



12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

Dear Parents,

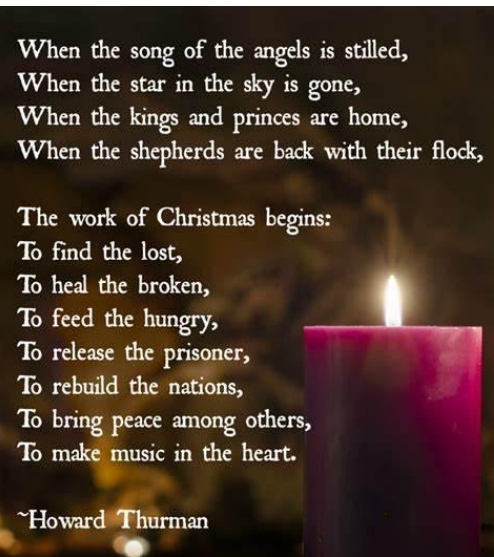
### **Welcome back!**

It was lovely to welcome back the many happy faces returning to school on Monday morning. I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas, and that 2024 is a very happy and peace-filled one. Thank you for the lovely gifts, cards and messages the staff and I received at Christmas. You are so thoughtful and generous, and your kindness is appreciated. I know I will treasure some of the cards containing beautiful messages, thank you.

We now return to normal routines, with high expectations of behaviour and focus on our learning. I am delighted to say we have made a strong start this week - well done everybody.

### **Prayer and Liturgy**

We began our new term with a conclusion of the Christmas Story, by listening to, and reflecting upon, the visit from the Wise Men. Reception children placed the three wise men in the stable as we all sang Here I Am to Worship. We thought about the gifts we would bring to Jesus in the stable, gifts such as love, friendship, kindness and peace. This poem in the picture sums it up perfectly, as we are invited to take all that we have learned from the Christmas story, and share the gifts that God has given us to improve the lives of others.



When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

## **Welcome to our New Members of Staff.**

We are delighted to welcome Miss Donnelly who is taking over the reins in Y4 following Mrs Gordon's resignation in the Autumn. The Y4 children have done an amazing job in welcoming Miss Donnelly, and she tells me she has had a lovely first week. Mrs Gordon is now safely in Australia, and has contacted me to say how much she is missing us all, especially the children.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss Green as a Teaching Assistant in Y1 and Miss Hughes as a Teaching Assistant in Y4. We hope all our newest members of the team will be very happy and fulfilled in their new roles. Welcome to the St. Gregory's family!

## **Attendance**

Over the next few weeks, there will be huge drive to improve school attendance across all our schools. The Department for Education have launched a campaign to ensure that all children receive the education they are entitled to, and have asked local authorities and individual schools to promote this important message to families and communities.

One of the messages being discussed is around the reasons why parents keep their children off from school. In the main, we know it is because of illness and, as recent bouts of Chicken Pox and Scarlet Fever prove, sometimes children are too ill to attend school as, not only would they not be fit enough to learn, but there would be a strong risk of the infection spreading further. However, there are times when children may have a wobble in the morning and complain of tummy ache or not feeling well enough to attend. As parents, you know your child well enough to assess whether this is the 'January blues' or a real sickness. If it is the former, then I would ask you to send them into school. We also ask not to send them in with words to the effect, 'I'm at home, so ask school to ring and I will collect you.', as children can sometimes use this later in the day when they grow tired or weary. When I am on the gate in the morning, I sometimes have to encourage children to come in or, in some cases, peel the child from their parents or grandparents to get them into school. In nearly all cases, when the child is in the classroom, they are happy and settled and ready to begin their day. However, I know that the parent or grandparent may be distressed as they leave. Please always telephone Mrs King if you are worried and we can hopefully reassure you when all is well.

The Local Authority will be meeting with me regularly to review individual cases of poor attendance, particularly if it falls below 90%. We are always here to help if attendance is an issue, especially if children are distressed in any way, so please get in touch with me or the class teacher to discuss any issues.

Term time holidays are a huge concern for our school and this issue has been raised many times by the Sefton LA. We stand firm in asking you to please consider the impact on your child's education before booking a term time holiday.

Overall, as I have said many times before, I think as a community we need to adopt a common-sense approach to attendance. We want every child in school but not if they are too ill to attend. I look forward to your support in this matter.

