

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that our children are once again preparing stories to be entered into BBC's 500 words competition. You can find further resources to help your child on the BBC website by clicking [here](#).

We are excited to announce that next term, we will be holding a Times tables and spelling competition! As you are aware, the children are constantly practising their tables and spellings each week and they have lessons which focus on teaching specific patterns within their year group and phases.

The spellings and tables test will take place in the week beginning 18th March and the children will compete against others in their classes. The highest scoring children will receive a certificate and then have the opportunity to compete against their year group.

If your child is successful at completing this stage of the competition, they will be awarded a certificate for the second level and will be invited to compete against their phase in the Spelling Bee or Tables championship – we will inform you if your child gets through to this round and there will be an opportunity for you to attend and watch the final of the competition.

The staff and children are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to showing off their skills!

We thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to challenge themselves and strive to be the best that they can be, and we look forward to all of the spelling stars and Maths champions that we will see emerging over the next term!

Also Thursday March 7th 2019, is World Book Day, to celebrate this occasion we would like to invite the children to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite story. Please do not feel you have to spend money on an outfit, your imagination will be all you need! If you need any ideas, please just ask or visit the [World Book Day website!](#)

We look forward to celebrating our love of books with you and hope you can join us!



Upcoming Events

February 15

Half term – school and nursery closes to pupils 3:15 p.m.

February 25

School and nursery reopen to pupils

February 26

Author visits school in lead up to World Book Day

February 27

Year 5 [Big Bang Trip](#)

March 1

Secondary School offer day

March 4

Years 5 & 6 STCCAT Rounders Tournament

March 6

Ash Wednesday
Trip to the Houses of Parliament

March 7

World Book Day

As you know, at St. Gregory's we are passionate about reading and exploring different texts with our children. As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, we would love to invite you to share a book and a biscuit with your child in our school library.

As space is limited, we will be inviting a year group at a time as follows:

FS: Monday 4th March: 9:00 – 9:30am

Year 1: Tuesday 5th March: 9:00 – 9:30am

Year 2: Thursday 7th March: 9:00-9:30am

Year 3: Monday 4th March: 2:45 – 3:15pm

Year 4: Tuesday 5th March: 2:45 – 3:15pm

Year 5: Thursday 7th March: 2:45 – 3:15pm

Year 6: Friday 8th March: 2:45 – 3:15pm

If you would like to book a place, please return the slip which is being sent home with your child today, indicating which day you would like to book for.

You may also have heard that children currently in year 3 will be tested in the summer of year 4 in how fluent they are in their times tables. You will know that this has always been a focus at St Gregory's. They will be tested online much like the way Times Tables Rockstars works. Every child has a login to Times Tables Rockstars so it would be good to encourage your child to practise their times tables with a view to ensuring they are both accurate and quick in their responses to the questions they are asked on the screen. If you would like any more information about this screening test or the resources we use in school to support your children, please just ask your child's teacher.

We send our congratulations to Ms Ulyatt, Ms Neal-Gonzalez and Ms Morris who have all given birth in the past term. All are doing well.

If it has been a while since you have checked our out [website](#), I would recommend you spending some time looking through it. In the next month, our website will be linked with those of the other Catholic schools in the town and will update regarding their news as well as our own. If you would like to keep up to date with information from school, follow us online on: [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

Our [dates for this academic year and next](#) are online so please be aware of this when booking family holidays. It is really important for every child to be at school on the days we are open. Government research shows that pupils who miss just 14 days of schooling between the age of 7 and 11 are 25% less likely to achieve expectations in their GCSEs than those with no absence. We work to prepare your children for everything that they will face in the future, so we would appreciate your support us in doing so. We finish up earlier than some other schools in town (Friday, July 19th) so there is no excuse for children having to miss school towards the end of term.

Niamh Rolph
Headteacher

Nursery

The nursery children have been learning about Chinese New Year, and have really enjoyed the story all about how Chinese New Year first started. They made some lovely lanterns where they had the opportunity to practise their scissor skills, and they tasted some delicious noodles and spring rolls!

The children have really enjoyed dressing up over the past few weeks, and have been engaging in role play in large groups. It has been lovely to see the children develop their friendships with each other, and this type of play has allowed for lots of lovely conversation!

To develop the children's communication skills, they were each invited to make their own Chatter Box filled with their favourite items, and bring it to nursery to talk about to their peers. Thank you to all the families that supported their children with this, it has been a delight to see each child develop their confidence to talk to others.

We have had a busy, fun packed few weeks of exploring and learning, and we are looking forward to seeing what the children's interests are after they've had a nice rest!

