# St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

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

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School
Harton House Road East
South Shields
NE34 6DZ

Tel: 0191 4552909

website: www.st-gregorys.co.uk
Email: office@st-gregorys.co.uk
Parent email: tgj-parentenquiries@bccet.org.uk

Newsletter no 3 Autumn Term  Acting Headteacher: E.Shaughnessy  Friday 25th October 2025

## Upcoming Diary Dates

*Tuesday 7th January school re-opens*

*Spring Term dates will be sent out on 7th January.*

## Acting Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

As our first term draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an exceptional term. Our school community has continued to thrive, with every child and staff member showing dedication, kindness, and resilience. Highlights include a delightful Christmas dinner, beautiful Christmas concerts, Christmas Fayre and our Grandparent's Afternoon Tea. It's been a time of joy and togetherness, and we are grateful for all the memories we've created. I am very proud of everyone at St. Gregory's and feel very privileged to be continuing as Acting Headteacher of this wonderful school. The staff work so hard to provide the children with the very best learning and enrichment opportunities. Your amazing children are our inspiration – they are polite, well mannered, always smiling, eager to please and keen to learn.

We return on **Tuesday 7th January**, ready and refreshed to begin the Spring Term together.
From everyone at St. Gregory's; staff and governors we wish all our families a very Happy and holy Christmas.

God Bless,

*Miss E. Shaughnessy*

## Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 6.30pm St Gregory's (Carols 6pm)
Christmas Morning 9am St Oswald's & 10.30am Sacred Heart

"Let us draw from the crib the joy and deep peace that Jesus brings to the world." Pope Francis




## School Admissions

Applications for Reception close at **Wednesday 15 January at 4:30pm.** Applications should be made via the Local Authority's website: https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/1494/Apply-for-a-primary-infant-or-junior-school-place

## School and Parents Association (SAPA)

Thank you so much to all our wonderful parents who helped in any way to make our Christmas Fayre and Bags of Love initiative a huge success. The SAPA Team work so hard to support school -that's why they were awarded 'Hot Chocolate Friday' today! Well done SAPA ladies!



## Online Safety

Can we remind parents to monitor their children's online usage, not only apps that they are accessing but also who they are engaging with online. Parents need to be vigilant to safeguard their own children. Many of our children talk about games or apps that have an age rating of 12+ or 13+, this includes games such as Fortnite and apps such as TikTok.

As we approach the Christmas season, when children may be getting new devices or have more time on devices, we wish to give you some tips as to how you can keep your child safer online:

- Keep your child's computer or console in an area where you can monitor what they are doing online. Not only what they are accessing but also what they are saying to other people online and what other people are saying to them.
- Check your child's browser history frequently.
- Use parental controls to limit what your child can access.
- Know your children's passwords.
- Know all of the computers or devices that your child can use.
- Only allow children on age appropriate apps and social media. Most social media apps have an age rating of 13+, this includes TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram.
- If you hear racist or homophobic comments online, you can (and should) report this to the police as a hate crime or to the online gaming platform.

## Arbor

Thank you for signing up to Arbor our new communication tool. The office staff are becoming more familiar with it and there are a number of other features, which we will be rolling out in January. We will be setting up payments for breakfast and afterschool club, dinners, milk, trips and clubs. **Please don't add any monies to Parent Pay.**

## PE Kits and Swimming

We will continue children coming to school in their PE kit on the days when they have PE (for all year groups). Children will not need their uniform in school on those days.

On PE days children should wear full PE kit

- PE kits: all-black trainers (see uniform reminder below), black or white sport socks, navy jogging bottoms (in colder weather) or shorts (summer), white PE t-shirt, sports jacket or school sweatshirt.
- No jewellery
- No branded items of clothing to be worn e.g. Nike

If anyone requires financial support with uniform contact Miss. Shaughnessy via the parent email for a confidential chat.









- **Year 4** will go swimming on a Monday via coach there and back before lunch (see email on Arbor about kit swimwear, cap, towel)
- All Year Groups PE on a Tuesday (not Y4)
- Other PE days will be sent out in January