



St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

'Together, in Jesus, we Love, Learn, Create and Celebrate!'

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Good afternoon families,

Welcome to our new school year, and a new chapter in our school's journey! I hope and pray that you have managed to enjoy a restful summer break, and that the children are looking forward to returning to school tomorrow, Wednesday 4th September.

Staff returned to school on Monday for two packed INSET training days, where we came together to review safeguarding knowledge and procedures, refocus upon teaching and learning, and, of course, unite in prayer.

Our themes for our times of worship have reflected the Parable of the Sower from Matthew's Gospel: *'... some seed fell on good soil, where it produced a copy – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'* We reflected together upon how our children have been planted here, in the good and fertile grounds of our St. Gregory's family, and it is here that we, their staff and stewards, care for and nurture their hearts and minds, so each seed may grow and flourish in the knowledge and love of Christ.

Loving Father, we lift up to You the children of our school, the precious seeds of Your kingdom. May their hearts be the fertile soil where the goodness of the world take root and flourish. Protect them and surround them with the love and guidance they need to grow and bloom in all they say and do.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.



Throughout the holidays, and over the course of our INSET days, the staff and leadership have carefully considered our safeguarding procedures, and have made some changes to the daily organisation, with safety at the forefront of mind.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club remains available from 7.45am with last admittance at 8.30am. When parents arrive to drop off, the hall doors will be closed, and parents must ring the doorbell on the hall door to alert staff. The hall doors will remain closed throughout Breakfast Club, and throughout the school day.

Start of the School Day - Window of Welcome

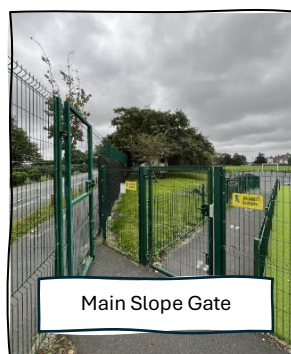
Our Window of Welcome remains the same: children may enter school from 8.45am, and the gates will be locked at 8.55am to begin registration. There will no longer be three gates to enter from, and Key Stage 2 will no longer be entering through the double field gates.

Nursery children will continue to queue at their usual gate, and Mrs Fidler will invite parents with their children to the Nursery door.

Reception to Year 6: Children from Reception through to Year 6 will enter via the main gate (previously the KS1 gate), walk down the slope and head straight into class, where they will be greeted by staff.

Parents/carers of Reception Class, please note that, in this first week, parents/carers are invited to accompany their children down the slope, to line their Reception children up on the playground. From Monday 9th, Reception children will then walk independently (or with their siblings and friends) down the slope and into class.

Any late arrivals must be accompanied by their parent/carer to the school office, where they will be greeted and signed in.



End of the School Day Handover

Again, to ensure the safety of our school community, there will no longer be multiple pick-up points for different classes.

Nursery children will still be collected from their class door at 3pm.

Reception children may be collected from the side classroom door at 3.10pm.

All other classes will be collected from the main gate in which the children entered, at the slope. The double field gates will no longer be used for collection.

Year 1 and Year 2 will be collected from the main slope gate at 3.15pm.

Years 3 to Year 6 will be collected from the main slope gate at 3.20pm.

We understand that, whilst at busier times there may be congestion, we ask for your patience whilst we prioritise the safety of children and adults. To limit congestion, we ask that families do not congregate around the gate once they have collected their children, and instead move quickly away from the school site. We recognise that wherever there is change

there will be teething issues, and we will continue to reflect upon our practice to make it as safe and efficient as possible.

Meet the Teacher

The staff are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school. Teachers invite parents/carers to a 'Meet the Teacher' session, where you can hear about your child's upcoming year, and how school and home can work in partnership to meet the needs of all. At these sessions, we will also gather the most up-to-date contact details from families, which should include one email address and three telephone numbers, one of which should be a contact from outside of your household. We look forward to seeing as many families as possible at these sessions, dates outlined below:

Year 1: Thursday 12th September

Year 2: Tuesday 10th September

Year 3: Monday 9th September

Year 4: Monday 16th September

Year 5: Tuesday 17th September

Year 6: Wednesday 11th September

Finally, to our children: as you settle down for the evening, most of you will be filled with excitement, ready for the next steps in your journey. For others, starting school for the first time may make you a little nervous. I've been in the same position as you and experienced those same emotions – starting my first day at St. Gregory's both as a child, a teacher and now Headteacher. (I'm not sure my mum will forgive me for sharing this photograph with you all!) Be assured that our school staff are here, ready, waiting and eager to welcome you to school tomorrow, to begin our new shared adventure!



I look forward with hope and optimism to working in partnership with you, our families, as we move throughout the school year.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Perree'.

Mr Joseph Perree
Headteacher