Foundation Stage

This term, Foundation Stage have been learning all about 'People who help us'. This is a topic we will continue to learn about next term as the children are enjoying it so much! So far, we have learnt all about doctors, nurses and vets. We really enjoyed a visit from Mr Panter who brought his bus in and told us all about his job. We learnt all about the engine and had a go in the driving seat. We even got to beep the horn! We would welcome any parents who would like to tell us about your job and talk to the children. If this is something you are interested in, please e-mail Miss Kelk on assistanthead.ak@sgcps.org and we can organise a time for you to come in.

We are really excited that the children are using their phonics to write words and sentences and the children love their weekly writing task where they get to show off their skills! Recently we have been learning all about Chinese New Year and tasted Chinese food at snack time. We then wrote about our favourite dishes as part of our Literacy work.

Year 1

This term we have begun to explore the world with Paddington. We used our knowledge of science to make boats in which Paddington sailed from Peru. Only one of our boats sank and we discovered that it was because it had holes in the bottom! We have used our senses to discover the world around us. We touched a variety of things we could not see, used our sense of hearing and sight to discover more about our surroundings. Mrs Claris made us smell a few different things some of which were not nice\! We tasted lemon juice, marmalade, mashed banana and baby food... Yuck!

We have made plans of our classrooms and the school and will be writing a letter to Mrs Rolph suggesting ways of improving the school. A swimming pool, slides and swings are on the plans so far! In Maths, we are looking at inverse operations and will be getting our rulers and scales out next term.

Year 2

Year 2 have been working really hard this term learning about Africa. We have been linking all of our writing, theme, science and RE together and have been really concentrating on our handwriting and presentation. Some of us have been able to earn our sparkly pencil licence for our consistency in our handwriting. We have been learning about different habitats and how animals are adapted to their habitats, including the desert, arctic and the ocean. We had great fun watching some of David Attenborough's blue planet and seeing the amazing animals in our world. In theme we have been learning about the continents and oceans of our world and can identify Africa on a world map. During our RE sessions we have been looking at the Bible and the importance of the different messages and stories that we can learn from the Bible. We are now starting our topic on thanksgiving and thinking about why we should be grateful. Reading comprehension has also been a big focus and we now have a different variety of activities that the children work on daily and all of the children are really focused and engaged in this. We also love working on our PSHE scrapbooks and this term have done a lot of work on keeping our minds and bodies healthy and thinking about how we can stay safe on the internet.

Year 3

In Literacy this term, we have been learning all about fairy tales and writing them up as newspaper reports. The children have enjoyed acting out different stories and interviewing different characters. We had fun looking at different kinds of newspapers and have been watching Newsround to keep up with current events.

In Theme, we have been learning about and researching different cities around the UK and how they differ in their geographical features. Linking with our topic of Around the World, we have learnt about landmarks that are human and physical in the UK.

We also had a very special visit from Deacon David who taught us all about the Rosary and sung lots of songs.

Year 4

To launch this term's topic, Year Four took part in a treasure hunt around the school. The children had been consolidating their knowledge of four figure grid references and had been learning how to be even more specific, using six figure grid references to give the locations of different features on a map.

The children were then split into groups and were given a map of the school with six figure grid references which would lead them to the clues. These clues were letters which the children rearranged to make key words from our new book...101 Dalmatians! We are thoroughly enjoying reading the story of Pongo and Missis' lost Dalmatian puppies in class and Year 4 have produced some excellent story settings and play scripts based on the novel.

Year Four have produced some brilliant artwork so far this term, all linked to their new topic, 'Music To Our Ears.' The children been working with watercolours to create a bleed on a sheet of manuscript paper with the shape of a butterfly, dragonfly or beetle. They worked hard to learn to blend their

watercolours, softening the colours and dragging their paintbrush to control the flow of paint. The children have also worked on learning to draw with correct proportions with some super outcomes. In 101 Dalmatians, Mr Dearly is a composer who plays the piano so we tried our hands at drawing our own pianos using pencil and then either chalk or charcoal to practise using a different media. Miss Jackson and Miss Marum are looking forward to creating a beautiful new display in the corridor to celebrate the children's wonderful work!

Year Four were lucky enough to be visited by Deacon David earlier this term. Our topic in RE was 'Community' and as part of this we wanted to explore the role of a deacon in more detail. Deacon David gave us a talk on what it means to be a Deacon, the qualities needed to succeed in this vocation and the training involved. Then, he answered any of our questions about his call to the priesthood. Possibly our favourite part of Deacon David's visit was our music time! We sang Making Melodies together and also shared the songs we had written in our previous RE lesson. We had great fun and Deacon David was seriously impressed by our musical talent!

