



ST GREGORY'S

Catholic Primary School

SHINING IN LITTLE WAYS FOR ALL TO SEE

"Let your light shine before others." – Matthew 5:16

Belong
Believe
Achieve
Together

Headteacher Newsletter | October 2026

Faith • Community • Opportunity

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy and positive start to the term at St Gregory's. It has been wonderful to see our children settled, happy and working hard each day. In this newsletter, we are sharing just some of the fantastic things taking place in school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Shaughnessy Headteacher



Parents' Evening – Booking Now Open



- It is important that all parents and carers book an appointment.
- Please log in to Arbor and select 'Guardian Consultations'.
- Appointments will be face-to-face and are strictly limited to 10 minutes.
- Parents' Evening is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, strengths and next steps.
- If you need help booking, please contact the school office.

Walking the St Gregory's Way

At the heart of all we do are our SHINE values:



We teach, **catch and seek** opportunities for our children to live out these values every day. **You belong. You matter. You have something to contribute.**



Our Little Stars and New Reception

Our Little Stars and new Reception children have made a lovely start to life at St Gregory's. They have settled beautifully into routines, made new friends and are already showing confidence, curiosity and independence.

We are so proud of them.



Sporting Success



It has been a fantastic few weeks for football at St Gregory's, with both our boys' and girls' teams proudly representing our school. We are incredibly proud of the teamwork, determination and sportsmanship shown by all of our players. Well done to everyone involved.



Pupil Employment Scheme

There has been a fantastic buzz around school as children have been discussing jobs, completing applications and eagerly waiting for appointment letters. Well done to all applicants – we are proud of you all. Congratulations to our new recruits, who will receive their work badges in the coming days.



Learning Across School

Our classrooms have been full of purposeful learning in reading, writing, maths, RE and the wider curriculum. We are so pleased with the positive learning habits, confidence and enthusiasm children are showing.



Reading Matters

Thank you for continuing to support reading at home. Regular reading makes such a difference to children's fluency, confidence and understanding. Please continue to read regularly with your child and record this at home. Older pupils should also continue using Reading Plus.



Attendance and Punctuality

Every day counts. Good attendance and punctuality are essential because every lesson, every day and every minute matters. Please ensure your child arrives on time and ready to learn.

Our attendance target is 98%.



Please Check Arbor

Please check the following information is up to date:

- Contact details
- Medical information
- Permissions and consents
- Emergency contacts

Please check that the information we hold is up to date.



Floppy's Phonics Workshop

A huge thank you to all of our Reception parents and carers who attended our recent Floppy's Phonics workshop.

It was lovely to see so many families coming along to learn more about how we teach early reading and phonics at St Gregory's, and how you can support your child at home.

We really value your partnership – thank you for your fantastic support.



Dates & Reminders

- **Parents' Evening** – Please book on Arbor
- Please keep an eye on Arbor for messages and reminders
- **Half-term** – Friday 23 October to Monday 2 November
- Children return for Autumn 2 on Monday 2 November





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Every Day in School Matters

We can't teach children who aren't here.

At St Gregory's, we want every child to flourish and make the most of every opportunity we provide. Regular attendance is essential to this. When children miss school, they miss direct teaching, explanations, discussion, practice, feedback and the chance to build on previous learning.



Term-Time Holidays

Term-time holidays cannot usually be authorised. Leave of absence may only be authorised where there are exceptional circumstances and each request will be considered individually by the Headteacher.

Family holidays, cheaper flights or accommodation, and extended trips would not normally be considered exceptional circumstances.

If leave is not authorised and a child is absent, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Every lesson matters. Every day matters.



Why Attendance Matters

- Children miss essential teaching, explanations and practice when they are absent.
- Learning builds day by day, with each lesson building on what has gone before.
- Missing phonics, maths, writing and reading lessons can create gaps in children's understanding.
- Children also miss routines, worship, enrichment opportunities, friendships and the wider school life that helps them to grow and thrive.

We can support children to catch up, but we cannot recreate everything that happens in a classroom once that day has gone.



Communication with School

We have attached our Communication Policy for parents and carers. Please follow the procedure outlined in the policy when contacting school.



For non-urgent enquiries, please email:
tgj-parentenquiries@bccet.org.uk.

Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff and picked up within a reasonable amount of time.



If your message is urgent, please telephone the school office rather than sending an email.

