break. We extend a warm welcome to our new children in Reception this year. You are joining a very close school community and we hope we can offer you many opportunities to come into school over the coming weeks and months. I am sure you will immediately feel a part of our wonderful school.

Miss E. Shaughnessy

A Prayer for the New School Year

Lord,

Help us today to keep things in perspective and appreciate what we have. As we start this new year, instil in us a sense of balance. Make us aware of Your presence in our community and let Your love and care shine through us.

Amen

Dr Bike

Dr Bike will be in school on Thursday 12th September. If your child's bike needs fixed (tyres) or a scooter please bring them before school on Thursday morning. These sessions offer slight repairs and a quick inspection to make sure your child's bike can be ridden safely. The session is available thanks to funding from Active Travel England's Capability Fund.

Building Work

During the summer, builders were extremely busy around school as we were having significant work completed in readiness for the new term. We are delighted with the result; a substantial part of our roof has been replaced and we have had our EYFS outdoor area renovated which really enhances the learning environment. It has been great to see the children busy learning in the area already! Thank you to all involved.

Contact details

Please can you ensure that we have your most updated contact details on Arbor, as well as those who are also identified as an emergency contact for your child.

Classroom Selection

From Monday 9th September children from Reception to Year 6 will select their lunch meal option on a morning during registration. Our Bishop Chadwick kitchen school menus are available online. There is a main and vegetarian option every day. If your child has any special dietary needs the kitchen are already aware of your child's alternate menu. We are continuing to use ParentPay for meals this term. Once we move to Arbor we will inform you at the earliest opportunity.

Attendance and punctuality

The school doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am. The children go straight into their classrooms and undertake their early morning tasks, e.g. handwriting, maths problems, SPAG tasks etc. This approach allows for extra learning time, less congestion on the yard and a smoother, quicker start to the school day. We continue to take the register at 9:00am prompt but encourage children to be sat at their desks ready to learn as soon as possible. If your child is poorly and not fit to come to school, please contact the school office or leave a message before 9:30 am.

School Meals

Children in Reception and Key Stage One are all entitled to free school meals, however, if you are in receipt of Universal credit you may qualify for free school meals/milk, this means that school will receive additional funding for your child. This can be used to help support them in class alongside other additional expenses such as school trips. Please contact the office for more information.

Please find the link below, can you complete the application as soon as possible regardless of whether you are currently entitled to this benefit as discussed at the meeting.

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

General reminders

Please send your child into school each day with a named bottle – filled with water. They will have opportunities throughout the day to re-fill their bottles with water. Please do not send in large 'Stanley style' cups. We have limited storage space and accidents can happen where bottles are broken – keep the expensive cups safe at home. For those children who have a packed lunch, please make sure your lunch supports a healthy and balanced diet.

Uniform

It is great to see our pupils returning with their beautiful uniforms. Our uniform shows that we are part of St. Gregory's Primary School community, and we have the highest expectations from our pupils, including wearing shoes not trainers. Please could we ask that all uniform is clearly labelled with the child's name so that we can return jumpers and coats to the correct child if misplaced!

Earrings

If your child has recently had their ears pierced, please can you make sure they are removed by the end of **September at the very latest**. In the meantime, please ensure that they are covered with a plaster in line with our jewellery policy.

Walking Home from School

We expect children from Nursery to Y5 to be picked up from school by a known adult. Some parents want to encourage independence when their children reach Y6 and they start to allow their children to walk home. This is a parental decision, but we will only allow this to happen if the parent informs the office in writing that they are happy for this to happen and consent on Arbor asap. Year 5 can start to walk home in summer term when the lighter nights return. If your child attends after school clubs or Teatime Club, they cannot walk home alone and must be collected by an adult.

Vaping

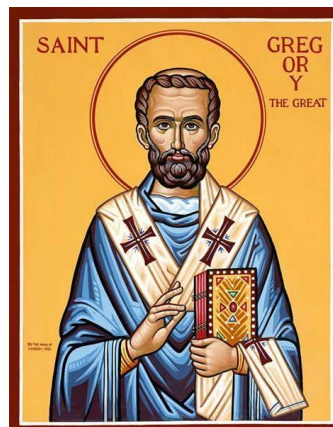
Use electronic vapes is NOT permitted on our school grounds.

Dates for the rest of term

Please see dates for the term that has been sent out with this newsletter.

St. Gregory's Way

As part of our character development programme we are launching 'St Gregory's Way' through pastoral House Groups. Each child has been allocated a 'Pastoral House Group' and will meet each month looking at our school values and curriculum drivers. We will share more information with you all in the coming weeks.



Finally...

A big thank you from myself for the kind words at the end of last year- our parental questionnaire was extremely positive! It is good to know we have the support of our wonderful school community and you can be assured that we absolutely strive for the best for your children.