

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

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

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Newsletter no 3 Autumn Term

Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Harvest Donation Drive for the *Key to Life* Food Bank. Your generosity has been truly overwhelming, and your kindness is making a real difference in the lives of those in need within our community.

The recent *Celebration of the Word* and *Stay and Pray* sessions, led so beautifully by our wonderful children, were meaningful moments for us to come together in gratitude. They reminded us of how richly we are blessed—and how important it is to share those blessings with others.

As we gave thanks to God for His many gifts, we also gave thanks for you—our faithful, generous community.

Thanks to your donations, shelves have been stocked, hearts have been lifted, and hope has been renewed. Every tin, every bag, every offering was a reflection of love in action.

May God continue to bless you for your compassion, your generosity, and your willingness to serve others.

It's been such a busy and productive start to the school year, and we're so proud of all that's been achieved. Have a wonderful half-term holiday—rest well and enjoy time with your families!

Miss E. Shaughnessy

Headteacher

Parents' Evenings

We are pleased to invite you to our Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 4th and Monday 10th November between 3.30pm and 5.40pm. Nursery meetings are available on Monday 10th between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

This will be a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn about their progress both in lessons and beyond the classroom, and view the quality of their work through their books. While we kindly discourage bringing children along, we understand this may be necessary for some families. This year we will provide childcare during your appointment if needed in the school hall with our staff from The Den.

Communications

We've recently received some feedback that our communications have included a large volume of emails and information and, at times, felt a little overwhelming. We truly appreciate your honesty and are taking this on board.

Interestingly, when I first joined the school, one of the most frequent comments was that there wasn't *enough* communication — so we may have gone too far in the other direction!

Finding the right balance is not always straightforward. While we strive to keep everyone informed, certain events and notices do arise mid-term that are beyond our control. Nevertheless, we are committed to **streamlining our communications** to ensure they remain clear, relevant, and manageable.

As part of this effort, we will now include the **Parish Bulletin** in our newsletter to consolidate key parish information in one place. You can also find a link to the Parish Bulletin on our website if you wish to access it directly or contact us.

We also kindly ask for your support in helping the school day run as smoothly as possible. We often receive **last-minute emails about changes to pick-ups, messages for teachers, or The Den bookings**, which may not be seen straight away due to how busy the office and classrooms are during the day. **Whenever possible, please try to give us advance notice** — it really helps us ensure your requests are actioned and your children are where they need to be.

And just a reminder — **my door is always open**. I'm usually on the gate in the mornings (or another member of the Senior Leadership Team), and we're around at the end of the day too. We always welcome your feedback — **working together is key** to making our school the best it can be.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding!

Attendance

Our whole school attendance from Nursery to Year 6 is currently 97.2% – placing us in the green zone for attendance.

Thank you for your continued support in making sure children are in school every day. We understand that, at times, absences are unavoidable. However, even missing just a day or two can quickly add up and lead to significant learning loss.

Let's continue working together to ensure every child makes the most of every learning opportunity. If we have concerns about a child's attendance, you will be invited to a supportive meeting to discuss how we can work together to improve it. Attendance will then be monitored closely. This applies to all year groups, including Nursery and Reception, as establishing good habits early on is key to building strong routines for the future.

Late comers will also receive a letter, as part of St. Gregory's Way children start each morning with a Morning Meeting between 8.45am and 9.05am. This term in our Morning Meeting children complete handwriting and spelling daily during that time – it is essential children don't miss this opportunity. Gates close prompt at 8:55am.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal and we encourage all infant children to eat a hot meal. The Universal free school meal provision ends when children enter Year 3 in September. If you think your child may be entitled to means-tested free school meals speak to the office who can support you with this and support you making an online application. The school also receives additional funding for every eligible child, which can really help to provide the best environment to support their learning and development.

We have attached our new Packed Lunch policy that our school governors approved last week – this will be monitored closely after half term.

INSET and Half Term

Please note that tomorrow, Friday 24th October is an INSET day and school is closed to pupils and half term holiday is next week. Pupils should come back to school on Monday 3rd November 2025.

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