ST GREGORY'S Catholic Primary School

SHINING IN LITTLE WAYS FOR ALL TO SEE

"Let your light shine before others." – Matthew 5:16

Belong Believe Achieve Together

Headteacher Newsletter | November 2026

Faith • Community • Opportunity

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable October half-term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2 November for an exciting half-term of learning, faith and celebration. There are lots of wonderful opportunities planned and we are looking forward to sharing them with you.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Shaughnessy Headteacher

Walking the St Gregory's Way

At the heart of all we do are our **SHINE** values:

S	H	I	N	E
Show Respect	Help Each Other	Include Everyone	Never Give Up	Ensure Safety

We teach, **catch and seek** opportunities for our children to live out these values every day. **You belong. You matter. You have something to contribute.**

NEW! Attendance Spin the Wheel

How it works:

Every class with 98% attendance or above across the week earns a spin in Celebration Assembly. A pupil representative from the class spins the wheel for a whole class reward!



11 Amazing Prizes:

1. Pizza Party (special jackpot!)
2. Extra Playtime
3. Movie Afternoon
4. Non-Uniform Day
5. Bring a Toy Day
6. Swap Seats Day
7. Arts & Crafts Afternoon
8. Dodgeball Session
9. No Pencils Lesson
10. Class Disco
11. Golden Ticket (approved Class Choice)

Every School Day Matters!

Good attendance and punctuality help children learn, develop friendships and make the most of school life.

Our attendance target is 98%.

Please send your child to school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to attend.

We understand that illness is sometimes unavoidable and children's health and wellbeing always come first.

Not sure whether your child should attend?

The NHS has helpful guidance on common illnesses, including when children should stay at home.

NHS Read the guidance here: Is my child too ill for school? – NHS

November – A Time to Remember

November is a special month in the Catholic Church when we remember and pray for those who have died. Children will have opportunities for prayer and reflection in school.



Our **Mini Vinnies** will be selling poppies in school in support of the **Royal British Legion.**

Further information about dates and donations will follow.

Curriculum Cafés

We look forward to welcoming families to our Curriculum Cafés.

You can explore how we teach key skills, discover classroom resources and enjoy a learning activity with your child.

Please check Arbor for your year group's session details and to book your place.



Advent and Christmas Preparations

We look forward to Advent prayer, seasonal learning, celebrations and opportunities to share hope and kindness with others.



Children in Need

Friday 20 November



We're Going Spotty for Pudsey!

This year, St Gregory's will be celebrating Children in Need a week later than the national event, as we have other exciting activities taking place in school.

Children are invited to **wear spots, bright colours or Pudsey-inspired outfits!**

In exchange, we would be grateful for a donation towards our Christmas Fayre:

- **Chocolate** (for our chocolate tombola)
- **Bottles** (alcohol, bubble bath, perfume or other suitable bottled gifts for our bottle tombola)

Donations are voluntary, and all children are welcome to join in!

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Christmas performance dates and further arrangements will be shared on Arbor.

Key Dates – November 2026

- **Mon 2 Nov** – School reopens
- **Mon 2 Nov** – Year 6 arithmetic & spelling sessions begin (8:30am)
- **Thu 5 Nov** – Year 6 SATs information session (2:30pm)
- **Fri 20 Nov** – Children in Need Spotty Day (donation of chocolate or bottles)
- Further Advent and Christmas dates will be shared on Arbor.

St Gregory's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
SOUTH SHIELDS

Shining in little ways for all to see.
MATTHEW 5:16

Parent Survey

Your views make a difference

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality education and support for every child, we are gathering feedback from all parents and carers across our primary and secondary schools.

Your views are essential in helping us understand what is working well and where further improvements can be made.

We would love your views on...

- The quality of education and support for your child
- Our communication with families
- How we address any concerns or issues (for example, when children fall out or have a disagreement). **All schools have children who fall out – this survey is about how we deal with things and support children to resolve issues.**
- How useful you found our Parents' Evening and opportunities to discuss your child's progress
- Our wider school life, including the lovely family events we organise (such as liturgies, celebrations, curriculum cafés, loved ones activities and community events)
- What is working well and what we could do even better.

Parent Survey

DEADLINE: Fri 13 Nov, 3:30pm

Scan the QR code to complete the survey

Your feedback helps us to keep making St Gregory's the very best it can be for all of our children.


A supportive and caring community


Faith, values and character


High quality teaching and learning


Strong home-school partnerships


Wonderful family events

The information collected through this survey will be used to inform school improvement planning, enhance provision for pupils, and strengthen communication and partnership between home and school.

We kindly ask that you complete the survey by the stated deadline.

All responses will remain confidential and analysed by authorised members of staff only. Our Privacy Notice, which can be accessed via the school website, explains how we process your personal information.

Thank you in advance for your time and valuable input.

RESPECT • KINDNESS • INCLUSION • PERSEVERANCE • SAFETY

ST GREGORY'S

Catholic Primary School || South Shields

Shining in little ways for all to see

Faith Community Opportunity

Bonfire Night & Firework Safety

Advice for families from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service



Choose organised displays

Professionally organised firework displays are the safest option. They are managed by trained professionals with appropriate safety arrangements.



Be considerate of your neighbours

- Be mindful of older neighbours, people who may find loud noises distressing, and pets.
- Tell neighbours in advance if you are planning fireworks.
- Fireworks must not be set off in streets or other public places.



If you are using fireworks at home

- Buy only CE- or UKCA-marked fireworks from licensed retailers.
- Adults must handle fireworks; it is illegal for under-18s to buy them.
- Keep fireworks away from fences, plants and other flammable materials.
- Stand well back once a firework is lit.
- Never return to a lit firework.



Help keep our community safe

Fire and Rescue Service crews attended 521 deliberate fires between 17 October and 17 November 2025. Preventable incidents can delay responses to life-threatening emergencies elsewhere.



Report dangerous activity

- 999 — emergencies or immediate danger.
- 101 or your local authority — non-emergency concerns.
- FireStoppers: 0800 169 5558 — report fire-related concerns anonymously.

Thank you for helping to keep children, neighbours and our wider community safe.
We hope you enjoy a happy and safe Bonfire Night.

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Faith ? Community ? Opportunity

ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Gregory's GOT TALENT!

WHEN?
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2026

SHOWCASE A TALENT
EITHER ON YOUR OWN
OR FORM A GROUP WITH A FRIEND OR TWO!

WHAT COULD YOU SHOW?

- TELLING JOKES
- SINGING
- DANCING
- RECITING A POEM
- MAGIC TRICKS
- PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT
- ART, DRAWING & MORE!

WIN FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS PRIZES!
GIFT VOUCHERS, CERTIFICATES AND A CHANCE TO SHINE!

1st	2nd	3rd
1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE
£20	£15	£10
GIFT VOUCHER	GIFT VOUCHER	GIFT VOUCHER

BE BRAVE. BE CREATIVE. HAVE FUN.
SHINE!

Little Stars @ ST. GREGORY'S

Little Stars Nursery Consultation

We are consulting on a proposal to increase our **Nursery intake to 30 places**.
We welcome comments from parents and carers on this proposal.

Please send any comments to the school by
Friday 6 November 2026.

You can send your comments by email to:
office@st-gregorys.co.uk