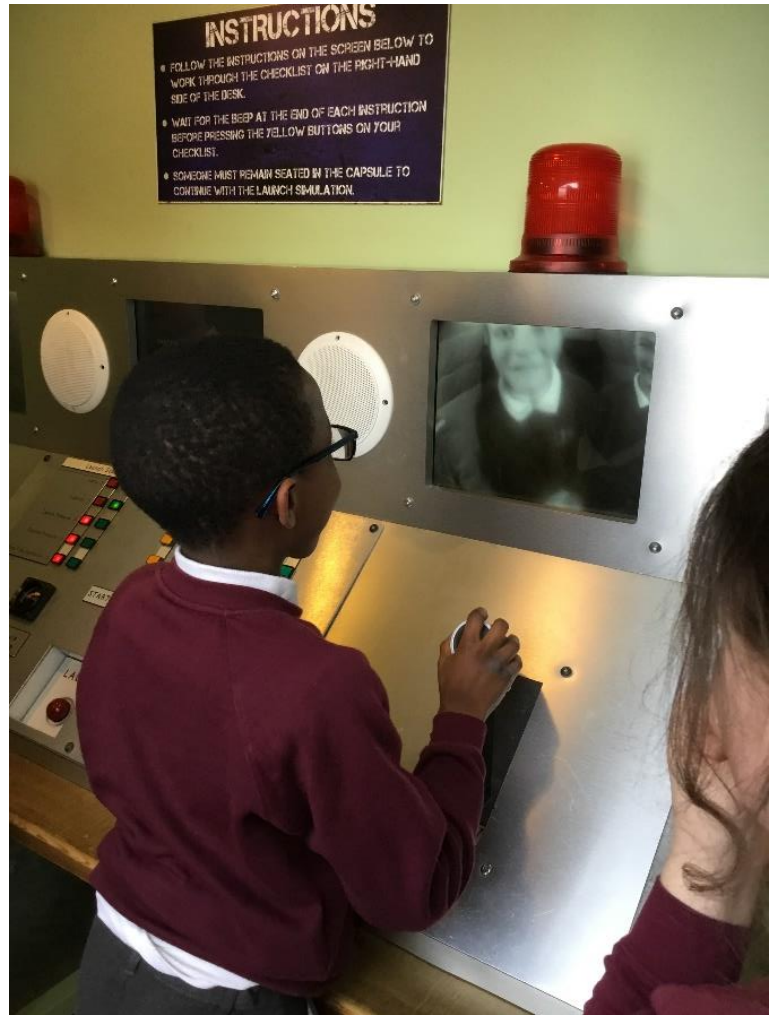
Year 5

Year 5 spent an amazing day at the National Space Centre in Leicester, learning all about space travel and the planets. Our first journey took place through the solar system as we enjoyed a show in the Patrick Moore planetarium. We looked at the planets close up, found out what they are really like and saw how they orbit the Sun.

We then explored lots of hands on exhibits such as; working at mission control, launching our own rockets and testing our reactions as astronauts. Filip said during the trip, "this is as wonderful as the endless universe!" We all agreed and would definitely want to return for another visit.

Later on, we took part in a rocket science show, where we saw working rockets made from plastic bottles and fuel. We went up 144 steps to the top floor of the rocket bay and took in the sights and sounds of the Apollo programme. We saw a Soyuz capsule close up! Year 5 had a fantastic science day and we look forward to putting some of our new-found knowledge to the test in design technology!





Year 6

This term Year 6 have been fully engaged with their new topic: 'World War One'. The children have been looking into the war and what it must have been like to sign up and fight on the front line for their country. They have been taking on roles of soldiers and imagining themselves in that situation. During Art, the pupils have been designing World War One planes to a scale model size' and as scientists, we have been investigating the heart whilst securing our knowledge on different parts of the heart and how exercise affects our heart rate.

We are super proud of our children and cannot wait for next term.

FAMILY FITNESS CLASS

We still have a few places available for this free club on Tuesdays 3:20-4:20 pm Open to pupils of all ages, and their adult. Contact the school office 01604403511 for more details or to sign up.



Sport and PE

This term Years 3, 5 and 6 PE lessons have been focusing on Netball and Basketball skills and developing into these into team games.

We entered several Pacesetter Games Tournaments on Friday mornings and added to our trophy shelf once more, whilst gaining experience in representing the school and the opportunity to meet other schools through sport. Next term there will be more opportunities to represent the school in Unihoc, Handball and Athletics. Selection is based on ability, participation in lunch time try-outs and good behaviour in school.

We also held two Handball House Competitions (mixed teams) for Years 3/4 and Years 5/6, following on from the success of the Girls' Football Tournament last term. The winning teams will be awarded their trophy in the end of term assembly. House Captains gained great experience in selecting, organising and managing their House Teams.

