



8th September, 2023.

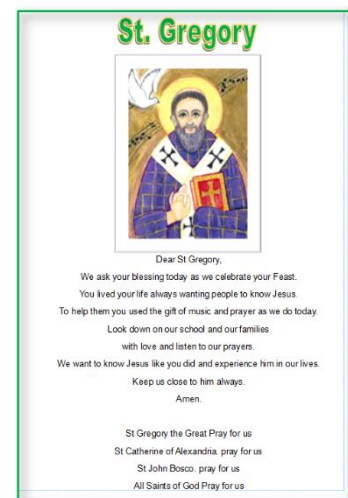
Message from Mrs Albon.....

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our new school year and to the autumn term, or is it still summer?! Whatever the season, it has been lovely to welcome back our children to their new classes. There has been an air of calmness as I visited classes each morning, with children settled and happily getting back into routine and already producing some wonderful work. Although we only managed uniform for two days, thank you parents for returning the children to school so smartly dressed. Please remember we have plenty of uniform in our free uniform shop, which is always available whenever you need it. Thank you to parents for donating uniform and to Mrs King for organising it. The weather looks to return to normal next week, so we will return to school uniform once again, summer or winter uniform is acceptable for a while.

Prayer and Liturgy

We began our new school year celebrating our school Mission Statement and the Feast of St. Gregory, which took place on Sunday- Happy Feast Day everyone! Father Grant wrote a very special prayer to St. Gregory, which was emailed straight from his Spanish sunbed! He asked us to say the prayer for nine days, which in our catholic tradition is called a Novena. When we pray a Novena, we either pray the same prayer for all nine days or follow a list of prayers to be prayed for each day. In our case, we are praying the same prayer and our intention is blessings upon our school community. Today the children are bringing home a prayer card to continue to say the prayer with you, their families.



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

Thank you to Mrs Groves for staying up late to make each family a prayer card. This Sunday is Education Sunday, when our church prays for all our Catholic Schools. We will celebrate our Catholic Education on Monday and all of next week, in our prayer times.

Gentle Reminders

Cost of Living Crisis

We recognise that this time continues to be challenging financially for both families and the school budget, and, as such, we will be looking at ways we can support one another through the tough times ahead. I have asked the teaching staff to look at the proposed trips and to plan them now so that we can cost them for the year and then offer payment plans, preventing any unnecessary surprises. We will talk about this at the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings.

Labelling School Uniform

As previously mentioned, the cost-of-living crisis means that extra money for replacing lost items of uniform will be hard to come by. With this in mind, PLEASE remember to label your child's uniform. It is very difficult to identify lost uniform without a name. Labels that are sewn into items are the best, but if you use a marker pen, please check the label after every wash. This week, many children didn't have names in their jumpers or cardigans, and with the warm weather many were lost. It also takes up valuable teaching time when staff are expected to reunite lost clothing with children! Your support and cooperation would be gratefully appreciated with this matter.

Medical and Dietary Forms

Please can you complete the medical and dietary form on the School APP so we are fully informed of any illnesses or allergies. It would appear that there are more food related allergies than ever and some of these are life threatening, so we need all relevant staff to be fully informed and trained to deal with any emergencies. Thank you to the majority of families who have already completed the form.

PE Kits

Please can children wear school PE shorts for PE. We do have free spare pairs if you need them. We will no longer be allowing children to wear short, skin-tight (usually black) shorts, as they can be far too short and inappropriate in a school setting.

Water and Snacks

In keeping with the Early Years guidance on food and drink in schools, we will no longer be having crackers at break time for Key Stage one. Free fruit will still be available to all EYFS and Key Stage One children. If any child throughout the school needs a snack at breaktime, then fresh fruit is all that will be allowed. We also ask that children's water bottles are filled with water only.

School Pick-Ups

If a different adult is collecting your child from school, please inform the class teacher or Mrs King in the office. This ensures that all children are safeguarded at the end of each day.

Meet the Teacher

As your child begins their new class, your child's new teacher will be providing a 'Meet the Teacher', which commenced this week. Please try and attend your meeting so that you can hear the expectations of the teacher for the children and hear about the newly planned curriculum. The dates for the meetings were sent in the summer term and a reminder sent via the school APP.

