

# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

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[School Website: stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk](http://stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk)

As the term ends, I reflect with a sense of great joy. Your children truly are a credit to you. Each day they really shine giving their very best. With our Nativity Performances, beautiful Advent Services we have all heralded the arrival of Christmas time. This end of term newsletter goes someway to acknowledging the incredible amount of achievements, which have taken place this half term. I hope your Christmas is a blessed one, and one in which spending time with your children is considered far more important than spending money. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who support our school in making it a place where all can flourish. I wish you all every happiness. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Yuen  
Headteacher

## Nursery

The nursery children have been getting into the Christmas spirit through a variety of exciting experiences. They have enjoyed lots of craft activities where they have made beautiful creations to take home. The children have also been learning Christmas songs and have really embraced the story of The Nativity, which has been reinforced through role-play and small world play. We are really impressed with how some of the children can recall parts of the story and understand the true meaning of Christmas. A big thank you to our parents who joined in with our Christmas Stay and Play sessions. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!

## Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage are very excited to be visiting Eleonore House from January up until the end of the year. You may remember last year, we visited Eleonore House residents at their Wednesday coffee mornings and we made some firm friendships! This year we



## Upcoming Events

### December 20

3:15pm School and Nursery close

### January 3

Teacher Training Day - School and Nursery closed

### January 6

School and Nursery re-open

Feast of the Epiphany

9:15-11:15am [Open Morning for prospective pupils](#)

### January 7

9:15-11:15am [Open Morning for prospective pupils](#)

### January 13

9:15-11:15am [Open Morning for prospective pupils](#)

### January 14

9:15-11:15am [Open Morning for prospective pupils](#)

Governance: STCCAT Board Meeting

### January 15

5:00pm [Deadline for September 2020 Primary School Applications](#) to Northamptonshire County Council

are hoping to introduce the children earlier on and further develop their social, emotional and personal skills and we know how much the residents enjoy their visit, too.

Next term, Foundation Stage will be learning about 'People Who Help Us'. We are very excited to be having Father Jerry, the Fire Service and The Hope Centre visiting us next term to talk about their jobs. If you would be interested in coming to talk to the children about your job and how you help people, please let Mrs Lucy know.

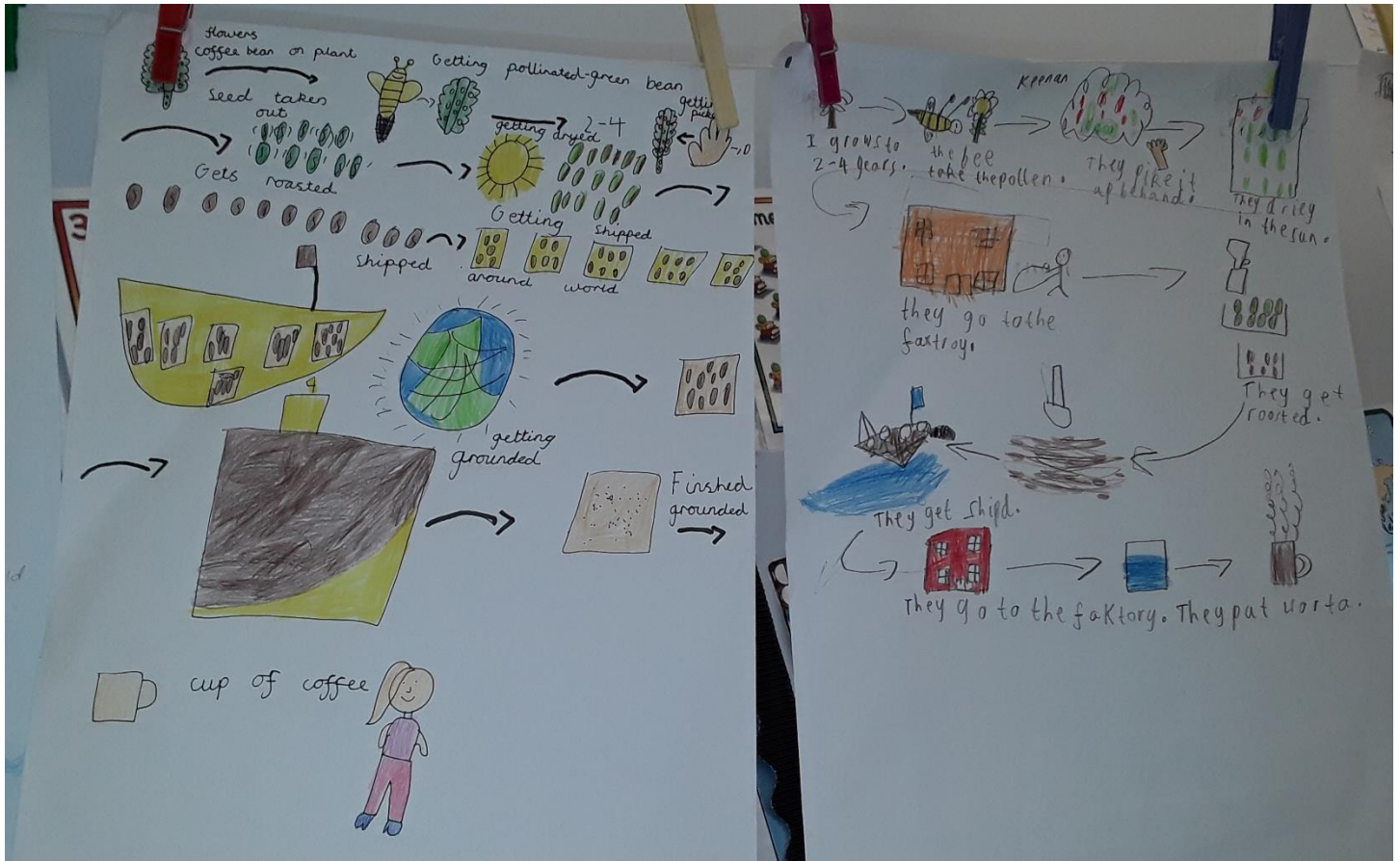
Thank you to all the Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 families that donated a gift for in-patients that will be spending Christmas Day in a Northamptonshire Hospital. The [Northamptonshire Health Charity](#) are delighted that you support them year after year and we are very proud that you and your children are showing the true spirit of St Gregory's in helping others at what can be a difficult time of year.



