

Dear Parents and Carers,

With another busy term almost under our belts, I would like to share with you some important information for the coming weeks. As we head towards the Christmas holidays, school is, as always, busy and we are looking forward to welcoming you into school for some of our festive events.

Warmest wishes.

Mrs Dunne

Staffing update

As many of you are aware, Mrs Rochford is not in school at the moment due to a family bereavement. I ask for your patience and understanding as we try to respond to phone calls and emails in Mrs Rochford's absence. Please keep Mrs Rochford and her family in your prayers.

We say goodbye to Miss Hope who will be leaving us in a couple of weeks. Miss Hope has been a much valued member of our school community and I am sure you will agree that she will be a big miss. We wish Miss Hope happiness in all her future endeavours.

School Admissions:

If your child is due to start school in September 2023, please note that applications are open and the closing date for applications is 4:30 pm on Monday 16th January 2023.

If you know anyone who has children due to start in September and would be interested in applying to St. Gregory's, please do pass on this information.

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>

Christmas Parties

The dates for the Christmas parties are:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – Monday 19th December

Year 3 and Year 4 – Tuesday 20th December

Year 5 and Year 6 – Thursday 22nd December

Children can come to school in their party clothes but they will still be outside during play and lunch times therefore we recommend sensible shoes and a warm coat.

SAPA have kindly agreed to provide the children's party tea and we ask for a £1 donation towards the cost of this.

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Thursday 15th December is our Christmas lunch in school. If you do not usually have a school meal but would like to have a Christmas dinner with the rest of us, please will you contact the office to let us know and this will be added to your ParentPay account. The price of a school lunch is £2.20.

Term Dates

This year we were asked to keep back an additional day for INSET. We would like to inform you that we will have set our additional INSET day on the last day of the school year - Friday, 21 July 2023. School term dates are available on our school website.

Attendance

Our attendance figures are currently 96.6% which is excellent. Good attendance has a direct link on pupil achievement and we aim to work closely with parents to ensure good attendance and timekeeping for all of our children. Ensuring your child arrives on time is so important. Please note that if your child is repeatedly late, we will contact you to see how we can support you with this. We would also like to remind families that we cannot authorise holidays in term time.

Admission Arrangements

Following previous correspondence regarding the consultation period regarding Admissions Arrangements for 2024-2025, the link for the updated boundary maps will be live on Monday 5th December. The Diocese have updated the boundary maps due to a change in landscape as many boundary markers no longer exist.

Parking

Please can I once again appeal for your support that if you are dropping off/ picking up children you do so safely. Not only do we receive regular complaints from our neighbours but this term alone we have had some near misses and I feel it is only a matter of time before we have an accident. The situation of our school does make it difficult to access if you are travelling by car, but the risk of someone being hit by a car needs to be taken seriously.

SAPA

Preparations are underway for our Christmas Fair. We would like to ask for any donations of bottles, sweets and smellies. Items can be dropped off at the school office or your child/children can hand them in to their teacher.

We had a fantastic turnout to our coffee afternoon and would like to thank those who were able to spare some time.

Thank you for your contributions through Easyfundraising. If you are not registered, please consider registering as it does not cost you anything: www.easyfundraising.org.uk and school receives a donation from the retailer.

Vacancies

We have two vacancies in school for a Teaching Assistant and a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. These posts will be advertised on our school website. If you are interested in either of the vacancies and would like to know more about them, please contact Mrs Dunne.

Advent Stars

Once again we will be sending home a star for you to add the name of a loved one you would like us to remember this Advent. The stars will decorate our Christmas tree in the Middle Entrance and children will be able to hang their stars on the tree so your loved ones who are far away or no longer with us will be remembered in our prayers.

Parental Questionnaire

We believe that working in partnership with parents and carers enables us to provide the very best education and experiences for our children. Next week we will be sending out a questionnaire via Google Forms for you to complete and we would be most grateful if you would spend a few moments completing this.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Christmas is an amazing time for some, spending time with family and loved ones, or taking a well-earned rest. However, for others it is a lonely, difficult time. Remember to reach out to people, check in with them and if you are the one who is struggling, remember it is ok to not be ok. Know that there is always someone there to listen, any time of the day or night.

If you or someone you know is in crisis this Christmas or any time call: **999** if it's an immediate emergency or Samaritans on **116 123** or text SHOUT to **85258**. They are free, available 24/7 and ready to listen, without judgement.

Diary Dates:

Please note that sometimes dates may be subject to change.

5.12.22	Y4 Bikeability	
5.12.22	Reception Class visit to West Boldon Lodge	
6.12.22	Year 2 Healthy Minds Session	
6.12.22	Reception Class visit to Urban Factory	
6.12.22 @ 2:30pm	Parental Healthy Minds drop in session	
8.12.22	Y1 Multi-skills Festival	
12.12.22 @ 2:15pm	Reception Class and KS1 Nativity	Parents welcome – tickets have been distributed
13.12.22	Year 2 Healthy Minds Session	
14.12.22 @ 2:15pm	Reception Class and KS1 Nativity	Parents welcome - tickets have been distributed
15.12.22	Christmas dinner and jumper day	
16.12.22	SAPA Christmas Fair	Parents welcome
19.12.22	Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Party	
20.12.22	Year3 and Year 4 Christmas Party	
20.12.22	Year 2 Healthy Minds Session	
21.12.22	Christmas Carol Concert	
22.12.22	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party	
23.12.22	End of Autumn Term	
9.1.23	School Re-opens for Spring Term	
19.1.23 @ 10:00am	Y4 Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Parents welcome

Assessment Dates	
May 2023	KS1 SATs Test Period
9 th - 12 th May 2023	KS2 SATs week
5 th -23 rd June 2023	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
12 th -16 th June 2023	Y1 Phonics Screening Week



Lord Jesus,
grant us the light and strength needed
to journey through this Advent season, so as to always be prepared to encounter You.
Amen