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 3 Autumn 2 Acting Headteacher: E.Shaughnessy Monday 2nd December 2024

Upcoming Diary Dates

Monday 2nd Dec – Advent Wreath Y3 –Y3 parents 2.45pm

Tuesday 3rd December Grandparents Afternoon Tea 1.30pm -3.30pm

Christmas Fayre – Wednesday 4th December 3.30-4.30pm (bring cash!)

Monday 9th Dec – Advent Wreath Y4 –Y4 parents welcome -2.45pm

Tuesday 10th EYFS & KS1 Nativity 9.30am & 2.30pm

Wednesday 11th December KS2 Carol Services 9.30am & 2.30pm

Thursday 12th December 2024 – Christmas parties and Disco

Friday 13th December – Polar Express Day! (new event).

Acting Headteacher's Message

Dear families,
Christmas preparations are well and truly under way throughout school. I am especially looking forward to welcoming you to our KS2 Advent Wreath services. Advent is a time for reflection and prayer as well as a period of preparation. Please talk to your child about Advent and its significance in the lead up to Christmas.

There are many exciting events to look forward to in the coming weeks. Therefore, it is very important that you read the newsletter and keep up to date with events as they happen.

God Bless,

Miss E. Shaughnessy

Advent Wreath

Sunday (1st December) marked the First Sunday of Advent – (Year C). On Monday 2nd December, Year 3 pupils will lead the first Advent Wreath service in school–Y3 parents are welcome to join us at **2.45pm prompt.**

Loving God, May your love be with us always
and bring peace and joy to all people around the world,
*as we wait in **hope** for the coming of your Son Jesus.*
We ask this through Jesus s Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Advent Bags

Our class Advent bags will be sent home each evening to be shared with families. This is an opportunity to spend time sharing the story of the Nativity. Please send any photos to the parent enquires email address or inbox our school Facebook page for us to share. Please return the bag the following day so that each child has an opportunity to share the bag during Advent. Younger siblings will bring home the bag to share with their older sibling and family.

Grandparent's Afternoon Tea

We are looking forward to our very popular grandparent's Afternoon Tea event! Please feel free to wear a Christmas jumper and / or festive accessories! Raffle tickets will be available to purchase on the day. Please bring cash.

EYFS & KS1 Nativity

Our Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativities will take place on Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am and 2.30pm and our KS2 Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 11th at 9.30am and 2.30pm. These are ticketed events to ensure we do not overcrowd the hall, so you must show your ticket at the door. If you don't bring your ticket, you may need to wait for us to see if there is space available later. Please don't be offended by this. A link will be sent to you to submit your preference. Tickets will be sent home this coming week.

Christmas Parties and Discos

Pupils will have their Christmas parties and disco throughout the day on Thursday 12th December. Pupils can come to school dressed in their party outfits. School will provide the party food and DJ, but we do ask for a small donation of £2.50 towards this cost. You can pay for this through Parentpay, or your child can bring cash into school.

Memory Tree

In our main entrance, we have a special Christmas 'memory tree'. We invite families to dedicate a star decoration in memory of a loved one. We will send the stars home for you to complete with your child and return to school to be placed on the tree.

Polar Express Day -All Aboard!

As part of our Christmas celebrations all pupils and staff are invited to our 'Polar Express Day' on Friday 13th December. As part of the day, each child will receive a 'train ticket' and can come to school dressed in their pyjamas. Children will enjoy literacy activities linked to the Polar Express story in the morning and then watch the film with hot chocolate in the afternoon!

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 17th December. Pupils can wear their Christmas jumper on the day. If your child usually has packed lunch but would like a Christmas lunch please let the school office know by Monday 9th December.

Christmas Cards

Children can bring Christmas cards for their friends if they would like to. They can start bringing them in from Monday 9th December and they will be kept in school and given out on the last week.

Carols by Candlelight at St. Gregory's Church

Our school choir will lead Carols by Candlelight at St. Gregory's Church on Thursday 19th December at 7pm. All are welcome to join us.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all of you who attended our parents' consultation evenings. As always, the turnout was excellent. However, if you were unable to attend, please contact the school office and they will make an alternative appointment for you.

Online Safety information for parents

Our pupils are growing up in a world of ever-changing technology. While we feel that the use of technology is a largely positive aspect of modern life, we cannot ignore the risks that can be associated. Often children receive electronic devices for Christmas so now is a good time to remind our pupils how to ensure they are safe online.

Throughout school we aim to teach children:

- About the impact of cyber-bullying and what to do if they have been affected.
- To be vigilant when communicating online recognising that people may not always be who they say they are and to be sensible about what they share.
- To tell an adult they trust if something is upsetting them.
- To question the reliability of information given through a web based source.
- To search responsibly for information while using internet browsers.

We understand that much of our pupil's use of the internet will occur at home, away from the school filters. Below are a list of useful websites, advice and resources that you may find helpful when navigating the issue of online safety with your child.

- Safety Net https://safetynet.skipseducational.org/parent-guides/
- Thinkuknow http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- National Online Safety https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/
  Childnet http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
- CEOP http://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

Our Designated Safeguarding Team

- Emma Shaughnessy (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Natalie Hall (Safeguarding Governor)
- Samantha Blackwood (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Nicola Squares (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Tracey Watson (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Dave Vasey (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Please speak to one of our safeguarding team if you have any worries or concerns about a child or need advice.