After School Clubs were back with a slight change: Mondays – Olympics (try a new sport every week); Wednesday – KS1 Gymnastics working towards British Gymnastics Award Scheme and developing skills; Friday – KS2 Gymnastics. All attendees to After School clubs are assessed each term for either Multi Sports Awards and British Gymnastics National Level Award Schemes for which a badge and certificate is available at £4.00, to celebrate each child's achievement, from the Pacesetter website <https://www.pacesettersports.co.uk/online-store/> or from myself if you prefer to pay cash. Each award is presented in our Friday Celebration Assembly to promote achievement.

Finally, we have a range of Pacesetter Merchandise for sale at our online store including Hoodies for outdoor PE, leotards for Gymnasts, T-Shirts for After School Club, Water Bottles and PE Bags all available online or via myself.

Looking forward to more Sporting success at St Gregory's next term.
Mr Raisbury – School Sports Coach
Pacesetter Sports

Sponsor Gregory's Gladiators!

We're seeking an individual or family-friendly businesses that want to make a positive impact in the community and to extend their marketing efforts by sponsoring our new sports kit.

Over the school year we take part in many sports in various locations including other schools, public parks and sports centres. In the six weeks since the start of 2019 we have taken part in 8 events and had over 24 teams represent us in several sports.

In the next few months we will receive the first delivery of our new football/sports kit comprising of a claret top, black shorts and claret socks. If you're interested in finding out more information about the benefits of sponsorship and the financial contribution required please contact our Headteacher Niamh Rolph by telephoning the school office 01604 403511 or emailing ncooper@sgcps.org



PHSE

The PSHE ambassadors and the school council have been very busy meeting to organise assemblies to inform the rest of the school about some really important issues. This term, the school council spoke to the school about the importance of healthy eating and encouraged all children to bring in a healthy snack to school to eat on their break. We have also purchased some 'healthy eating' stickers which will be awarded to children who are working hard to eat healthily!

In our next assembly, we celebrated 'Safer internet day' and we had some fantastic drama scenes from year six who spoke about stranger danger on the internet. The PSHE ambassadors and anti-bullying team led the assembly and discussed important issues such as getting permissions for apps, not talking to strangers online and always letting an adult know what we are doing online.

Our PSHE lessons this term have also focused on children's mental health day, which was on Friday 15th February. We have learnt about this in either phase assemblies or in our class lessons. We know that to keep our minds healthy and happy, we need to eat healthily, do exercise every day and get lots of sleep! We also know that if we stay up late watching TV or on our iPad, this could affect our mood the next day as we won't sleep as well. There are some fantastic meditation and breathing exercises on a free site called www.gonoodle.com if you'd like to try any at home.

Parent and Baby Group

Due to the success of our parent and baby/toddler group, the PTFA and some of our parents are continuing to run the group on a Wednesday morning from 9:15am until 10:15am. Parents and members of our community are welcome to come and join us in the Emmaus room for a cup of tea, a chat and lots of fun for your little ones!

Important Notice

Thank you for being considerate to our staff and pupils when onsite, we encourage a calm school environment and appreciate you respecting this when you visit us.

Please note swearing, abusive language or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. In such an event you will be asked to leave the premises and you will be reported to the Police.

Thank you.



LEARN ENGLISH

English for speakers of other languages
(ESOL)

Classes starting in your local area.

For those who are unemployed.

Free childcare available.

For more information please contact:

Targeted Support Team– 01604 791537



PARENTING COURSES

For Parents of Children from birth-19 years

Solihull – Understanding
your child's behaviour.

Birth-12 years

Incredible Years

3-12 years

Teen Triple P

12-19 years



Courses are all free of charge, and certain courses will provide childcare.

For further information and to book a place, please contact The Targeted Support Team on
01604 791537 OR 01604 413504

Courses running from Kingsthorpe, Upton, Spring Lane, Blackthorn, Thorplands and Ecton Brook Children's Centres.



Incredible Years.

The goals of this programme is to support young children's behaviour problems and promote their social and emotional development.

There are 2 programme offered over 14 to 20 weeks, of 2 hour weekly sessions. Aimed for parents of children aged 3 to 6 years and 6 to 12 years.



Solihull, Understanding your child behaviour.

The programme is about understanding how your child is feeling, tuning into your child's needs, responding to your child's feelings, different styles of parenting, having fun together, Communication, the importance of sleep and finally self-regulation and anger.

This course is offered over 10 weeks, of 2 hour weekly sessions. Aimed for parents of children from birth to 12 years.



Triple P

This programme offers support for behavioural and emotional problems in children from 5-19 years.

The aims are to prevent problems in the family, school and community. To encourage children to reach their full potential in life.

The course is offered over 9 weeks, of 2 hour weekly sessions.