

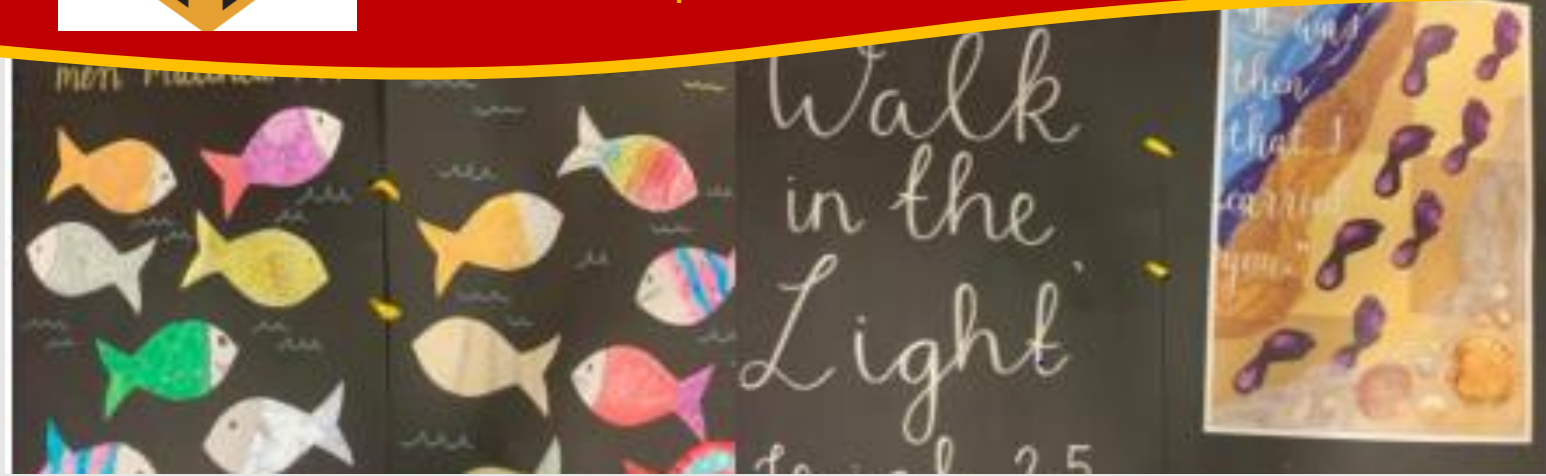


St Gregory's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Website: www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk

Tel: 01604 403511 Email: office@nrg.olicat.uk

Newsletter 11th September 2026



"Walking together in the Light of the Lord."

A Message from Miss Marum...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much to all those who attended Meet the Teacher on Wednesday. It is always really helpful for our staff to get to know parents. Later this month, we will have Parents' Evenings and it is expected that an appointment is made for every child. We will share with you soon details about how to book this.

A gentle reminder too, that all children are expected to be in their classrooms by 8.55am each day. We operate a drop-off system in the mornings from 8.45am for children in Reception to Year 6. Alternatively, you should park sensibly and safely off-site and walk in to school with your child. In the afternoons, all parents must park off-site and walk in to collect their child.

We have lots happening next week in school: Taster sessions for Hotshots Basketball, Flu Vaccinations and lots of exciting learning!

We all look forward to seeing you next week!

**Best wishes,
Miss Marum**



Atomic Tom Returns – Science Comes to Life!

We were delighted to welcome Atomic Tom back to St Gregory's today! He gave the children a fantastic taste of what to expect from the Atomic Science Club, which starts later this month and runs for five weeks. With fun, hands-on experiments, the club encourages children to explore the science behind the world around them. Today, Atomic Tom taught us about the science of flight. As one child put it:

'Atomic Tom taught us about how aeroplanes stay in the sky. He then used 'Babs' (a leaf blower) and some toilet paper to show us the science behind how it works. There was toilet paper everywhere!'

Look out for a flyer coming home today with children in Year 1-Year 6 with details of how to book!



Term Dates

Advent Term 2026

Term starts: Thursday 3rd
September 2026

Term ends: Friday 23rd October
2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October 2026-Friday 30th October 2026

Term starts: Monday 2nd
November 2026

INSET Day: Friday 27th November 2026

Term ends: Friday 18th December
2026

Find full term dates [here](#).

