

St. Gregory's News



Website: www.st-gregorys.co.uk

email: office@st-gregorys.co.uk

Facebook: [@stgregorysrcschool](https://www.facebook.com/stgregorysrcschool)

February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. We once again would like to thank you for your support during this challenging time. A huge thank you for all of your hard work in supporting your children with their learning at home - I am very aware that this role, landed upon you presents huge challenges for your typical home life. Please be kind to yourself and don't worry if you feel you cannot keep up with yourself, please only do what you possibly can. Staff are working incredibly hard to ensure the children at home are receiving high quality learning whilst also running their classroom.

As mentioned in my previous correspondence, we have a high number of parents requesting critical worker places. Schools are closed to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. We are however, expected to provide education for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. I have received a number of phone calls from frustrated parents who are finding it difficult to work themselves whilst home schooling their children. I myself am a parent and have two children at home – I like many of you, believe that the best place for children is at school, however, in the midst of a global pandemic I strongly believe the safest place for my children is at home. I understand that this is not always possible and is why the government has asked schools to accommodate the children of critical workers. The aim here is to enable frontline workers to carry on with their work while also reducing the number of children in school to minimise the risk of passing on this dreadful virus to other children, staff and their families. I once again ask you to consider, if you are a critical worker, whether you actually need to send your children into school. If you can work from home, please help us to keep our school community as safe as possible and keep your children at home. I would like to add here a huge thank you to all parents who are keeping their children at home. Your cooperation and sacrifice is keeping the school and its wider community safer as a result despite it being a challenge to balance your own work and help your children at the same time.

Please remember that you can contact us if you are having any difficulties and we will do our very best to help.

Stay safe

Mrs Dunne

Remote Learning

Over the last few weeks, our children have been fantastic and have overwhelmingly engaged with their learning on Google Classroom. They have also managed to meet with their classes on a daily basis. Our expectations regarding online behaviour are as high as they would be if the children were in the classroom. We would ask that children are respectful of their friends and staff. We would also ask that children are dressed and sitting appropriately during live 'meets'.

We do understand that at times, children may struggle to complete tasks, here are a few top tips that may help:

- Create a work space/area – away from any distractions
- Encourage your child – we all respond well to praise

- Be realistic in your expectations – don't beat yourself up if you don't manage to get through all the work
- Take a break – daily exercise will lift your spirits
- Get in touch – you or your child can get in touch if you have a problem

CAFOD

You may remember that instead of sending individual Christmas cards this year, we organised a class card and asked for a donation towards the work of CAFOD. As a school we managed to raise £110. Many thanks to all who donated.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week has been designated as Children's Mental Health Week. This is a really difficult time for many of our children. To help support your child we have some resources on our school website.

Please also find below links to guidance around supporting children and young people with their mental health.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>

Reading Week

To mark World Book Day, we had hoped to hold a reading week in school. As school will be closed due to the national lockdown, we will be organising some exciting activities for you to enjoy at home. More details to follow.

SAPA

We are hoping to organise an Easter raffle and would like to ask for donations of Easter eggs. If you are able to donate an Easter egg, please leave it at the school office to quarantine.

If you haven't already signed up to [easyfundraising.com](https://www.easyfundraising.com) please take a few minutes to do this.

[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) is a platform that will give a free donation to St. Gregory's simply by shopping online. Over 4,300 sites including John Lewis, Amazon, Argos, M&S and many more will give a FREE donation at no extra cost to you. We are grateful to those of you that have signed up already and we have raised around £30 for school. Every little helps!

Dates for your Diary:

1.2.21 – 7.2.21	Children's Mental Health Week	1.3.21 - 5.3.21	Reading Week, including World Book Day
9.2.21	Safer Internet Day	8.3.21	Re-opening of school tbc
12.2.21	Half term	8.3.21	Science Week
17.2.21	Ash Wednesday	15.3.21	Parents' Evening tbc
22.2.21	Home Learning resumes	1.4.21	End of Spring Term