This week our overall school attendance stands at 97.5%, which is above the national average of 96.7% - Well done everyone, a great start! Let's do our best to keep this up.

### **Parish Pantomime**

There are still a few tickets left for the Parish pantomime, but only on Friday evening. Please see the flyer sent out via the app for further details. St Gregory's school is well represented in the various roles, both on stage and backstage, including children, governors and parents and a very reluctant member of staff!

Thank you all once again for all your support. I look forward to the many exciting opportunities for our school in 2024.

With kind regards,  
Deborah Albon

# Newsletter

12th January 2024

## Swimming Lessons

Children in Year 4 will be continuing their swimming lessons on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

All children will be required to take part in the lessons, unless a medical certificate is provided.

A full swimming kit, with towel, goggles and hat are required. Earring are not permitted.

## Additional PE lessons

Year 5 and Year 6 children will be receiving an additional PE lesson each Wednesday for this half term.

Year 3 and Year 4 children will have PE on their normal day, plus Yoga session on each Friday.

PE kits are to be worn on each of these days.

## School CLUBS

Please find below a list of clubs for this half term. If you would like your child to take part in any of the clubs, please complete the form on the school app. Some clubs have limited spaces and will therefore be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tuesday – Y3/Y4 Football with Intensity Sports (boys and girls) £15.00

Wednesday – Dodgeball (Y3-Y6) £15 (limited spaces)

Thursday – Choir (Y3-Y6) £5

Thursday – Y5/Y6 Football with Intensity Sports (boys and girls) £15.00

Friday – Football with Tom (Y1/Y2)

All clubs must be paid for in advance. Non payment will result in your place being cancelled.



## Football Club

Matty and Tom will be continuing their lunchtime Football Training Club for Year 5 and Year 6 school football teams.

Y5 and Y6 boys on each Tuesday

Y5 and Y6 girls on each Thursday

If your child would like to receive the football training, please complete the form on the school app.

As we are paying for this service, there is a charge for the football training club.



## School Trip

Please find below educational visits for this half term:

Reception Class – Imagine That! Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Year 4 – Eco Centre – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Further information is available via the school website and your child's Parentpay account.

Reception Class had a wonderful PE lesson this week, developing their co-ordination skills whilst rolling objects.

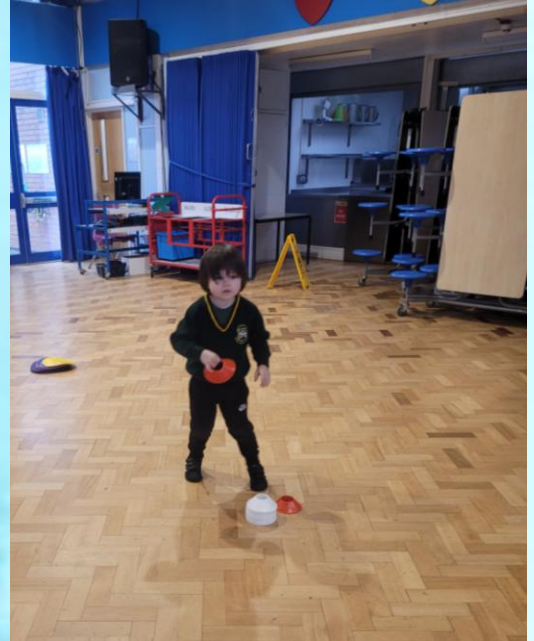
The aim of the lesson was to roll objects around and along obstacles, using hand-eye co-ordination, spatial awareness and balance.



Using hoops, balls and quoits, the children manoeuvred their way around obstacles, ensuring that they stay within the path markers.

The learning outcome was for the children to explore cause and effect, as well as developing their fine motor skills.