Urgent = phone call | Non-urgent = parent enquiries email



Harvest Donations

We are collecting harvest donations for the Key 2 Life Project.

We would be very grateful for any donations from families.

Please send all donations into school by **Monday 19th October**.

Thank you for your support and generosity.



Working Together

School and families working together gives our children the best chance to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership.



Key Reminders

- Term-time holidays are not normally authorised
- Use **tgj-parentenquiries@bccet.org.uk** for non-urgent enquiries
- Urgent matters must be a phone call
- Harvest donations by Monday 19th October

Autumn Term | Key Dates

Upcoming events from 13 October • Highlighted entries are new or amended

OCTOBER 2026

13 Oct	9.15am	Reception Open Morning	Nursery Parents
14 Oct	3:30pm -6pm	Parent Evening	Whole School
14 Oct	3.30pm -4.45pm	Boys Football - Temple Park	Football Team
15 Oct	AM	Flu Nasal Spray - Children - Nurses have sent email to opt in or out.	Whole School
19 Oct	3:30-6pm	Parent Evening 2	Whole School
20 Oct	9:30am	Reception and KS1 Harvest Celebration of the Word	Rec/Y1/Y2 parents
21 Oct	11am-3.30pm	Amazon trip (11am-3.30pm)	Year 4
23 Oct	2:45pm	KS2 Harvest Celebration of the Word	Y3/Y4/Y5 and Y6 parents
23 Oct	9:15am	Nursery Harvest Prayers -Parents Welcome	Nursery parents
23 Oct	3:30pm	School Closed for Half Term	Whole School

NOVEMBER 2026

3 Nov	9:10am	Year 1 and Year 2 Curriculum Café	Y1/Y2 parents
4 Nov	9:10am	Year 3 and Year 4 Curriculum Café	Y3/Y4 parents
5 Nov	9:10am	Year 5 Curriculum Café	Y5 parents
5 Nov	AM	Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Y3
5 Nov	2:30pm	Year 6 SATs Curriculum Meeting	Y6 Parents
9 Nov	All day	Y4 Bikeability -info to follow	Year 4
10 Nov	9:15am	Nursery and Reception 2027 Open Morning	Nursery parents
12 Nov	4:15pm -5:30pm	Literacy Specialist Workshops for parents - info to follow	Y5/Y6 parents and children
12 Nov	2.45pm	Family Hub Coffee Morning / SENCO meeting	All Parents
16 Nov	All week	Anti-Bullying Week	Whole School
16 - 19 Nov	All Day	Bikeability - Cycling Proficiency -info to follow	Y5

Autumn Term | Key Dates

November and December events • Red highlight = changed Carol Service dates

NOVEMBER 2026 | continued

17 Nov	AM	Northern Gas Workshops	KS2
20 Nov	All Day	Children in Need	Whole School
23-27 Nov	All week	Year 6 Residential -Thurston	Y6
26 Nov	AM	NSPCC Workshops	Y2, Y4, Y5
30 Nov	2pm	Cinderella Christmas Pantomime	Y1 – Y6

DECEMBER 2026

1 Dec	9:30am	Advent Wreath -Year 3	Y3 parents welcome
1 Dec	3:30-5pm	Christmas Fayre	Whole School
• 4 Dec	AM	Mass @ St. Gregory's Church	Y4
7 Dec	3pm	Advent Wreath -Year 4	Y4
8 Dec	All Day	Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day	Whole School
• 9 Dec	9:30am	Carol Service -KS2 (AM only)	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
• 9 Dec	2.30pm	KS2 Choir - St Gregory's Church	Choir
10 Dec	9:30am and 2:30pm	Early Years Nativity	Nursery and Reception
• 11 Dec	9:30am	Carol Service -KS2 (new date)	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
14 Dec	3:30pm	Autumn Term Reports to Parents	Whole School
14 Dec	3pm	Y5 Advent Wreath	Y5 parents
15 Dec	9:30am & 2:30pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	Y1 & Y2
16 Dec	All Day	Christmas Parties and Disco	Whole School
17 Dec	3pm	Advent Wreath - Year 6	Y6 parents welcome
18 Dec	AM	St. Gregory's Got Talent Show -info to follow	Whole School
18 Dec	1pm	School closes	Whole School

STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS 2027

Year 6 SATs: 10-13 May 2027

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check: from 7 June 2027

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check: week beginning 14 June 2027