



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Grange Road, Northampton NN3 2AX

Tel: 01604 403511/409582

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kirstie Yuen

www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk

Friday, 22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you received the letter Mrs Yuen sent to you, welcoming you and your child to St Gregory's Catholic Primary School. I also wanted to write to you to introduce myself. My name is Amy Lucy and I am Assistant Headteacher at St Gregory's. I will also be one of the teachers teaching your child in September, which I am really looking forward to.

Around this time, I would normally be writing to you to invite you to a welcome evening so that you could meet our team and find out information for when your child starts school in September. However, while the schools are still only partially open, it is difficult to confirm a date for this, so I wanted to write to you in the meantime. We know that you will have lots of questions about September, so I hope I can provide some of the answers to those questions in this letter. We are really hoping that we can still offer an information evening and transition days before September, but we will be in touch at a later date to confirm this.

We have added the PowerPoint we planned to present to you at the information evening onto our website, so please do read through this. However, I will also add some information on the next page which I think will be useful for you. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office. We are more than happy to answer any questions or give you any further information you might need.

Thank you again for choosing St Gregory's Catholic Primary School as your school of choice for your child. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Lucy

Assistant Head teacher.



Part of the St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academies Trust

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Registered Office: STCCAT Office, c/o Thomas Becket Catholic School, Becket Way, Kettering Road North, Northampton NN3 6HT



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The Foundation Stage Team

Mrs Lucy and Mrs Hamilton are the Foundation Stage class teachers for the Reception class. Mrs Hamilton will teach the class on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Lucy will teach the class on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs Blackah is our Foundation Stage HLTA who will lead small group work and teach some Phonics groups.

Mrs Beckett and Mrs Palmer are Level 3 Teaching Assistants who support within the classroom.

Starting date for school

Your child's first day of school will be Thursday 3rd September, in line with the rest of the school. Your child can start school full time straight away with the day starting at 8:55am and ending at 3:15pm.

We understand that some children may benefit from attending school part time and as a parent, this is completely your choice. We are offering Thursday 3rd September – Friday 11th September as the part time period, if you would like your child to attend part time first of all. Your child can either complete mornings (8:55am-11:30am and go home for lunch) or afternoons (Have lunch at home and then come in for 1pm until 3:15pm.) If you would like your child to start school part time, please do let the office know. Otherwise, we will assume that your child is starting school full time.

How the school day looks

In Foundation Stage, the children have daily lessons but also have independent learning time, which is when they learn through play. Our activities are carefully planned and resourced so that the children can apply what they have learnt in lessons to tasks around the classroom. A typical timetable for the day looks like this:

8:55am – Children are welcomed into the classroom and the register is taken

9am – Assembly

9:30am – Phonics lesson (The children are taught in small groups)

Independent learning



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11am – Literacy lesson

11:45am – Lunch time

1pm – Afternoon Register

1:10pm – Maths lesson (This will be taught across 2 groups)

During the afternoon, your child will have independent learning time as well as an RE/PSHE/PE lesson, depending on the day.

School Uniform

All children wear school uniform. Most items can be purchased in local stores. The school sweatshirt and other embroidered items are available from The Schoolwear Shop on Abington Square, Northampton. No other type of sweatshirt is allowed.

Jewellery is not allowed. Small stud earrings may be worn in pierced ears if necessary, but for safety reasons must be removed for P.E. and games. If your child cannot remove the earrings themselves please do not send them to school with earrings on days they have P.E. Watches may be worn by older children but must be removed for P.E. However, the school cannot be held responsible for their loss or for that of any other valuable item.

Compulsory Uniform Items

White polo shirt

School sweatshirt or cardigan with school badge

Grey school trousers, grey skirt or grey pinafore

Book bag

Grey, black or white socks

Grey or black tights

Sensible flat black shoes

P.E. Kit

Plain white t-shirt

Plain white or black shorts

Black plimsolls

Tracksuit (for winter games)

Trainers

Optional Uniform Items

School fleece with school badge for outdoor use



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School sun hat with school badge

P.E. kit bag with school badge

Grey school shorts or a red and white checked summer dress

All items of uniform, bags and lunch bags must be clearly labelled with your child's name. Please check on a regular basis in case labels have faded or fallen off.

We will let you know your child's PE day when they begin school, so that they know which day to have their kit in school.

Free School Meals

All Reception and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal. If your child would prefer a packed lunch, this is absolutely fine. Our school lunches are provided by the external catering company Coombs. We ask you to provide a packed lunch for the first week at school as this allows Coombs time to set your account up and enables you to book meals for the rest of the year. We will be in touch at a later date with further paperwork from Coombs.

Tapestry

We use a fantastic tool to record the children's online learning journals, which you can access from home. During the first week of school, we will set your account up so that you can log in and see your child's photos and videos from school and see what they've been learning. We find this a great communication tool between parents and school, and it means you can talk to your child about their days in school.

Advice for starting school

It is natural to feel anxious about your child starting school, but we are here to ensure that they settle quickly and develop a love of learning and their time at school! We have an open door policy, so we are always here if you have any questions or concerns. There are some things you can do to help your child before they start school:

- Help your child to develop the skills they need to be independent, such as going to the toilet, dressing themselves and looking after their possessions.



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- Get storybooks from the library about starting school and read them to your child.
- Encourage your child to label their pictures with letters from their names.
- Play with lots of play dough to develop fine motor skills!
- Play outdoors lots – this develops gross motor skills and children's confidence in trying new things (such as climbing a climbing frame.)
- Our door is always open – any worries you have, please come and talk to us. We are here to help and ensure your child has a great first year at school!