



# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Grange Road, Northampton NN3 2AX

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Headteacher: Mrs Niamh Rolph

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

7th September 2018

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back! We have had a really exciting start to our new year at St Gregory's. I look forward to speaking to you all as we move through the term.

During the summer break, I had the privilege of attending the World Meeting of Families in Dublin where Pope Francis was present and celebrated mass. He spoke about the importance of families sitting around the table together, spending time discussing their day; of the wisdom and joy that comes from children spending time with their grandparents; of the family being the place where children learn how to be around others: how to love and encourage them and how to care for those they might meet in society, including the more vulnerable and those in need. One of his key messages for families was that we should all be encouraged to say 'please, thank you and sorry' to one another – every day. He thought it was so important, in fact, that he asked us all to repeat the phrase several times during his speech. Perhaps that is something we can all practise this weekend.

Miss Jackson and I were lucky to be part of this pilgrimage to Dublin, which we attended with the Diocese, and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with some of the people who support St Gregory's, as well as some of our past pupils. One of these former pupils is Deacon David Donoghue, who has just begun his last year of seminary. We pray for him as he prepares to be ordained a priest next year and look forward to welcoming him back to school to celebrate mass with us when he has been ordained. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Brendan Seery from Northampton Cathedral for his support as he moves on to his new parish in Milton Keynes. I know he would be grateful for your prayers as he starts his new adventure.



We are also really excited to be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being opened as a school. Bishop Peter will be celebrating mass on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All members of our school community, especially past pupils and staff, are invited to attend. In order to prepare for the event, we are asking anyone who may have old photos, memories or memorabilia they wouldn't mind sharing with us to get in touch. If you know anyone who was part of our school community throughout this 50 years, please do either let them know or pass on their details to us so that we can invite them. You can get in touch with us on [50thcelebrations@sgcps.org](mailto:50thcelebrations@sgcps.org) or through the school office. We will be celebrating with the children at a separate mass in school. As always, your prayers for our school community are gratefully received.

## Parent Information Events

We will be holding information sessions for parents for Maths, phonics and Literacy over the autumn term where we will be sharing information about teaching methods, resources and ways you can best support your child at home. In order to accommodate as many people as possible and ensure



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that these sessions are worthwhile, we would like to know which timings would best suit you for these workshops.

Thursday mornings at 9am

Thursday afternoons at 2:30pm (to then collect your children at 3:15 and go home).

Thursday evenings 6pm

We would love to see as many of you there as possible so if you could please return the slip below to indicate if you would be interested in coming and which time session would best suit you, we will then decide and issue further information accordingly.

### Volunteers

We are eternally grateful to the volunteers who come to school to read with our children, play music during assemblies, help out in our library, speak to our children, pray with them and do some gardening for us. If volunteering is something you would be interested in, we would love you to get in touch with us. The application form is available on [the school website](#) or you can request one at the school office.

### Parent Governors

Thank you to all who applied for the position of parent governor. Our Chair of Governors will be in touch with you shortly regarding next steps.

### PTFA

Our next PTFA meeting will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6:00p.m. All are welcome.

### A message from Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Available in September 2018 – Bassoon, Oboe and Double Bass Clubs

Would you like to have a go at learning to play the bassoon, oboe or double bass?

The Music and Performing Arts Trust offers Bassoon, Oboe and Double Bass clubs on Thursday and Friday evenings in Northampton from September 2018. Students interested in starting to learn one of these instruments can sign up for just £30 per term, which includes the free loan of an instrument, a tutor book, one reed per term and group tuition.

If you think you might be interested in starting to learn one of these more specialised orchestral instruments please ask for an application form from the school or through the Music Trust directly on 01604 637117 or [office@nmpat.co.uk](mailto:office@nmpat.co.uk).

### Holy Communion

If you would like your child to take Holy Communion, Father Andrew will be holding an information briefing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2:45 pm in the Emmaus room.

### PE

Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school on the day they have PE. You will find this information on the outside door of your child's classroom. Please make sure they have the correct PE uniform, your child will need a plain white t-shirt, black or white shorts and black plimsolls/trainers.

**Maths, Literacy and Phonics Workshops**

I would be interested in attending workshops for Maths, Literacy and Phonics

My preferred timings for information workshops is: **Please tick as appropriate**

Thursday mornings at 9am

Thursday afternoons at 2:30pm (to then collect your children at 3:15 and go home).

Thursday evening's 6pm

Child's name: ..... Class .....

Parent/Carer signature: .....