

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

*We give thanks to God, work together, and always try our best. Shining in little ways
for all to see."*
Matthew 5:16



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Newsletter no 6 Spring Term Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy

Monday 27th April 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

A warm welcome back to all of our children, families, staff, and community. We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break, the children have transitioned back into our school routines seamlessly. During the Easter holiday, I had the privilege of travelling to Rome and visiting San Gregorio Magno al Celio, the church built on the site where St Gregory the Great - our school Saint - lived and from where he sent St Augustine and his missionaries to England. It was a truly memorable experience to spend time in such an historic place linked to our lovely school in South Shields. While there, I said a prayer for our whole school community and reflected on the privilege of school leadership: serving others, nurturing every child, and helping each one to shine and fulfil their God-given potential.



One of the highlights of the trip was attending Pope Leo's Peace Vigil, which was a moving and inspiring occasion. Gathering with people from around the world in prayer and reflection was a powerful reminder of the importance of peace, hope, and unity in our world. I look forward to sharing some of these experiences with the children and reflecting together on the message of peace and kindness that was at the heart of the vigil. In a world often filled with conflict it is our duty to ensure our children grow up to be people of peace, compassion and hope, who will build a better world for others.



I am looking forward to the summer term ahead as it is always a busy and special time in school, with lots of learning, celebrations, and opportunities. We look forward to sharing these moments together over the coming weeks. We will send out a summer term 'diary dates' in the coming days - we are awaiting confirmation of some key events.

With every good wish,

Miss E. Shaughnessy
Headteacher

Little Stars Nursery – Limited Availability



We currently have **limited** space in our **Little Stars Nursery for September 2026**, offering an excellent opportunity for families looking for a nurturing and high-quality early years provision.

At Little Stars, children benefit from a warm, caring environment where they can learn, explore and grow through play, supported by experienced and dedicated staff. We focus on developing confidence, independence and a love of learning, ensuring children are well prepared for their journey into Reception and beyond.

If you, or someone you know, are looking for a nursery place, we would be delighted to welcome you to Little Stars @ St. Gregory's. Please contact the school office for more information or to arrange a visit.

Come and see our Little Stars shine. ✨

Summer Uniform

As we move into the summer term, children may now wear our summer uniform. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that all children come to school dressed smartly, comfortably, and ready to learn.

Our summer uniform is as follows:

- Blue and white gingham dresses
- Grey shorts
- Grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers
- Pale blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse (school logo not compulsory)
- Tie (KS2 optional)
- Navy Cap (emblematic have caps with our school logo -NEW)
- Grey or white socks
- Black shoes (**all black trainers should only be worn on PE days**)

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain high standards and a strong sense of pride in our school community.



Clubs This Term

We are delighted to share that our clubs for this term are on Arbor. There is a wide range of opportunities available for children to enjoy, develop new skills, and take part in activities beyond the classroom. Please sign up via **Arbor** to secure your child's place. Spaces for some clubs may be limited, so we encourage families to book promptly once registration opens.

Friday 8th May – David Attenborough’s 100th Birthday Celebration

On Friday 8th May, we will be celebrating Sir David Attenborough’s 100th birthday. To mark this special occasion, the children will be taking part in a range of themed activities in class, learning about the natural world and Sir David’s incredible contribution to it.

We will also be enjoying a celebration picnic together during the day. If your child usually has packed lunch and would like to join the picnic please top up your meals account on Arbor and they can select the picnic option in class on the day.



A gentle reminder about dogs at the gate

While many of us love dogs, we know that not everyone feels comfortable around them. Please help us by keeping the pedestrian gate and front of school clear of dogs. Thank you for supporting our community.

Help us be good neighbours

Parking on both sides of the road near school is affecting our neighbours. Please help us by parking considerately and keeping roads clear. Thank you for setting a great example for our children.

Term Time Holidays and Attendance

A reminder that holidays during term time cannot be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Under the national attendance framework introduced in August 2024, if a child has unauthorised absence for a holiday during term time a penalty notice may be issued.

Offence	Penalty Notice
First Offence	£160 per parent, per child. Reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
Second Offence (within 3 years)	£160 per parent, per child. No reduced rate.
Third Offence (within 3 years)	No further penalty notices issued. The case may be referred directly to the Magistrates' Court.

We ask all families to support the school by ensuring children attend every day and by arranging holidays during the published school holiday periods wherever possible.