



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you have had a special Christmas season with your loved ones and that the New Year brings happiness and health. After a successful and hardworking Advent Term, topped off with an exciting WW2 Wow Day, the children are now ready to embark on the next step of their Year 6 journey. We are pleased to share with you that we welcome Miss Stimpson to our Year 6 teaching team for this term, who will be completing her PGCE placement in St John Paul II class.

Our new topic, 'Frozen Kingdoms' is full of interesting learning and activities and we can't wait to share it with you! Here is an overview of what is coming up.

Religious Education (RE)

In RE this term, we will be studying three themes: *Local Church* (Community) – a look at the Bible, *Eucharist* (Unity) - enabling people to live in communion and *Lent and Easter* (Death & New Life) - celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection. We suggest the following activities for you to complete with your child at home:

Local Church – Explore the Diocesan website looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our Bishop. Read Bible stories together.

Eucharist – Look through the family photograph album to remember important events and special people in our lives. Discuss some of the family celebrations that have brought people together.

Lent and Easter – As a family, talk about how to practise self-control and self-giving for the season of Lent. Talk about what you may give up and what you can do to help others. Consider taking part in the Stations of the Cross.



Oracy

This refers to skills in speaking and listening, something that the children practise on a daily basis, without realising. We are placing an emphasis on developing these skills this year as they provide an excellent foundation for social skills, self-confidence and good writing. Children will consider what language they are using and the context in which it is used. This provides opportunities for presentation of ideas, sharing viewpoints and resolving issues. They will be encouraged to present formally, make speeches or recite with expression. Please support your child at home by giving them plenty of opportunities to explain their thinking and broaden their vocabulary. One word answers are not enough!

English

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) - We will continue to practise these skills, which are crucial to great writing. Children will be given homework to practise these skills in due course.

In Year 6, the children will also continue to consolidate their knowledge of spelling rules and ensure that they are familiar with and able to use the list of Year 5 and Year 6 spellings. The children will learn the concept and will be given opportunities during the week to consolidate their learning. Children will be tested on the spellings every Friday.

Reading - We will be drawing from the 'Frozen Kingdoms' theme for our reading this term. Our English reading focuses will be 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill before half term and 'Dark Sky Park' by Philip Gross in the second half of the term. We will be reading this as a class and create excellent writing using these texts as inspiration. We will practise



summarising key events, identifying important details and using quotations to explain and elaborate our thinking during our guided reading sessions. We work to use a 'slow reveal' process in English so we ask that you do not buy the books and let your child read ahead. Instead, allow them to explore the books in depth in class and talk to them about what they have learned at home.

It is vital that your child continues to read every day at home. The expectation is that the child reads for *at least* fifteen minutes a day. This is in addition to the reading they do within the school day. Please make time to hear them read a few pages and chat with them about their current book, as learning to talk about a book, to express and justify thoughts, is very important. Please ensure the reading is recorded and signed in their planner.

Writing - We will use our class texts as a stimulus to write in different formats and styles. We will study the use of language in a variety of genres and study the features of each style. We will be using our developing grammar skills and knowledge to add detail and precision to our writing.

Maths

Topics covered during the Lent Term include:

- Measurement
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Algebra

Please ensure that children are fluent in times tables up to 12 x 12 by practising at home and logging into Times Tables Rockstars online. Children will continue to enhance their mental and written strategies for all operations. Children will be directed to maths skills on IXL and should aim to complete at least one, weekly.



Theme

Our Year 6 curriculum theme for the Lent Term is '**Frozen Kingdoms**'.

History - Children will investigate significant historical events surrounding the fascinating journeys of explorers to the poles. They will learn to ask questions about historical change, cause, similarity, difference and form ideas about relevant historical information based on their research of polar exploration and environment.



Geography - Children will continue to develop map skills, to read and plot map references, and to build their knowledge of the wider world.

Using geographical terms and vocabulary, they will explore the Arctic and Antarctica, examining physical characteristics, environmental issues and inhabitants of these localities.

Art/DT – Children will develop their understanding of composition, scale and proportion, using simple perspective through sketching and will explore the culture and work of Inuit artists. They will have opportunities to create their own stencils for printing.

Learning Log: Children will be given a selection of activities linked to their Theme, which offer opportunities to practise different skills. Children must complete at least one per half term and bring in evidence at the end of the half term.

Computing

In Year 6, the Computing curriculum has already covered aspects of internet safety, a theme that we will return to during the year. Our new learning for the Lent Term will look at spreadsheets and blogging, developing skills for selecting, using and combining a variety of software to design and create content for a given audience, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information. We will also look at how computer networks enable computers to communicate and collaborate.



MFL – Spanish

Mrs Neal-Gonzalez will continue to teach Spanish on Thursdays each week.

Music

We will be using Charanga to learn to learn about rhythms and beats during our Music lessons. The children will continue to learn about musical notation and explore how to translate written music into sound and vice versa. They will also learn to develop composition and performance skills.

PE

PE is timetabled for every Thursday afternoon. The children will continue to receive a mix of outdoor sports and indoor PE work, based on balance, agility, flexibility and decision-making through a variety of activities. Please ensure your child arrives at school on a Thursday in their PE uniform.



Our **compulsory PE uniform** for lessons as part of the curriculum as well as extra-curricular clubs, is as follows:

Plain, white PE t-shirt (no logos/pictures please)

Plain, black shorts, black leggings or black tracksuit bottoms (no logos/pictures please) A pair of trainers or black plimsolls

A plain, black sweatshirt or a zip up hoody (no logos/pictures please) or the child's usual St Gregory's sweatshirt or cardigan should be worn in cooler weather.

PSHE

We will use the Jigsaw scheme to offer a comprehensive PSHE program for our children.

Science

This term, our topics are: 'Living Things and their Habitats' and 'Evolution and Inheritance'. These topics examine how plants and animals are classified scientifically and explore how they have evolved to adapt to their habitats over millions of years, including how some survive in extreme conditions. We will investigate how this adaptation may be impacted by climate change issues, particularly in the poles.



Home Learning

Home Learning is given out on Friday and is expected back by the following Wednesday. Homework given in after this time is considered late. There will usually be a set piece for Maths and English, based on our weekly learning. There will also be a home learning piece of homework set once per term, based on our termly topic. Children will also be given weekly spellings and are expected to practise times tables and use IXL to supplement their learning. Occasionally, there may be other short pieces to complete on Purple Mash, Times Tables Rockstars or for Science. The children will be given information about this in their planners each week.

Please remember to check your child's Home-School Link Book each day and sign it weekly. We expect children to bring it into school every day without fail, in preparation for secondary school routines.

We would like to say thank you to all of our parents for your continued support. We invite you to contact us via the School Office or your child's Home-School Link Book if you have any questions or just want a bit of advice to support your children more effectively. We are more than happy to help and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Williams and Ms Sundaralingam
Year 6 Class Teachers