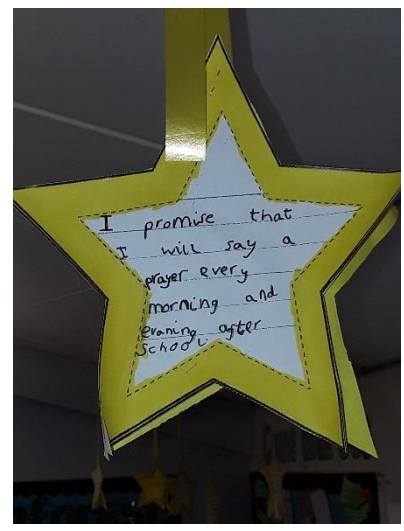
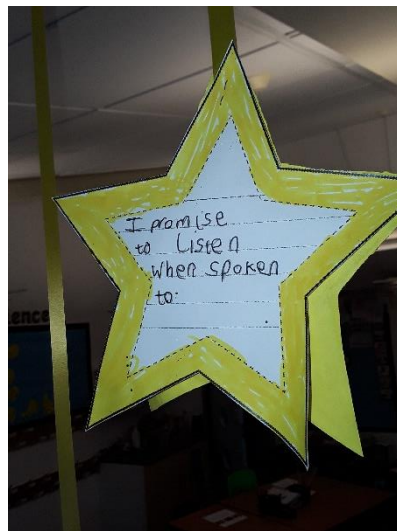
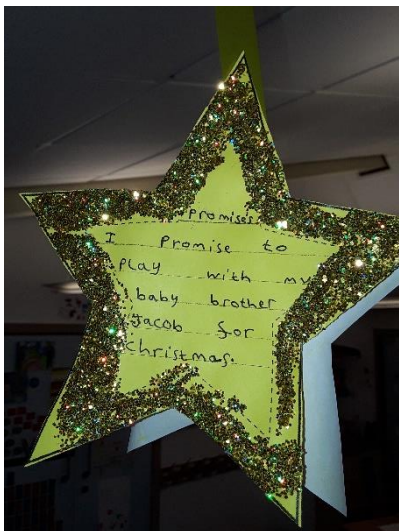
### Year 3

Recently, Year 3 have learnt about the journey a cocoa bean makes from the rainforest to a factory to be made into a chocolate bar. As part of this, we tasted a variety of chocolate ranging

from 85% coco to 31% coco. There were some amazing faces pulled over the bitterness of dark chocolate. We are going to put this knowledge to good use when making and wrapping our own chocolate bars.



We have also been learning lots about Advent and making Advent Promises, thinking about Jesus as a Gift from God and considering what are the best presents we have received. See more of our work on the [School website](#).



## Year 4

We have been learning about Ancient Egypt and looking at the mummification process and how Canopic jars are used. There are 4 Canopic jar designs, the baboon, the falcon, the jackal and the human. We each designed a Canopic jar based on these and used a glass jar and clay to create our own. We sculpted the clay and used mark-marking tools to add in the smaller details. Once the clay has dried, we are going to paint them gold.