RSE Consultation – Your Views Matter

We will soon be inviting parents and carers to take part in our RSE Parent Consultation. You will receive a parent log in which will enable you to find out more by completing Ten Ten's short Parent Consultation Course. This will explain the new statutory guidance, our Catholic approach and the Life to the Full programme.

We will also host a Parent Meeting in school on Wednesday 30th September from 2.30pm-3pm.

Further details, including the consultation deadline and links will be shared with parents on Monday.

Greet your child with a smile, not a mobile!

We kindly ask all parents and carers to remember to put their mobile phones away and not use it while on the school site.

This is important for the safety and wellbeing of all our children - a smile, eye contact and warm 'hello' can make a real difference!

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe.



Dressing for Success: Our Uniform Matters

We would like to remind families of the importance of children coming to school in the correct uniform each day. We really appreciate that many families already take great care to ensure their children are smartly dressed and ready to learn. Please could we remember the following:

- PE Kit should be plain black bottoms and a plain white t-shirt with no logos.
- Socks with school uniform should be plain white or grey, with no logo.
- Children are permitted to wear one pair of small, stud earrings. Hoops and dangly earrings are not suitable for school. All earrings must be removed for PE days.



Aspiration-Resilience-Awareness-Compassion

Free School Meals

From September 2026, there will be three types of free school meals entitlement

Since April 2018, around 25,000 children and young people across Northamptonshire have had free school meals protected under transitional protection.

This has meant children have continued to be able to enjoy free school meals (and additional support), even if family circumstances have changed. This transitional protection will cease at the end of the current academic year (July 2026).

From September 2026, some children may no longer be entitled to free school meals. Some may have a different entitlement, whilst some families may become eligible for free school meals for the first time.

The 3 Types of free school meals

1

Targeted Free School Meals (TFSM)

Equivalent to current benefits related free school meals (FSM)

Who Qualifies:

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit with annual household income under £7,400 (£616.67 a month)
- Families with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) - subject to separate criteria

This gives access to:

- Free school meals at school during term-time
- The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)
- Other support that may be available at school
- Parent allowance for costs such as uniform, trips and books

Funding:

- Schools will receive Government funding for these meals
- Schools receive Pupil Premium funding for these recipients

Eligibility checks:

- Eligibility will be checked in line with Government guidance
- Applicants confirmed as eligible remain eligible for the full academic year

2

Expanded Free School Meals (EFSM)

New criteria from September 2026

Who Qualifies:

- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit
- No limit on annual household income

This gives access to:

- Free school meals at school during term-time

This doesn't give access to:

- The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) for the 26/27 academic year
- Other support that may be available at school
- Parent allowance for costs such as uniform, trips and books

Funding:

- Schools do not receive specific funding for these meals
- Schools will not receive Pupil Premium funding for these recipients

Eligibility checks:

- Eligibility will be checked in line with Government guidance
- Applicants confirmed as eligible remain eligible for the full academic year

Government funding will be paid to schools between 2026 and 2029 towards the cost of expanded FSM recipients

3

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

Been in place since September 2014

Who Qualifies:

- All children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 attending school, regardless of family circumstances

This gives access to:

- Free school meals at school during term-time

This doesn't give access to:

- The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) for the 26/27 academic year
- Other support that may be available at school
- Parent allowance for costs such as uniform, trips and books

Funding:

- Schools receive Government funding towards the cost of these meals (based on average uptake)
- Schools will not receive Pupil Premium funding for these recipients, unless eligible for TFSM

Eligibility checks:

- Eligibility checks are not required for UIFSM, just contact your school
- If unsure about TFSM or EFSM then you should still check your eligibility via the local authority checker

What you need to do next -

If you haven't already you can check your updated eligibility via your local authorities FSM checking service via either:

- North Northamptonshire Portal: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parent-portal>
- West Northamptonshire Portal: <https://forms.westnorthants.gov.uk/xdp/form/839>

If you have any questions please contact your local authority or child's school.



Aspiration-Resilience-Awareness-Compassion