

# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Grange Road, Northampton NN3 2AX T: 01604 403511/409582  
www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk

## 50 Years of St Gregory's Serving the Community

On 11<sup>th</sup> October, we were delighted to be joined in our anniversary celebrations by Bishop Peter and many of our community from 1968 to the present day. We were led in a beautiful mass service by Bishop Peter with many of our former Headteachers taking part in the service.

The memorabilia that has been saved over 50 years has illustrated many key moments in St Gregory's lifespan. Headteacher log books from day 1 until into the 1990s have helped our understanding of smaller but momentous changes in the school, such as the terror of the school office being run on Mrs Walls' typewriter to the age of the desktop computer!

Many of our current staff team have enjoyed finding themselves and their relatives in the original pupil admission register and class photos. The event was also an education for some newer members of the community who were unaware of the fire that damaged most of the original school building 30 years ago. We have felt the warmth of the community spirit at the time, through reading an abundance of support cards and letters. There are records of donations including funds for the rebuilding of the school to pencils and paper that were sent to the school in support of Head Mrs Carole Shoreland and her staff who showed tireless dedication to provide a continuous education to the children attending St Gregory's.

Spending time with some of the previous St Gregory's Headteachers has been a real privilege for me. In particular, I have been overwhelmed by the stories about how much this school has been formed by the support of the community around it. It was lovely to hear about how the community welcomed the first Headteacher, Mr Leo Bell, and his family when they moved to the area to open the school and about how it supported with resources and prayers during the time



## Upcoming Events

### October 19

Half term - school and nursery close  
3:15 p.m.

### October 29

School and nursery reopen

### October 31

Year 6 secondary school  
applications must be submitted to  
NCC by 5pm

### November 13

Parents' Evening

### November 14

Parents' Evening

### November 14

Open Day Event 9:30-11:30 a.m.

## Important Announcement

We still have music lessons  
available for guitar and  
violin tuition. See the office  
for details.

when school was destroyed by fire. I am forever grateful to the community around our school right now, who support by volunteering to listen to our children read, help in our library, run school discos, speak to our children or lead them in the rosary at lunch time, and to those that smile as they greet me each day. Preparing for our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations has proven to me that we are part of a very special community and I thank you for the



part that you play in that.



This term we also appointed our Pupil Leadership Team for this academic year. Congratulations to Ngozi and Leah who will be our Head Boy and Girl, Mateusz and Miley who will be our Deputy Head Boy and Girl and to Isaac and Mesoma who will be our Head Young Chaplains. You will

hear much more from them as the year progresses.

### Diocesan School's Mass, St Mary's Church Dunstable



Hundreds of children and young people from over 45 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Northampton gathered together to share worship in a truly uplifting Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle. This year the occasion was made even more memorable by the fact that Bishop Peter was

celebrating his 50 years as a priest and bishop.

Each school has written a special prayer for Bishop Peter which was presented in a book at the end of the Mass as a Spiritual bouquet.

The four schools from the St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academies Trust: Thomas Becket, St Gregory's, The Good Shepherd and St Mary's were together in the balcony with their Heads and Lead RE teachers. We were very proud of the behaviour and participation of our young people and well done to the pupils of St Mary's for their super readings. This was a wonderful occasion to celebrate our partnership as a Trust and finished with a colourful banner procession with every school involved.



## Nursery

Nursery have been very busy in their first term! Just some of the activities we have been doing include creating ourselves through art, and talking about our favourite things. We have been painting and sticking, riding bikes, exploring sand and water, engaging in fantastic role play and taking part in listening walks to explore the first phase of phonics. We would like to share some top tips of things to try at home:

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible, such as dressing themselves, putting on their own coat, and using the toilet. If you are in the process of toilet training and need some advice or support, please do not hesitate to speak to staff. We will try and help you along the way, and ensure that there is consistency at home and at nursery.
- Read, read, and read some more to your child! Reading with children has endless benefits. It builds up their vocabulary, their understanding of questions, allows for conversations, builds their imaginations, and most importantly, it is a nice bonding time between you and your child.
- Talk to your child as much as possible! Turn the radio down in the car and ask how their day was, ask what they can see or hear on the way to nursery...whenever you find time, encourage as much conversation as possible.
- We recommend limiting time on tablets to a minimum. We understand they can be very useful tools, and when controlled, can be wonderful learning resources, but please try to remember the power of playing games, playing outside, and reading together.

## Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage have enjoyed their first ever term at St Gregory's. There have been lots of new routines to get the hang of, new people to meet and lots of new things to learn! We have been really impressed with the children's keen interest in Phonics lessons and they are working so hard to learn how to read and write initial sounds! In Maths, we have been representing numbers by using different resources such as Numicon, bead strings and ten frames.

The children have really enjoyed their PE lessons and we were blown away by their independence when getting changed! The children are working on team work and their balance and co-ordination. Last week, the children enjoyed their first time on the big playground at lunchtime and showed us how grown up and sensible they are. We are really excited for our learning journey over the next year, which we will continue to add to Tapestry! We would like to thank our parents' for all their support so far this year and again welcome you to the St Gregory's community.

## Year 1

This half term, in Year One, we have been learning all about 'Superheroes' and the children are really enjoying the topic so far! In our Literacy we have been retelling the story of 'Supertato' and using our new writing skills to help us. During our theme lessons the children have been learning

about real life superheroes such as; Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, they have created fact files and used books and video clips to help them.

