



# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

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Executive Head teacher: Mrs K Yuen

[www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have made a great start in Reception and have been able to familiarise themselves with the routines and expectations of St Gregory's. They have settled in really well and we have enjoyed our first term exploring some really exciting topics and they have engaged well with their learning. We are now looking forward to the Lent Term, here are some of the topics we are going to be learning about.

In Religious Education, our first topic this term will be Celebrating and throughout this, we will be exploring 'Community'. We will be looking at the experience of community and how it is an essential and enjoyable part of life, for people of every age and faith. The cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime, contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities. Our second topic this term will be Eucharist and we will be exploring 'Relating'. We will learn how being thoughtful for life, for people and gifts, is a vital part of our relationships with one another. At the end of this term, we will begin our Lent topic 'Giving'. We will learn about how life, especially family life, or life in school, is full of opportunities for self-giving.

To begin our English topic this term, our learning will be based on 'Astro Girl' by Ken Wilson-Max. We will still be following the CLPE sequences of learning, which will include prediction, asking questions and making connections to their own experiences. They will be thinking about the illustrations and will be using role play and spoken and written language to explore the story. The expectation for children to read or look at a book, with an adult at home for at least 10 minutes a day remains. This should be recorded in their home-school planner, which will be monitored more thoroughly this term, now routine has been established.

To encourage reading at home, the children who have read at least three times the previous week will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of every term, we will hold a whole school Reading Raffle for the chance to win some book related prizes.

Lots of progress has been made in Phonics, so your child may now be in a different group. The Read Write Inc approach to Phonics ensures personalised learning for every child, so grouping change regularly. At this stage, every group looks at letter sounds, which are needed to start blending words and will help to aid their reading. Some groups will be looking at 'special friends' which is two sounds together to make a digraph, for example 'sh'. The books sent home will vary based on the group they are in.

Over the course of the Lent Term in Maths, we will further consolidate our learning about Numbers to 10 by comparing numbers, looking at their composition and exploring number bonds. It is important that the children develop a really strong sense of numbers to 10. This will stand them in good stead for the maths that follows as they move through the school.

The children may already be able to recite the number names to twenty and beyond but a sense of what those numbers mean develops gradually with repeated experiences in different contexts. Moving forward to the end of the Lent Term, we will start to look Measure, Shape and Spatial Thinking. Here we will look at Mass and Capacity, Length and Height and 3D Shape, Spatial Awareness and Pattern.

Our Theme topic for the Lent Term is Starry Night. This project explores the differences in the world at night compared to during the day. It teaches children about the importance of a good night's sleep, and helps them to discover what is happening in the world while they are sleeping, including finding out about nocturnal animals.

In Art, the children will be developing their use of different mediums and experimentation to create images of star constellations. After learning about nocturnal animals, including owls, the children will use oil pastels to create their own drawing of an owl thinking about its special features, such as large eyes, sharp talons and asymmetrical eyes.

The children will continue to have a Spanish lesson each week, on Thursdays, taught by Mrs Neal-Gonzalez. This term, they will continue learning through song, numbers as well as body parts.

Our first unit of work for Music in the Lent Term is 'Everyone!' This unit will be focusing around learning to sing nursery rhymes and action songs. The children are already great at this but they will focus their learning on listening and responding to different songs, singing and playing instruments and sharing and performing. Our second Music unit this term is called 'Our World' and the children will continue to develop their musical ability and understanding of nursery rhymes and action songs.

During our PSHE lessons this term, we will be following 'A Mind to be Kind' which will support children to think about how their thoughts and actions towards others can have a lasting effect. We will focus on helping the children to identify all of the ways that they can be kind towards others.

Finally, PE continues to be taught by Mr Sherratt on Tuesdays. Please ensure your child arrives at school dressed for PE on a Tuesday morning.

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

The child's usual St Gregory's sweatshirt or cardigan should also be worn.

Please continue to remember to write in your child's Home-School Planner each day once you have read with them, their books will continue to be changed weekly.



Thank you for your continued support; I am really looking forward to another term of exciting topics. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A. Finch  
Reception Class Teacher

