

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 5 Spring Term Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy Monday 30th March 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

As we lead into Holy Week, we are reminded of the true meaning of Easter — a time of hope, generosity, reflection and love for others. It has been truly heart-warming to see these values lived out so strongly within our St Gregory's community. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Easter re-enactments during Holy Week.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards our Easter raffle. Your generous donations of chocolate and raffle ticket purchases have helped us to raise an astonishing £500 — a fantastic achievement and a wonderful example of our community coming together.

In addition, SAPA raised over £300 at the St. Gregory's Church cake sale, which again reflects the kindness and generosity of our families and parish community. We were also incredibly touched to receive a £200 anonymous donation from a member of St Gregory's Parish yesterday. This generous gift was given specifically to support children's trips and visits, helping to ensure that all pupils can benefit from enriching experiences beyond the classroom. This thoughtful gesture truly reflects the spirit of Easter — giving, kindness and supporting others — and we are deeply grateful.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be the Headteacher of such a supportive and caring community. The staff and I are incredibly grateful, as your generosity helps us continue to provide meaningful opportunities and experiences for our children.

Following Easter, SAPA and I will meet to discuss how we will spend the funds raised from the raffle and cake sale. We are currently exploring ways to enhance our playground provision, ensuring the impact benefits all pupils.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and support.

With every good wish,

Miss E. Shaughnessy

Headteacher

Staffing News

Mrs Stewart will be leaving our kitchen team this week after three years at St Gregory's. During her time with us, Mrs Stewart has been a valued member of the team, always supporting our children with kindness and care each day. She is leaving to focus on her new business venture, which is already taking off, and we are delighted for her as she begins this exciting new chapter! While we will be sorry to see her go, we thank Mrs Stewart for her contribution to St Gregory's and wish her every success for the future. We are sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Stewart the very best of luck in her new venture.

Churches Together Nurturing Dementia –St. Gregory's Church

Churches Together would like to invite you to join them on Tuesday 31st March 11.30-1pm for their Dementia Friendly Easter celebration. This is an intergenerational event where our school choir will be telling the story of Easter. Please come and join us for this uplifting event and refreshments!

Toys and Fidgets

A polite reminder that children should not bring items from home into school, including toys, fidgets, or other personal belongings. These items can easily become lost or damaged and may cause distractions during learning time or disagreements between children. School provides all necessary resources and equipment to support pupils throughout the day. If a child requires a specific item for additional support, this will be discussed and agreed with your child's class teacher and / or Mrs. Douglas our SEND Co-ordinator.

Parents' Consultations

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening last week. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout and to have the opportunity to share your child's progress and celebrate their achievements together. We would like to remind families that attending Parents' Evening is an important part of working in partnership to support your child's learning, wellbeing and development. These conversations allow teachers to share progress, discuss strengths, identify next steps and ensure we are working together to help every child flourish.

It is an expectation that all parents and carers discuss their child's progress with their class teacher. If you were unable to attend, your child's teacher will be in touch to arrange an alternative appointment.

Lent Food Drive

We are still collecting food donations for the Key Project. If you are spring-cleaning your kitchen cupboards, please consider donating any spare tins or packets of food. Thank you for your continued support in helping our local community.

Attendance 16th March – 20th March 2026

Nursery AM	Nursery 30hr	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
100%	100%	98.5%	99.6%	99.1%	98.4%	96.4%	97.8%	93%

New School Website Launch

We have been working hard to develop a **new, fresh school website** that is more user-friendly, useful and accurate for our families and wider community. We are pleased to share that the **new website launched today on Monday 30th March**. The refreshed design will make it easier to find key information, keep up to date with school news, and learn more about life at St Gregory's. We hope you enjoy the new look and find it helpful. We will continue to update the website regularly to ensure it remains current, informative and supportive for parents, carers and the wider community.

[St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School & Nursery](#)

Little Stars Nursery – Limited Availability



We currently have **one available** 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. ✨

School Meal Increase

CHADWICK'S KITCHEN

Update - March 2026

School Meal Prices

As you are aware committed to keeping our school meal prices as low as we can, however we will be making a small increase to all school meal prices after Easter. This increase is part of our annual price review and the increase is driven by inflation. Our meals are still cheaper than other providers in the Northeast region, where the average meal price is £2.91.

The increase will allow us to continue to use the **same quality products** and ingredients, offer the **same number of choices** and **keep our portion sizes the same**.

- A primary school meal will be £2.60
- A secondary school meal will be £2.75

This covers the cost of a main meal and a dessert, with water available in all our schools. Don't forget currently all Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2) pupils are entitled to a Free School Meal. To find out more contact your school office.

Healthy, balanced choices

We will be launching our summer menus in primary schools after Easter. Sample menu's can be found by visiting the **Chadwick's Kitchen** page on the Trust website.

Designing menus for thousands of pupils isn't a quick task. Every dish is carefully planned to meet the **School Food Standards**, the government's benchmark for healthy eating in education. These standards help ensure that what we serve supports pupils' learning, energy levels, and long-term wellbeing. Requirements include:

- A daily serving of vegetables or salad
- Fruit-based desserts (at least 50% fruit) twice a week
- No more than 2 deep-fried, batter-coated, or breadcrumb-coated items a week
- No more than two pastry-based dishes per week
- Protein-rich meals - meat, poultry, or dairy-free alternatives on at least 3 days

Our teams continually review the latest health guidance, and are working to further reduce ultra-processed foods across our menus. Alongside this, they create bespoke menus for pupils with medical diets, continually reviewing ingredients and recipes.

Thanks to this ongoing effort, our pupils enjoy meals that are not only tasty but genuinely nourishing, helping them thrive throughout the school day.

www.bccet.org.uk

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.

Easter Masses

As we enter this special and prayerful time in the Church's year, families are warmly invited to join our parish community in celebrating Holy Week and Easter. We warmly encourage families to attend these important celebrations as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter together.

Holy Thursday — 2nd April - Sacred Heart — **7:00pm** Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday — 3rd April -St Oswald's — **3:00pm** Solemn Service of the Passion of Our Lord

Sacred Heart — **6:00pm** -Remembering the Burial of Our Lord

Holy Saturday — 4th April St Gregory's — **7:00pm** **Easter Vigil Mass — People of the Parish**

Easter Sunday — 5th April Sacred Heart — **9:30am** St Oswald's — **11:00am**

Easter Prayer

Loving God,

*As we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter,
we thank You for the gift of hope, new life and love.*

*Help us to follow the example of Jesus,
to be kind and forgiving,
to show compassion to those in need,
and to bring peace to our families, school and community.*

*May the joy of the Resurrection fill our hearts with happiness,
our homes with love,
and our world with hope.*

*Bless all our children, families and staff at St Gregory's,
and help us to continue shining in little ways for all to see.*

Amen.