For the past few weeks the children have taken on a project in their ART/DT lessons and have created wonderful pieces of work. They began by designing their own superhero by thinking of what they would look like and the super powers they could have. From this they designed a cape, labelling it with ideas of how they could attach materials to each other. Finally, they started the process of making their capes and their designs were wonderful – just have a look!

## **Year 2**

In Year 2, our learning has been based on our exciting Dinosaurs topic. In Literacy, we have been learning the instructions for 'How to look after a Dinosaur'. This has involved creating a text map and actions to help us remember the text; we have really enjoyed seeing the children's enthusiasm and excitement when reciting the text map! This will then help us to write our own set of instructions independently. In Maths, we have been learning all about place value and securing our skills of addition and subtraction. We have seen some fantastic pictorial representations by the children which helps them to explain their answers. In addition to all of this, we have been busy in our Theme lessons and our lessons have included learning about aerial maps in Geography and learning about carnivore and herbivores and the life cycles of animals in Science.

## **Year 3**

Over the last month, Year 3 have been indulged in all things chocolate! To begin with, they researched different chocolate bar wrappers and what makes them attractive to consumers before designing their own. Following this, they made their own individual chocolate bars using melted chocolate and their choice of added ingredients, whilst also discussing the science behind the melting and setting of chocolate. Finally, the children wrapped their set chocolate bars in their own unique, colourful wrapper designs before taking them home to enjoy.

*"Cocoa beans come from the rainforest to the chocolate factory - they make the bars with robots and then it goes to the shops like Weston Favell, Costco and Tesco." Eri.*

*"The best part was melting and mixing the chocolate." Aaron.*

*"My favourite part was designing the wrapper." Melissa.*

*"The wrapper is to keep the chocolate safe so it doesn't melt in your pocket." Ryan.*

*"I put rainbow drops in my chocolate bar. I think it will be yummy! I think somebody will buy it." Jakub.*

## **Year 4**

Year 4 have had a very exciting start to the year with our Brass Project beginning last month and lasting until December. All of the children are learning how to play either a baritone, trombone or trumpet. They have all shown a real enthusiasm for learning these new skills and have already learned 2 tunes to play. We are very lucky to have Mrs Taylor and Mr Truman from the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust to teach the children. Please

encourage your children to be practising for 10 minutes every day - they could just use their mouthpiece to "buzz" if you feel the full brass sound is a little loud! We look forward to showcasing our children's talents in a concert at the end of the project - watch this space for more information.

### Year 5

Year 5 have been studying the text Beowulf, their enjoyment of the story can be seen in dramatic shading pictures of the main character. The pupils were asked to draw and shade a portrait of Beowulf, some opted for a full profile and others a face shot but all have used their shading skills to add depth to their pictures of this sinister character.

In the last few days, we have designed our own stained glass windows and we will continue this project after the half term break. We hope you will have a chance to see our windows on the [parents' evening](#) dates in November. We have also conducted a science experiment to investigate dissolving different materials, we left them overnight in warm water and wrote up the results in our science book.



### Year 6

The start of year 6 has been an exciting one. It was started off with a bang when all of the year 6 students visited Harry Potter Studios. From this, we have created some great writing, art and learnt about the history of film.

We were also lucky enough to be involved in a safety event at the Deco Theatre where we learnt about the safety of our community and how to protect ourselves and each other.

We now look forward to the second half term and continue our fantastic topic of 'Lights, Camera, Action!'



## More Important News

### PE and Sport Report

A new school year and a new sport for Years 3, 5 and 6 learning the skills of TAG Rugby (non-contact Rugby) in readiness for an inter house tournament in Term 2.

The school have also entered the Pacesetter Games, which started with Football for Years 1 and 2 on Friday 5th October and Benham Sports Centre. Each week teams will be selected for future competitions based on sporting aptitude and good behaviour.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October our Year 1 and 2 teams achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places and [brought home some silverware](#). On 12<sup>th</sup> October our Year 3 and 4 teams achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place. We didn't have the biggest entourages on the day but we were very pleased with the behaviour and teamwork of all our teams.

Years 5 and 6 played their matches on 19<sup>th</sup> October and faced some very strong competition! The result came down to penalties and we won 1<sup>st</sup> place! We are now top of [the league table for the Pacesetter Games](#). The teams were great ambassadors for the school and showed true team spirit.



There are also after school sports clubs being run by Pacesetter Sports and Wellbeing: Monday – Olympics, where a different sport is played each week (so far we have done Athletics, Basketball, Cricket and Dodgeball) spaces are available for this club; on Wednesday the Gymnastics Club is fully subscribed and the children are working hard towards their British Gymnastics Awards this Term; and Friday – TAG Rugby a club to enhance the core skills being taught in PE.

Next term the children will be learning the sport of Handball.

Anthony Raisbury PE

## Online Safety

### Fortnite

[National Online Safety](#), have a mission to make the internet a safer place for children through equipping school staff, parents and children with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers and how best to react should an incident arise.

This month they have announced a collaboration with two teachers, also known as YouTube's Musicalternative, to bring you some reminders about Fortnite:

The game has an age rating of 12 years +.

Gaming time can be regulated by the supervising adult.

Limits can be set for in app purchases.

Change the settings by going to Settings and then Parental Controls.

You can view the parents' guide to Fortnite on the National Online Safety website by [clicking here](#).

### Online Learning

Have you seen the fun literacy resources on our website? See the Literacy Learning Zone under the Pupil Zone dropdown menu or [click here](#).