

# St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

We give thanks to God, work together and always try our best

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School  
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Newsletter no 4 Spring Term Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Headteacher's Message

Dear families,

This year we have worked together as a staff team, governors and with our pupils in House Group Meetings to reflect on and refine our school's mission and vision. We began by revisiting our shared mission statement:

*"We give thanks to God, work together, and always try our best."*

It was important to us that we kept the current mission statement but that we expanded it to ensure that our vision was firmly rooted in Scripture and reflected the qualities we want every child to develop as they grow within our St Gregory's family — beginning in Little Stars Nursery and continuing throughout the school.

A central theme that emerged was encouraging our children to *let their light shine in small but meaningful ways* each day through kindness, effort, teamwork and faith. This is beautifully captured in Matthew's Gospel:

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."  
(Matthew 5:16)

This message is lived out through our **SHINE** Values, which form the heart of 'St Gregory's Way' and guide our children from their very first steps in 'Little Stars' to the moment they leave us ready for the next stage of their journey. We believe this light shines through in the little ways – small acts of kindness, caring words and thoughtful choices that show God's love each day.

Our refreshed Mission Statement is:

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

With every good wish,  
Miss E. Shaughnessy  
Headteacher

## Staffing News

### Deputy Headteacher Appointment

I am delighted to share that after a rigorous recruitment process the Local Governing Committee and I have appointed Miss Tracey Watson as Deputy Headteacher of St Gregory's effective from September 2026.

Miss Watson is a valued and respected member of our staff team, showing a strong commitment to our Catholic ethos, ensuring that every child flourishes academically, spiritually and personally. She brings significant experience, a deep understanding of our school community, and a clear commitment to maintaining the high standards we expect for all our pupils.

As Deputy Headteacher, Miss Watson will work closely with me in leading the next stage of St Gregory's journey. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Watson on this well-deserved appointment. Together, with the wider leadership team, we remain committed to ensuring that every child grows in faith, knowledge and confidence within our caring Catholic community.

### Congratulations Mrs Brodie

We are also delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs Brodie has welcomed the safe arrival of her beautiful baby boy. Baby Alan John was born on Friday 6th March weighing 8lb 6oz. I know our whole school community will join us in sending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Brodie, Mr. Brodie and their family at this very special time. We wish them much happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter together.

### Contacting school

As a reminder, if you want to contact staff in school, please do so via the parent email only: [parentenquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:parentenquiries@bccet.org.uk) The emails are forwarded to the relevant member of staff and we aim to respond within 48 hours. If your enquiry is urgent, please telephone the office so we can support you as quickly as possible. If you have sent a message to your child's teacher and have not had a reply, please resend this via the parent email address above. Thank you!

### Whole School Attendance

We are so passionate that all children attend school every single day, as attendance is so vitally important to children's success at school. Although we aim for 100% attendance, each year we set a target of at least 97% attendance. If your child has over 5 days of absence across the whole school year, then they will not achieve this target.

**You can make the biggest impact on your child's attendance, and we appreciate your help in trying to achieve this.**

95%	↔	9	↔	2	↔	50
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed
90%	↔	19	↔	4	↔	100
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed
85%	↔	29	↔	6	↔	150
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed
80%	↔	38	↔	8	↔	200
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed
75%	↔	48	↔	10	↔	250
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed
70%	↔	57	↔	11.5	↔	290
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed
65%	↔	67	↔	13.5	↔	340
Attendance		Days Absent		Weeks Absent		Lessons Missed

Attendance for last week:

Nursery AM	Nursery 30hr	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
80%	100%	99.1%	97.6%	96.4%	95.4%	98.5%	95.3%	97.2%

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

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.