

# 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](http://www.st-gregorys.co.uk)

Email: [office@st-gregorys.co.uk](mailto:office@st-gregorys.co.uk)

Parent email:

Autumn Term Newsletter: Issue 1

Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy

8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the superb weather. The children have settled beautifully into school, and it has been a delight to see them looking incredibly smart in their new school uniform. Thank you for your support with the transition.

Please find below a few notices to keep you informed of some important updates. We are finalising our dates for the term, and they will be sent out via email later in the week.

Warm regards,

*Miss E. Shaughnessy*

## *Prayer for the New School Year*

Loving God,

We thank You for bringing us safely to the start of this new school year.

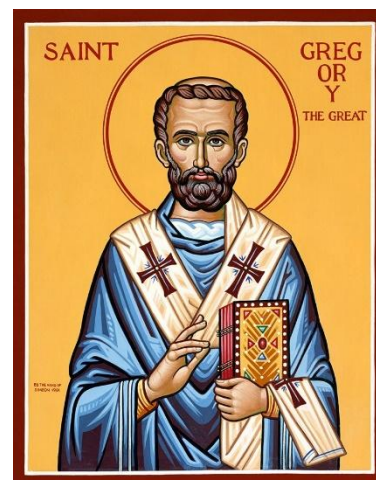
Bless our Little Star Nursery children, our new Reception class, and all the children who have joined our school community.

May they feel welcome, happy, and ready to learn and grow. Bless all our pupils, staff, and families with another successful year, filled with joy, friendship, and achievement.

Help us to live out our school values

following St. Gregory's way each day,  
guided by Your love.

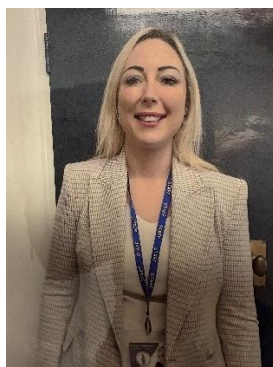
Amen.



## **Safeguarding Policy & Safeguarding Team**

We update our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy annually and this is available on our school website. Please also note our Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies below, these are the staff who are responsible for safeguarding in school.

### **Miss. Shaughnessy (Designated Safeguarding Lead)**



### **Mrs. Blackwood (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)**



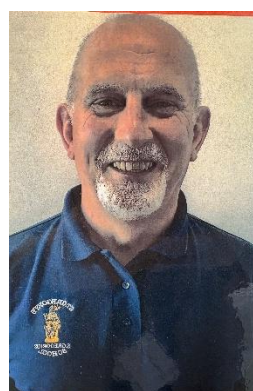
### **Miss. Watson (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)**



### **Mrs. Squares (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)**



### **Mr. Vasey (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)**



## Home School Agreement

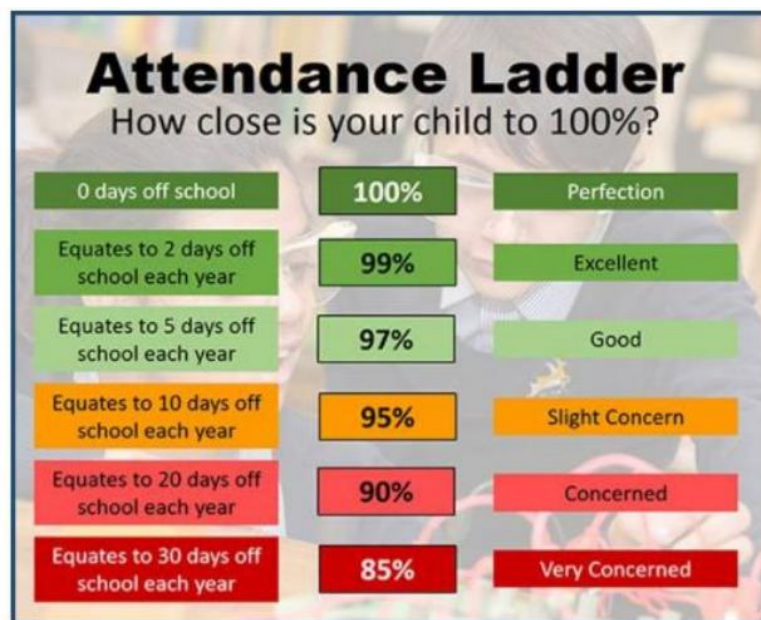
At St. Gregory's, we pride ourselves on the very positive relationships with all children, parents, and carers. If you do have a worry or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us as we can always help or advise you. We would like to draw your attention once again to our **Home-School Agreement**, which we have attached for you. Please confirm your consent on **Arbor** to show that both you and your child agree to follow the Home-School Agreement.

