



19th January, 2024.

Message from Mrs Albon.....

Dear Parents,

Let it snow!

What an exciting first lesson we had on Tuesday morning, building snowman and generally learning about weather, including snow bows, as well as having lots of fun! It was lovely to see children and staff of all ages joining in and enjoying our wonderful grounds, made magical by the snow. However, the ice and wintry weather that followed are not as much fun. Thank you to Mr Hutson for his morning weather updates and for keeping our pathways as safe as possible.



Prayer and Liturgy

We began the week, as we always do, with a time for prayer. As always, our children took part with reverence and stillness, and it really starts our week off beautifully. This week we reflected on the story of the Baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist speaks about his revelation that Jesus is the chosen one of God. We thought about the promises made at our own baptisms and how we too can continue the great work of Jesus here on earth. We each renewed our baptismal promises in song, by singing, 'Yes Lord I believe!'



Parental queries or concerns.

Please can you contact the office if you have any concerns or queries about your child or any other school business. Mrs King will then either answer the query, or in terms of information about your child, arrange for you to speak to the correct person.

We are all always happy to help, but information is much easier to manage if it comes through the correct channels. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Smart Watches and FitBits

Since returning from the Christmas break, we have noticed a significant rise in the number of children wearing smart watches and FitBits in school. We know that smart devices and FitBits are a valuable and important resource for our children, and now offer a great deal more than what they were originally designed to do. We also recognise the positive impact devices can have when measuring physical activity. However, despite the obvious distraction that these devices can pose, smart watches and some FitBits are internet- and camera-enabled devices and therefore present similar concerns as mobile phones in terms of Safeguarding. Whilst we know that all devices are different, and recognise children's and families' intentions for their use vary, smartwatches and FitBits must be treated with the same caution as mobile phone devices, due to their increasing capabilities. As such, children are no longer permitted to wear smartwatches or FitBits to school. We thank you for your understanding and support with this matter.

Have a lovely weekend, good luck to everyone involved in the pantomime!

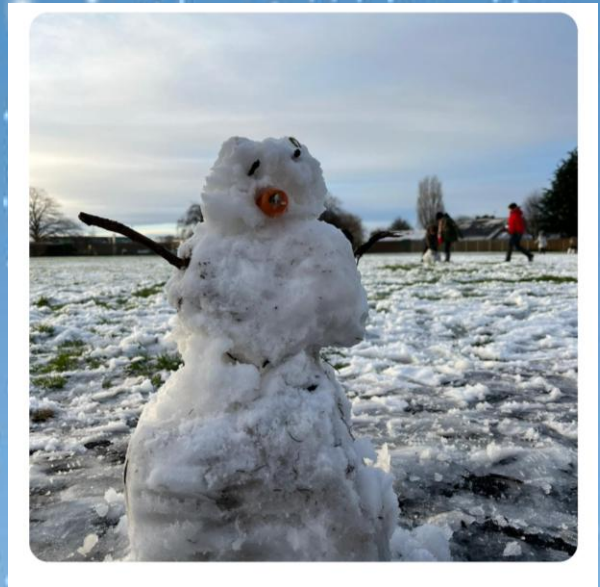
With kind regards,

Deborah Albon

Newsletter



The children were full of excitement when they arrived to school on Tuesday – SNOW!



Building snow sculptures and making snow angels, the children thoroughly enjoyed their playtime!









ATTENDANCE

Every child has a right to access education. Parents and teachers share the responsibility for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality.

For children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered at St. Gregory's, it is vital your child attends school regularly and on time.

We understand that children may sometimes be unwell and we do appreciate that, however, we would not encourage children to stay away from school for minor reasons.

The local authority visit school regularly to review individual cases of poor attendance, particularly children who fall below 90%.

If your child has poor attendance, you will be called to school for a meeting.

Parents are asked not to take children out of school during term time for a holiday. Only holiday requests with special circumstances will be authorised. Holiday absences are recorded and have proven to have an impact on children's learning and their personal development.

This week's Attendance results are as follows:

- Reception – 92.3%**
- Year 1 – 95.9%**
- Year 2 - 97.7%**
- Year 3 – 95.7%**
- Year 4 – 95.5%**
- Year 5 – 96.9%**
- Year 6 – 93.7%**

Overall Attendance for this week is **95.4%**, which is **below** the national expected percentage of 96.7%

Congratulations to **Year 5** on winning the highest class attendance this week.

Attendance Ladder



Gold Medal Award

Congratulations to our Gold Medal Award winners this week.



Special Award

Congratulations to our Special Award winners this week.



Best Book Award

Congratulations to our Best Book Award winners this week.

