



St Gregory 's Catholic Primary School

Start of term letter

Lent Term 2

23rd February 2026

Dear Parents, Children and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed your half term break and are well rested and ready for another busy and eventful half term ahead.

As we journey together during Lent, I share with you the words of Pope Leo in his Lenten message 2026,



'Dear Friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love. I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.'

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life and is a time to fast from those things or habits that may have become a roadblock to our relationship with Christ. As part of our almsgiving, St Gregory's 's will be supporting Mary's Meals Charity.

Lent Activities 2026

This Lent we are supporting the Charity, Mary's Meals. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE is the Founder of the charity Mary's Meals, a non-profit organisation that provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every school day. Mary's Meals is currently serving 3,011,060 children in communities where hunger and poverty would prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. A daily meal served in school has a positive impact on enrolment, attendance, and performance in class, and Magnus believes it could hold the key to eradicating child hunger altogether. The average cost of feeding a child for a whole school year with Mary's Meals is just £19.15. With one porridge meal costing 10p this really is a tangible way the children of St Gregory's can make a difference. Together let's see how many meals we can help to provide! For further details of this worthwhile cause and the impact of its work please see:

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>



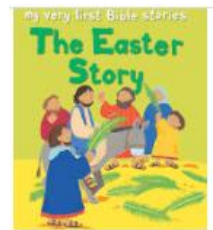
Growing closer to God through Prayer

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer. During this time each class will have a special Lent Prayer Bag that the children will take in turns to take home. Guidance on how to use the prayer bag will be included. Please look out for this and encourage your child to take special care of it, while in their care. Please do take a photo of your child/family using the Prayer Bag and send it into the School Office to be shared on our newsletter.



Lent Prayer
Bag Guide

life.



Important Dates to Note:

Wednesday 25th February - Mary's Meals assembly and workshop for The GIFT Team

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day – Children can dress up as their favourite book character.

Wednesday 11th March - 10p challenge - in support of Mary's Meals

Tuesday 17th March – Rise Theatre 'Treasure Within'

Wednesday 18th March 5pm – Lent Reflection at the Cathedral

Friday 20th March – Oaty Biscuit Bake Sale - 50p a biscuit at breaktime- in support of Mary's Meals

Wednesday 25th March – Coffee Morning in aid of Mary's Meals at 10.15am in the School Hall. More information to follow.

Friday 27th March - Non-Uniform day in support of Mary's Meals

World Book Day Vouchers

Each child will be receiving their £1 Book Voucher to exchange in a shop for one of the special World Book Day £1 books or to receive £1 off another book. Please do use these!

It is really important to us that **every child and young person believes that they are readers** and to give them the opportunity to have a book of their own that they have chosen for themselves.

The school will mark World Book Day on Thursday 5th March and invites all children and staff to dress up as their favourite book character in exchange for a donation for Gregory Care. There will be activities in school for the children to participate in on this day too.

Thank you for your support in celebrating World Book Day!

Just ten minutes
of sharing stories
daily makes a huge
difference to a child's
future success.



The amount a child reads is the biggest factor affecting their academic success!

We really appreciate your support and hope that everyone has fun helping us raise money for Mary's Meals. Together, we look forward to growing in our faith closer to God during this Lenten Season.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs K. Yuen

Executive Headteacher