Christmas Holidays

We have only just started back at school and we are already planning Christmas! With that in mind, it would appear we have too many days in school this year, so we will be breaking up a day earlier than previously announced in December. Therefore, we will break up on Thursday 21st December at 12.30pm.

Finally, we welcome all our new families to the St. Gregory's family and hope to formally welcome you all at our Reception Class 'Welcome Assembly' on Friday 29th September at 9.15am. This invitation is for the Reception Class parents only.

Have a lovely sunny weekend! We look forward to a slightly cooler week next week.

With every good wish,

Deborah Albon

Happy Feast Day!



During Collective Worship this week, we celebrated Feast Day of St. Gregory, which took place on Sunday. The children listened and spoke about St. Gregory the Great and prayed for him to watch over us all at St. Gregory's during this academic year.

We also celebrated our Mission Statement:

'Together, in Jesus, we love, learn, create and celebrate' and the children were asked to explain why the wording was recently changed from "with Jesus" to "in Jesus" and Matilda (Y5) gave a wonderful explanation:

"When you are 'with' someone, they can walk away from you, but if the person is 'in' you then they will always be by your side" – this was a beautiful description of how Jesus will always protect us and guide us, well done Matilda.



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



What a beautiful week for the children to return to school – the weather was fantastic and all the children were so happy to be returning, meeting up with their friends and sharing stories of their adventures during their summer break.



Year 2
The children have been settling into their new classroom and enjoying their first day with Mrs Thompson.





Early Years

Children in Nursery and Reception Class have settled in really well to their new environments.

Friendships are being built and children are thoroughly enjoying learning new skills.





The new outdoor play area has been a big hit with all the children!





Year 1

The children are discovering lots of new learning areas in Year 1. They are enjoying writing, discovering facts about nature and the role play area, "Doctors Surgery", is very popular!

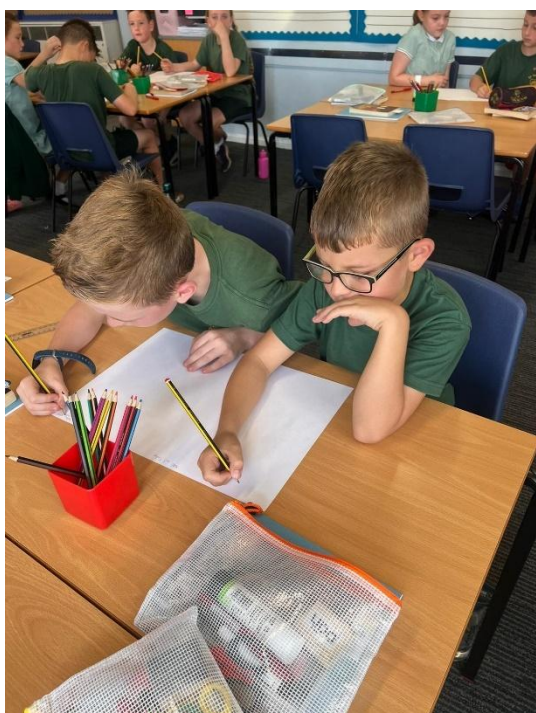




Year 5

The children in Year 5 have discussed and thought carefully about why it is important to have an agreed set of class rules. We have come up with a class charter that the children and adults have now signed to say we agree to follow the rules, so that we can have a happy and focused learning environment.

Miss Brown, Miss Richardson and Year 5 are looking forward to a positive year full of fun and learning.



