

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 2 Summer Term

Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy

Wednesday 12th May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

Our Year 6 children have been undertaking their SATS this week and they have been working incredibly hard, not only this year but throughout their time in primary school. We are very proud of them and know they will shine and do their best.

As we begin to plan for the new academic year, I am pleased to share several staffing updates with you.

Mrs. Squares will be continuing her secondment for a further year. Miss Watson, who has been working with us as a Trainee, has been appointed as Class Teacher for a year. This is a well-deserved achievement, and we are delighted that she will continue her journey with us. In addition, Miss Chastney and Mrs Barnard have both secured permanent roles from September 2026. They have both made an excellent impact on the school to date, and we are very pleased that they will continue as part of our team. We also look forward to welcoming Miss. Hyde back when she returns in July after being on maternity leave.

Finally, Miss Nolan will be leaving us in July to take up a teaching role in a specialist SEND school, which is her passion. We thank her for her contribution to our school and wish her every success in her new role. Once staffing arrangements for September 2026 have been finalised, I will share further details regarding teacher allocations for each year group.

I am incredibly proud of the talented and committed team we have at our school. Their dedication, care and professionalism make a real difference to our children every day, and we are confident that, together, they will continue to provide the highest standard of education and support for all pupils.

With every good wish,

Miss E. Shaughnessy

Headteacher

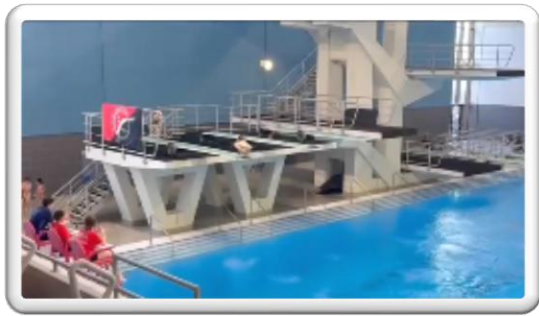
🌟 Celebrating Merri's Outstanding Achievement! 🌟

We are incredibly proud to share some fantastic news about Merri in Y3, who has achieved an exceptional milestone in her diving journey. Merri recently competed in a National Qualifier in Birmingham against Year 3/4 pupils (aged 8–9). She needed to score 240 points to qualify for the National Finals in July—and she surpassed this with an outstanding score of **275.55!**

This incredible performance has placed her **9th in the country**, which is a remarkable achievement, especially considering she has been diving for less than a year. Many of her competitors have been training for 3–4 years, making her success even more impressive.

We are so proud of Merri's dedication, determination and talent. She is a wonderful example of striving for excellence and embracing new challenges—well done, Merri!

Thank you to Merri and her family for sharing this special achievement with us—we look forward to cheering her on at the National Finals in Southampton this July!



A huge congratulations to two of our brilliant pupils, Ava and Darcie, who recently competed in the All Star Worlds Cheerleading Competition in the USA!

Competing on an international stage, their team, *The South Tyneside Jets*, achieved an outstanding **7th place out of 86 teams worldwide** — an incredible accomplishment.

We are immensely proud and feel very fortunate to have such hardworking, dedicated and talented girls as part of our St Gregory's family.

Well done, Merri, Ava and Darcie – what an amazing achievements! 🌟

We always like to share updates about out of school achievements please send them into school!

May, the Month of Mary

May is a very special month for the Church as we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all.

A full month is given over to Mary and during this month we are asked to think about Mary, say special prayers to her, have May altars, and sing hymns to Mary to tell her how much we love her and to ask her to help us stay close to her son Jesus and to try to live as Jesus shows us.

May is seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer, which makes this a logical time for the celebrations of Mary. Throughout the month, we will share the rosary with the children and think of ways we can honour Mary in a special way and allow her to conquer our hearts.

New Reception 2026 Starter Meeting



Mrs. Douglas our Early Years Lead and the EYFS Team look forward to welcoming our parents to share information about September 2026.

Food Bank Our school food bank is currently running low on essential supplies. This provision offers valuable support to families in our community and relies entirely on the kindness and generosity of donations from staff, governors and parents. If you are able to help, we would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items:

- Tinned foods
- Dried foods (e.g. pasta, rice and cereal)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Toiletries

Donations can be brought to the school office at any time.

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.