# Gold Medal Winners



# Gold Medal Winners

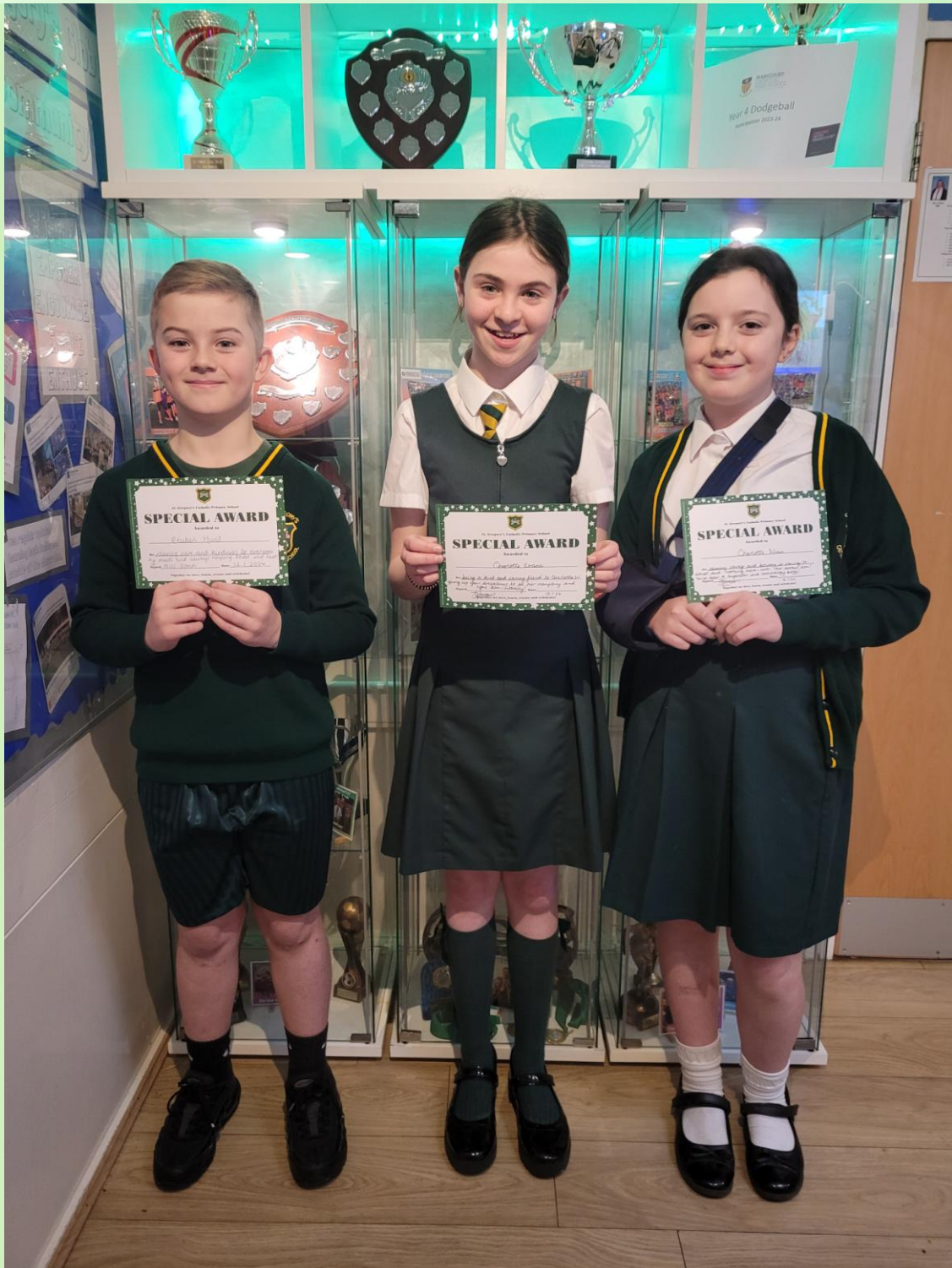




# Gold Medal Winners



# Special Award Winners



# Special Award Winners



# Special Award Winners



# Best Book Award Winners



# Best Book Award Winners



# Diary Dates



## January 2024

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming Lessons	Year 4
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Swimming Lessons	Year 4
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming Lessons	Year 4
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Imagine That, Liverpool	Reception Class trip

## February 2024

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming Lessons	Year 3
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Eco Centre, Southport	Year 4 trip
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closes today for Half Term	Normal closing time
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term Holiday	School closed for all children
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens after Half Term Holiday	Breakfast Club available Welcome Gate 8.45am
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming Lessons	Year 3
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming Lessons	Year 3