Gold Medal Award

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



Harry - Year 3
Annie - Year 6
Ella - Year 4
Teddy - Year 5



Ellie - Year 2
Asher - Year 1
George - Reception

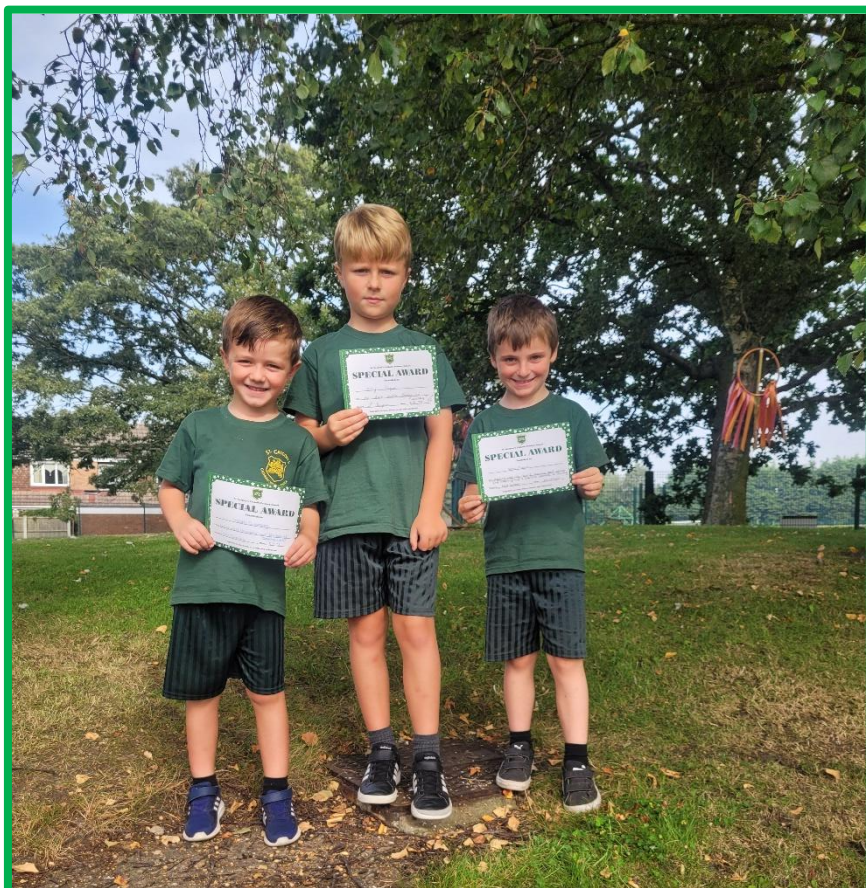
Special Mention Award

Congratulations to the following children who won the Special Mention Award this week.



*Isaac - Year 6
Holly - Year 5
Hollie - Year 4
Nora - Year 3*

*Reception - Noah
Year 1 - Max
Year 2 - Olly*



Best Book Award

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



Ava - Year 6

Anna - Year 5

Louis - Year 4

Mya - Year 3

Jack - Year 2

Isla - Year 1

Information for Parents

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons will be commencing on Monday 11th September for children in Year 5. Please remember full swimming kit is required, including hat and goggles, trunks and full costume. There is a consent form on the school app for parents.

Dietary and Medical Form

We require an up to date Dietary and Medical form for each child at St.Gregory's, this is available on the school app. Please update this as soon as possible.

School Uniform

Please ensure that all school uniform is labelled with your child's name. We have found jumpers/cardigans/raincoats this week that we could not locate to children, as the items were not labelled.

Reporting An Absence

If your child is absent from school, please ensure that you report this on the first day of their absence, before 9.30am.

The ways to report an absence are:

Ring the Absence Reporting line on 0151 526 5856

Fill out the Absence Form on the school app.

Ring the school office after 8.30am and speak to Mrs King.

Once you have reported an absence, if the absence continues, Mrs King will give you a call for an update on the situation.

Wraparound Provisions

If you require our wraparound services, Breakfast Club and The Hub, you must complete the booking form on the school app. This is part of our safeguarding procedures to keep all children at St.Gregory's safe. The form is available throughout the week and will be updated every Friday, for the following week. If you have any balances outstanding on your Parentpay account at the end of the week, it must be cleared before you make another booking.

Contact Information

Please remember to update your contact details with the school office. It is very important that we have three emergency contacts (with their consent) on our files.

Meet The Teacher

Reminder that we will be continuing with our Meet The Teacher meetings next week.

Monday 11th September – Year 3

Tuesday 12th September – Year 4

Thursday 14th September – Year 1

Friday 15th September – Year 2

All meetings commence at 3.30pm. It is very important that at least one parent attends the meetings, as there will be a lot of information about your child's classroom structure, trips and other items.

Clubs

The following Clubs will be taking place, as from next week:

Tuesday – Football Club with Matty (Y3/Y4) = £20
Limited spaces.

Wednesday – Rugby with Ultimate Kids (KS2) = £20
Limited spaces.

Thursday – Choir with Mrs Albon, Mr Perree and Miss Brown (KS2) £6.00

Friday – Football with Tom (Y1/Y2) = £20
Limited spaces

All clubs will run from 3.20pm to 4.20pm.