

St. Gregory's News



Website: www.st-gregorys.co.uk

email: office@st-gregorys.co.uk

Facebook: @stgregorysrcschool

July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. I can hardly believe that we only have a few weeks before the end of term. This time of year is always very busy and this year is no different. It is lovely to see our children going out on educational visits again and I must say that their behaviour has been exemplary. They really are a credit to you and to our school.

I look forward to sharing our end of term activities with you on our school website and Facebook page.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Dunne

Sacramental Preparation

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to run the Sacramental Preparation programmes last year. Having spoken with Fr Weymes, we hope for the programmes to begin in the Autumn Term. Children in Year 4 and Year 5 who are baptised Catholics will be able to join in the programme. The programme is delivered by catechists from St. Gregory's Church and school staff. Watch out for more information in the parish newsletters. This is an important part of our children's faith journey and we hope that children in Year 4 and Year 5 who are not baptised Catholic will still be part of the programme and join in our school sessions.

Reading Week

We had a great response to our extreme reading challenge and were kept entertained with all the lovely pictures we received. The winners from each class can be seen on our Facebook page.

Thank you so much for supporting our Sponsored Read. We hoped to read 500 books across the school but actually managed to read a staggering 1854! We also managed to raise £1942.50 (to date). The money will be used to buy new books for our fabulous new library area. If you have not returned your sponsor money, please can you send it into school before Friday? Many thanks once again we really do have the best parents!

Sports Day

Next Tuesday we will be holding our annual Sports Day. Children can come into school in their school PE kit. I am hoping for good weather so please ensure children have a hat/cap, water bottle and have sun cream applied. We are sorry that parents are not able to come to sports day – but there will be lots of photos on Facebook and the school website.

Healthy School Award

Please support our 'Healthy School' by not sending in birthday cakes or sweets to celebrate birthdays.

SAPA

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in all of our fundraising activities throughout the year. SAPA has provided financial support for us including: our new library shelves, subsidised transport for educational visits and have provided refreshments at various events over the year. Subscribers to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) have raised £100.66 to date – this is money that is donated from online retailers when you shop via the easyfundraising app. Once you have registered and selected our school, a percentage of the money you spend is given to us without any cost to you. If you have not done so already, please consider registering.

We are very grateful to Jeanette and her team but are always looking for new volunteers. If anyone would like to take a more active role in SAPA or would just like to join in the meetings to give your views we hope to hold a face to face meeting early in the Autumn Term to get our fund raising back on track St Gregory's style next year!

Staffing Update

As you are aware Paul, our caretaker, retired at the end of last week. He was very moved by the gifts the children had made and presented to him. I know I speak for all when I say Paul will be greatly missed. Governors have recruited a new caretaker, Mr Glen Blackwood, who is looking forward to joining our team before the end of term.

Our much loved lunchtime supervisor, Mrs Margaret Ward, has also decided to retire at the end of this term. She has been involved with St. Gregory's school for the last 32 years. We are grateful for the years of service that Margaret has given our school community and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

School Uniform

Please can I remind parents that black school shoes are part of our school uniform. As mentioned in my previous newsletter this has always been the case. It appears that more and more of our pupils are beginning to wear trainers for school. I do understand so close to the end of term that parents are reluctant/not in a position to buy new shoes but come September we are asking that school shoes are worn every day and trainers will form part of the PE kit.

Covid

We are all too aware that COVID infections are continuing to rise in our area, and particularly amongst children of school age. We continue to take all precautions in school to keep our community safe and I would respectfully ask you to do so too. With 2 bubbles closed at the moment and many other children self-isolating from other year groups we sincerely hope to keep all of our classes in school until the end of term and no one wishes to have to isolate during the first few weeks of the summer holidays!

Please can I remind you that if you need to contact school regarding Covid, please use the covid@st-gregorys.co.uk email. This email is monitored over the weekend and is the best and quickest way to ensure you receive a response. Messages sent through Facebook Messenger or other email addresses will not be responded to. Many thanks for your support.

South Tyneside Homes

We have had a request from South Tyneside Homes Welfare support officer, Heather Wake, to ask if it is possible to share information with them regarding the isolation of a class or year group bubble.

Heather's team administer the Track and Trace "Isolation support grant" on behalf of South Tyneside Council.

Where children are having to isolate as a contact from a bubble their parents who have to take time off work are able to claim a grant (subject to eligibility).

As part of the criteria, Heather's team has to verify with the school that the bubble has been sent home. If the information isn't shared the parent may not get the grant.

If you are applying for this grant, please let us know and with your permission we will confirm with South Tyneside Homes that your child has had to self-isolate.

Dates for your Diary:

7.7.21	Reception and Year 1 visit to Whitehouse Farm
12.7.21	Year 6 Leavers' Liturgy with cluster schools
13.7.21	Sports Day
14.7.21	Year 6 visit to Adventure Sunderland
16.7.21	End of year reports out to parents
20.7.21	Y6 Leavers' Mass
21.7.21	Year 6 celebration afternoon
23.7.21	End of term



Good Luck England!