## Attendance

As we begin a new school year, I would like to take the opportunity to send a reminder about our attendance expectations. Although we aim for 100% attendance, each year we set a target of at least **97% attendance**, this allows your child to have 5 days absent from school. Attendance at school is so important for your child's achievement. The beginning of a new academic year is a fresh start, and everyone has the potential to achieve 100% attendance. You can make the biggest impact on your child's attendance, and we appreciate your help in trying to achieve our target. Term time holidays will be not authorised unless exceptional circumstances.

**Last week our whole school attendance was 98.2%, which is excellent!  
Well done everyone!**

If you have any worries or concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school office and we can support you.



## Medical Tracker

We are now using **Medical Tracker** to notify you of any first aid incidents involving your child. Emails will come from: **donotreply@medicaltracker.co.uk**

Please add this address to your contacts (or approved sender list) so that messages do not go into your **Junk/Spam** folder. We kindly ask that you **acknowledge receipt** of the notification. If we believe your child may require further treatment, we will still **phone you directly**.

### Pick Up and Drop Off

For safeguarding reasons, please ensure you **inform the school office via telephone or email prior to the end of the school day** if another adult will be collecting your child. These arrangements will be recorded and the staff dismissing children will be informed. Thank you for helping us to keep all children safe.

### Birthday Treats

From **September 2025**, new DfE nutrition guidance means schools must only provide food and drinks that are healthy, balanced, and nutritious. This means we can no longer allow sweets or cakes to be brought in for birthdays.

We know how special birthdays are for children, so we have created a **new celebration plan**. Please see the attached letter for details.

### Jewellery, Hair and Make Up

For safety reasons, children must **not wear any jewellery, including earrings**. This includes during PE or sports lessons. If jewellery is worn, your child will not be able to participate and will be given another role.

At St Gregory's, we expect children to come to school with a neat and tidy appearance that supports our focus on learning.

- **Make-up and nail varnish** are not allowed in school.
- **Extreme hairstyles** (including shaved patterns, lines, unnatural colours, or styles that cause distraction) are not allowed.
- Long hair must be tied back for health and safety, particularly during PE and practical lessons.

Thank you for supporting us in maintaining high standards and ensuring that the focus remains on learning and wellbeing.

### Medication in School

For the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, any medication administered in school must be **prescribed by a GP (or other qualified prescriber)**. We are unable to give over-the-counter medicines such as Calpol. Parents must complete a medication consent form and hand medication directly to the school office. Only trained staff administer medicine in school, and this will be recorded on medical tracker.

### Water Bottles

Thanks to the support of **SAPA funds**, every child has been provided with a **brand-new St. Gregory's water bottle**. These bottles are the perfect size for classroom use, so there is no need to send one from home- the children can refill them throughout the day using the cooled water fountains. They are cleaned in school daily, but they can be sent home for cleaning if you prefer. We will stock some spare bottles which will be available on Arbor school shop for £1 if you need a replacement.

### Health and Safety

Just a reminder that the equipment or trim trail on the yard and school fields should not be accessed by any children before or after school. All children will be reminded in school, but we would appreciate your support in stopping the children from using the equipment at pick up and drop off times.

Mission Statement:

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

