



6th October, 2023.

Message from Mrs Albon.....

Dear Parents,

Prayer and Liturgy

Thank you to everyone who played any part in our wonderful celebration of the Harvest in church on Tuesday. The joyous atmosphere in church, and in particular the uplifting singing, made many of the adults very emotional, especially during the final hymn, Laudato Si. If you go onto the website, there is a delightful video of the children raising the roof with their singing!

[Prayer and Liturgy | St Gregory's Catholic Primary School \(stgregorysprimary.co.uk\)](#).

Thank you to those who were able to attend the celebration, and to all those able to donate food for the food bank, and of course, many thanks to Father Grant for his commitment and enthusiasm to our parish and schools.



Reminder - Stay and Read on Friday 13th October

Just a reminder that we will be holding a Stay and Read session on Friday 13th October. If you are able to, parents are invited to bring their child to school as normal on that day and enter the children's classroom from 8.45am. The children will be delighted to show their parents their classroom environment and read them part of a story that they are very fond of. If you have more than one child at St. Gregory's, you are very welcome to bring your children to one classroom to read.

The bell will then ring at 9.15am to mark the end of the Stay and Read session and parents are then invited into the hall for refreshments, in support of our Macmillan Coffee Morning fundraiser.

Together, in Jesus, we love, learn, create and celebrate!

School Communication Platforms- some very important information

It has come to our attention that the DoJo platform we use in the youngest classes is offering a paid option for parents to gain access to all the photographs on the system, and then share them widely with family and friends, and beyond. This is a huge GDPR concern to us and has prompted us to look at how we are communicating overall with parents, and how we could continue to have strong communication with you, but in a safer way. We have also considered Staff wellbeing which can, on occasions, be compromised with so many DoJo messages being sent by parents with the expectation of a quick reply.

As a result of our discussions, we are going to pause using DoJos and use other already established ways of communication. Each class had an email address set up during Covid, which is still used for communication in the older classes. We will now ask that parents who wish to communicate directly with the teacher, for non-urgent issues, do so using this email facility- email addresses below. The teaching staff will respond to you within 48 hours. If you have an urgent issue then please contact the office, there is an answer phone which is checked regularly if Mrs King is out of the office – there is also an email address for the office: hking@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Class email addresses

Nursery: nurseryclass@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Reception: receptionclass@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Year One: yearone@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Year Two: yeartwo@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Year Three: yearthree@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Year Four: yearfour@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Year Five: yearfive@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Year Six: yearsix@stgregslydiate.co.uk

Some of the DoJo messages sent to staff are questions about forthcoming events which could easily be answered by parents checking the newsletter or the latest School APP. During this week, Mrs King has been checking that all parents are on the School APP, so that everybody receives every communication. We put a lot of time and effort into compiling the newsletter and hope that it gives you plenty of information, as well as celebrating all the wonderful things that happen each week. Occasionally, events that happen at short notice need to be communicated directly through the School APP if they miss our Friday deadline.

We will be increasing our use of the class webpages to share photos of the exciting activities that are happening in each class. This will mean that teachers can upload photos and information during their non-contact working hours, and not interrupt their teaching time with your child. Mrs King will also send messages via the School APP for teachers if needed.

In terms of rewards, we will stop giving DoJo points and return to other means of rewarding children. We have a successful merit system that has been in operation for many years. The children in the younger classes will now receive a badge instead of a DoJo, and this will be included in the Merit collection each Friday as a point, and celebrated at assembly.

We hope that the positive relationship we have with our families will be maintained and that you appreciate the reasons for this change of approach. I am very happy to discuss this further if any parents need any clarification about our decision.

Parents' Evenings

You should have now received your appointment times for your meeting with your child's class teacher. The meetings will take place over two days- **Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October between 3.30pm and 6.30pm**. For the safety and well-being of our school staff, we will be operating the Parents' meetings in the same way as we did in March. Parents will wait in the hall and be called to the classrooms individually.

Your child's books will be given to you either before the meeting or following the meeting, depending on where we are in the evening, and how big the queues are! We do not leave children's books in the hall, as they are personal to you and your child. The Governing Body agreed that all parents attending the meetings will be required to sign up to a Parents' Code of Conduct, which will be sent out before the meetings on the school APP. Fortunately, we are more than reassured that the vast majority of parent/teacher meetings take place in a spirit of mutual support and respect, and we are truly grateful for your continued support.

St. Gregory's Award

As a result of our self-evaluation on the Catholic Life and Mission of our school, we are going to introduce a new half-termly award, recognising any member of our school community who lives out our school mission statement, and embodies the values of St. Gregory. Nominations can be received from any child or adult within our school, and then I will meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Pupil Leadership Team, to make the decision! The award will be presented at the end of each half-term. I am sure we will be inundated with nominations.



How can we live like St. Gregory?

We can be...

- Caring
- Friendly
- Work hard
- Pray
- Loving



Thank you once again for all your support and have a lovely weekend.