## Year 5

One of the highlights for the children in Year Five this term has been visiting Thomas Becket to take part in a workshop introducing them to basic coding and robotics, hosted by Mr Kecskemeti last month. The children spent the morning using a variety of robotics and coding activities and then investigated the life of Thomas Becket; Miss Earl's class set up the auditorium for the robots to imitate Thomas Becket's journey from England to France, while Miss Marum's class learnt about his pilgrimage to Canterbury, using robots and coding to simulate this. All the children had a brilliant time and are looking forward to another visit to TBCS and are keen for Mr Kecskemeti to visit St Gregory's next term.

Our Theme this term has been 'Invaders and Raiders'; the children have enjoyed learning about the struggle for power between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and exploring life in Scandinavia. One particular highlight has been designing and creating their own Viking longships.



In Science, we have been focusing on Working Scientifically by planning different types of experiment and learning to record and present data accurately in different ways. We have

conducted investigations into separating materials, the rate of evaporation and, most recently, forces and magnetic materials - we are looking forward to completing the experiment for this in the final week.

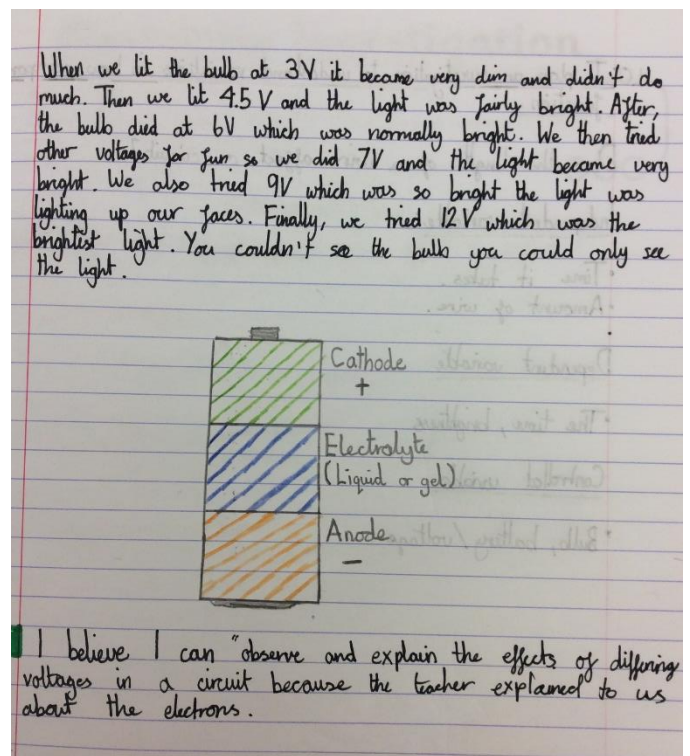
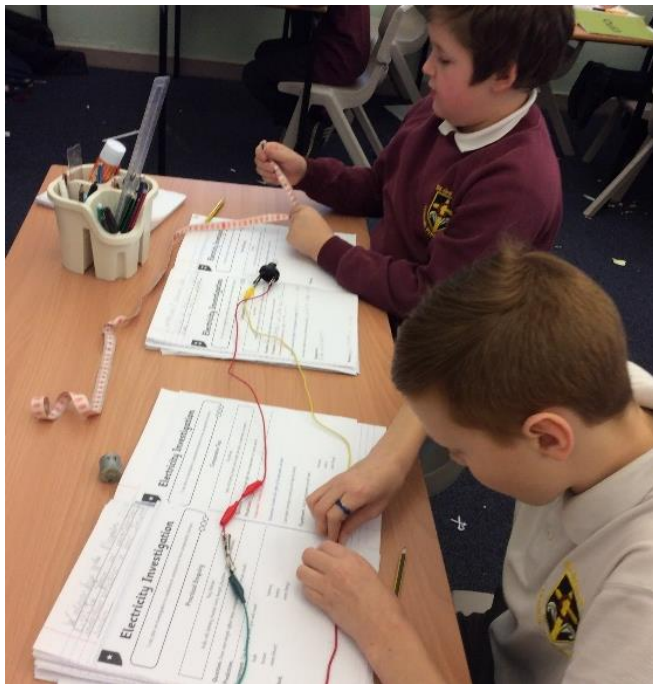
## Year 6

Year 6 have been studying Harry Potter in literacy. We are very proud of our writing boards, which display some of our best Harry Potter writing so far. One section showcases our amazing 'Basilisk' poetry and the other demonstrates our narrative writing skills as we tell a story about Potions Class. Feel free to come and look at our work and ask us about it!



On Wednesday 11th December 2019, Year 6 took part in a Science Day. This term, our topic has been all about electricity so Science Day was a great opportunity to explore the more practical side of the topic.

Pupils investigated the effects of voltage on a circuit and learned how to draw correct scientific diagrams. They then spent some time determining whether the components in a circuit are affected by certain conditions. Our Year 6 scientists then wrote up their findings in their science reports, just as they would in the real world! Everyone had a lot of fun!



## Choir

On Tuesday afternoon, St Gregory's Choir paid an awesome visit to some very special people in

our community. Every year, the residents at Eleonore House, just a two-minute walk from school, celebrate the Christmas season with a superb lunch followed by a raffle. The choir were invited to share some Christmas carols with the residents. This year, the choir showed off even more of their talents by not only singing, but also reading scripture and religious poetry to share with the residents the true meaning of Christmas. They read clearly and with excellent expression. As well as some traditional carols such as Away In A Manger and O Come All Ye Faithful, the choir impressed both the staff and residents of Eleonore House with some more modern Christmas hymns. Mary Did You Know was a particular favourite as the children sang this with passion and clarity. The afternoon ended with the children receiving a generous chocolatey gift from the staff of Eleonore House. We were extremely blessed after saying lots of prayers for no rain that we made it there and back safe and dry! The trip was one of several brilliant performances this term, which began with an Afternoon Tea to families in November and ended this week with the Trust Advent Reflection Service at Northampton Cathedral.

### **RE and Chaplaincy**

The Advent Term is always a busy one in a Catholic school and St Gregory's is no exception. We have been very fortunate to have been well supported by our pupils, parents and staff at the many different events we have been involved in.

Our Year Fours, who were commissioned as Mini Vinnies last June, have been very busy! They were visited by Alec Jewell, the Mini Vinnies and SVP Youth Officer who, after impressing them by turning up on his motorbike, reminded them of their 'See, Think and Do' mission. One way in which they have achieved this was by inviting the various SVP Conferences in our area to Thomas Becket Catholic School, where representatives from the Trust's four schools sung carols and shared festive refreshments with them.

The SGCPS Mini Vinnies also designed [beautiful prayer cards](#) to give to their new friends, which marked the season of Advent with scripture and the Mini Vinnie prayer.

Last Monday, we attended The Bible Society's annual carol service at Christchurch, where the choir was provided by Northampton School for Girls and the readers by St Gregory's. Alannah, Christy, Crystal, Eduard, Ethan, Lena, Lily, Mildred and Tavonga represented our school beautifully and were congratulated by Fr Andrew, and many other members of the congregation, on their confidence and clarity when speaking.

We have been delighted to welcome many members of our Catholic community to school this term; special thanks to Fr Andrew and Fr David who have celebrated Mass here with us. We are looking forward to inviting parents to share the experience of Mass with the children in school next term.

### **School Council**

The School Council have been meeting fortnightly to think of ideas on how to improve our school. So far this term, the children have been collecting pupil voice to decide on how we can improve our playground at lunch times and which clubs people would like to take part in.

## PE & Sport

Well done to everyone who took part in any sporting event or competition during the first 2 terms back at school. I am so pleased to see so many of our children enjoying their sport - and many of them pestering me on a daily basis to pick them for the next upcoming event. I hope their enthusiasm continues in to the New Year, as we build on the great success we have had already.

We currently sit top of [the Pacesetter Sports League](#), which is a huge achievement at this stage of the year, given that we are competing against 40-50 other schools across Northamptonshire. This is down to the efforts of all year groups in the school. Year 1 and 2 have won many events and trophies, but Year's 3, 4, 5, and 6 have all placed well in their respective events to earn more points for our school team. I hope all the children recognise that they are all contributing - not just the ones who are winning trophies.

Exciting times lie ahead in the New Year, and my aim is to get every single child in to at least one event throughout this school year. We currently have 47% of the school who have achieved this. We also have many new events to look forward to, including the KS1 New Age Kurling Finals, which we will host here at St. Gregory's.

I wish all parents, carers, and children a lovely Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Mr Williams

## Staffing Update

We send our very best wishes to three members of our team who are leaving us this Christmas. Miss Earl and Miss Perkins move on to pastures new with our thanks for their time in our school. Also, Mrs Cooper who has been part of the life of St Gregory's for many years. Mrs Cooper works tirelessly behind the scenes and is moving onto an exciting new challenge in another school.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Sundaralingam, in January, who will join our Year 5 team to teach the Ennis Class. Good luck all!



## A Christmas Blessing

*When prayers are said each evening,  
this happy time of year, wishes turn to family,  
friends and everyone held dear.*

*May your Christmas days be merry,  
and your New Year Day be bright.  
May peace and goodwill bring you joy  
and His blessings much delight.*

Amen

*Luke 1:14 – “And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.”*