With kind regards,
Deborah Albon

Newsletter



St. Gregory's
Catholic Primary School

Date: 6th October,

Parents' Evening Appointments

All appointments for our two Parents' Evenings have now been sent home with the children.



Please arrive on time for your appointment and enter via the hall doors. You will be welcomed by school staff and directed to your child's class table. The teacher will then come and collect you for your appointment.

Appointments should last approximately five minutes, but if you feel that this is not long enough for you to discuss any concerns about your child's progress, please contact the school office and we will make a telephone appointment for you with the class teacher.

'Stay and Read' is back!

We are thrilled to announce that our Stay and Read event is back and will take place on **Friday 13th September.**

With Covid restrictions preventing this in past years, we have really missed this wonderful event.

Parents are welcome to come into school from 8.45am and visit your child's classroom. Your child will then be given an opportunity to read with you a part of their favourite book.

The bell will ring at 9.15am signaling the end of our Stay and Read session, and parents are then welcome to gather in the hall for a Macmillan Coffee Morning event.



Dates for your diary

October

- 11th – Cross Country Competition
Years 4,5 and 6. Entry form to be completed on the school app.
- 13th – Stay and Read session with Coffee Morning
- 17th/18th – Parents' Evenings
- 19th – School closes at normal time for half term
- 20th – INSET day. Children are not to attend school on this day.
- 23rd to 27th – Half Term Holiday
- 30th – INSET day. Children are not to attend school on this day.
- 31st – Back to school after half term holiday
- 31st – Year 2 visit to Chester Grovesnor Museum

November

- 3rd - Year 3 visit to Eco Centre, Southport
- 6th - Reception/Y6 Height and Weight programme
- 9th - Year 1 at Croxteth Park Farm



HARVEST FESTIVAL

A decorative graphic for Harvest Festival. The text "HARVEST" is in a large, orange, stylized font, and "FESTIVAL" is in a smaller, black, serif font below it. The graphic is surrounded by illustrations of pumpkins, sunflowers, and corn cobs.

All our classes, Nursery right through to Year 6, visited St. Gregory's Church on Tuesday this week for a very special Harvest Service. The children walked very sensibly to and from school, accompanied by lots of school staff.





It was wonderful seeing so many of our families at Church. The children sang beautifully and raised the roof on our final hymn, Laudato Si.

Readings, prayers and poetry were delivered perfectly by all of the children.

What a joyous occasion!





Year 2 had lots of fun with Chris during their PE lesson this week.



Building up their strength and stamina.
Developing skills such as balancing and special awareness

Physical Education





All the children listened and followed instructions.
Well done Year 2!





St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School will soon have 2 vacancies for Parent Governors. We will be sending home letters with regards to the vacancies next week.

Who Can Stand as and Vote for Parent Governors

The definition of a parent in education legislation includes

- all natural parents whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person and;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Parents who are **NOT** eligible to stand in parent governor elections are

- parents who are paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any consecutive 12 month period at the time of election.

Two Parent Governor Vacancies

If there are only two nomination the candidates will be elected unopposed.

If there are more than two nominations, an election will take place. The statements of all candidates will be typed in a standard format and circulated to all parents with a ballot paper.

If you would like further information about being a Parent Governor, please come along and have a chat with Mrs Albon or our Chair of Governors , Mr Freeman.

How to Nominate Yourself

If you would like to put your name forward, you must complete a nomination form and a self-declaration form; they will be sent home with children before the end of next week.

You should use the space provided on the form to write a **brief personal statement** to support your nomination.

The statement should be of sufficient length to set out

- Evidence of the extent to which you possess the skills and experience the governing body desires;
- Your commitment to undertake training to acquire or develop the skills to be an effective governor;
- If seeking your re-election, details of your contribution to the work of the governing body during your previous term of office;
- How you plan to contribute to the future work of the governing body.

If you join our governing body, you will serve for a (four year) term.

Being a governor does take up time. There are **three** full governing body meetings each year, and governors usually serve on a committee which meet once a term.

You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school or meeting colleagues on behalf of the governing body, as well as undertaking training and updating your skills.

Gold Medal Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Gold Medal Award this week.



Alice

Harry

Felicity

Gold Medal Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Gold Medal Award this week.



Elias

Noah

Gold Medal Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Gold Medal Award this week.



Maisie

Daniel

Special Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Special Award this week.



George

Maggie

Hugo

Special Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Special Award this week.



Poppy

Winnie

Special Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Special Award this week.



Elliott

Thomas

Best Book Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Best Book Award this week.

Grace

Eloise

James



Best Book Award

Congratulations to the following children who received the Best Book Award this week.



Luca

Joshua

Attendance

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96%	99.4%	94.7%	98%	96.8%	92.9%	94.7%

Congratulations to **Year 1** on winning the Attendance Cup this week.

Well done Year 1!



Congratulations to the following children, who won 100% Attendance Award this week:

Reception – Hudson

Year 1 – Jasmine

Year 2 – Grace

Year 3 – Elias

Year 4 – Louis

Year 5 – Noah

Year 6 - Amelia