



HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER

Friday 10th November

'Lest we forget'

Year 6 pupils have been selling poppies and we hope to collect a substantial donation for servicemen and women as we prepare for Remembrance Sunday.

In assembly, we considered the role of teachers and the qualities of a good teacher. We reflected upon Jesus – as a pupil when He was growing up and then as a teacher. In KS1 we talked about what Jesus teaches us. In KS2, we discussed why Jesus was critical of the Pharisees, the teachers of His time.

'We know we have one teacher only – The Christ'

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK November 13th – 17th

The week will start with an assembly focus on anti-bullying. In KS2, Miss. Walsh will be speaking to junior pupils about on-line safety – essential guidance for our young people. Miss. Ellis will lead KS1 assembly where pupils will be reminded of the principles of anti-bullying and how we can be a good friend to others. There will be follow-up activities in class over the course of the week.

Our school treats all incidents of bullying seriously - reports are followed up and carefully investigated in accordance with school policy.

FROM THE LEARNING FRONT!

This week in **Nursery** we have been learning about why we have a Poppy. We remembered all the brave soldiers and made our own poppy design. We are all trying to get along with our friends and resolve any problems we have in a positive, amicable way.

This week in **Reception** we have been learning about the role of a doctor and nurse and recognizing how they help people in our community. Children have enjoyed role playing doctors and nurses, making doctor bags, labelling equipment used on patients and sharing their experience of when they have visited the doctors. In Maths children are becoming more confident count objects and understanding how we work out 1 more from a given number. We have also attended a mini-training session on the wooden play equipment to make sure we all understand the safety rules before we use it regularly.

Year 1 had a wonderful visit to the Science Museum on Tuesday 7th November. The children particularly enjoyed the 3 Little Pigs workshop, where some of them even became the stars of the show! They also developed their understanding of materials and vocabulary to describe it.

Thank you to the parents who were able to come with us, as your help made it a an even more successful day.

Year 2 pupils have been exploring expanded noun phrases and conjunctions. They have written some spooky Halloween character descriptions. In History, pupils investigated the historical significance of Bonfire Night. We are looking forward to finding out more about story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot.

In **Year 3** the children became rock detectives this week, looking around the school for how rocks have been used and their properties. We have also started exploring our new book in English, Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, learning about traditional tales from Africa and comparing it to traditional tales we already know. Miss Walsh has been teaching music for the last two weeks and we have improvised our own tunes on the recorder using rhythmic patterns, and in Geography the children have been learning about different types of settlements and looking closely at the settlement we live in.

Walk like an Egyptian with Year 5On Wednesday, St. Gregory's was transported back to ancient times, when Year 5 became pharaohs! The pharaohs enjoyed mummifying their dead, and designing their sarcophagus for their eventual journey to the afterlife. Suddenly the pharaohs entered into the cursed tomb of a long dead pharaoh, and to escape they had to complete a number of challenges. If they did not they would be forever cursed to dance to Egyptian music!





Thanks to Mr. Ross and to Miss. Keane and their respective classes for the informative, insightful class-assemblies enjoyed this week. After much preparation, **6CR and 6MK** pupils shared their learning with their peers and family members. They presented a range of information about topics they have been studying since September and also had an opportunity to recap on the amazing time that they had during PGL. Pupils were well prepared and delivered the spoken and sung word with confidence and enthusiasm. The pupils are looking forward to a wonderful year's learning and have clearly already made a positive start to their last year at the school. Next week 6HD also have their assembly and look forward to sharing their learning with us.

Additionally in class, the children have started creating 'PGL movies' on the LearnPads in computing lessons. These will be available for viewing at the end of this exciting topic!

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS THIS TERM:

Y6 Children enjoyed a wonderful week in Dorset at the beginning of this month. It was great to see the children in another setting, working together, encouraging each other and having fun. They participated in a variety of activities including: Raft building; Kayaking; Archery; Climbing; Beach Walk; Zip Wire; Tunnel trail; Rifle Shooting; Fencing; Trapeze; Aeroball; and Giant Swing. They also had a Disco where they all had a good dance!

Both the weather and the food were fantastic all week.

The children were a credit to the school and their good behaviour was commented on by PGL staff and other schools. Well done children!



Thanks to the members of staff who gave up their own time willingly- Miss Keane, Mr Dias, Miss Rosario, Miss Powell, Miss Pluckrose, Miss Beasley, Mr Gristwood and Mrs Keavney- without whom these trips could not take part.

Year 4 had a wonderful time last week at PGL. They developed skills of independence, team work and resilience through a range of action based activities: they zoomed down zipped wires, glided on the giant swing and tackled the tricky trapeze! We were particularly impressed with the energy and enthusiasm the children showed throughout the trip and we can already see new bonds developing and a more mature attitude from the children since their return. What a great learning experience it was for all!

Well done Year 4.

Our thanks to Miss. Beasley, Mrs. Stanier, Ms. Parmar, Miss. Duong, Mrs. Ibarrola, Mrs. Dabrowska, Mrs. Feuerer, Mr. Greig and Mr. Butlin for giving up their own time to accompany our pupils.

AND OTHER IMPORTANT SCHOOL UPDATES

Safeguarding reminder !

Parents may not access school premises without signing in at the school office whereupon they will be accompanied by a member of staff. J+C club staff have experienced a few difficult conversations with parents regarding access to classrooms before and after school. The same rules apply at all times for the safety of pupils and staff on site. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

We are a NUT FREE SCHOOL – if your child brings a packed lunch to school, it is essential to ensure that all products are nut free. There have been two pupil deaths in Ealing over the past year due to severe allergic reactions. Parents/pupils are requested to highly vigilant in this respect.

Lost Property is now located outside of the medical room during the school day. A member of staff makes a daily check of new lost property items returning named items to owners. The box is placed under the roofed area outside (on the right just past the junior gate) between 3pm and 3.45pm giving parents access to lost property at the end of the day.

Please ensure your child's clothing is labelled – particularly hats!

Letter of thanks received from the Ealing Resettlement Team following Mrs. Monteforte's initiative to use the school site as a collection point in support of Syrian Refugee arrivals in Ealing:

Dear St. Gregory's School,

We just want to say thank you so much for arranging a donation drive to help the refugees resettled in Ealing. Your generosity was overwhelming. Your efforts have helped families displaced by war to start new, promising lives here in Ealing.

Kindest Regards,

Resettlement Team.

Thank you to Ms. Monteforte and all parents who contributed to this charitable action!

NEW PARENT GOVERNOR- we are delighted to welcome **Mrs. Marie-Helene Collins** on to our Governing Body to fill a recent vacancy. Mrs. Collins has a son in Year 1 and is very familiar with the world of education! We look forward to Mrs. Collins' start of governor post at the school.

A reminder from Miss. Pluckrose to parents that the successful 'Scholastic Book Fair' will be returning to our school next week. Due to the colder weather, we will host the fair after school each day, inside the **school hall from 13th-17th November**. Teachers will be taking their classes to browse the shelves during the school week so each child will have a chance to choose their favourites! As always, we expect to sell a lot of books so if you don't see your choices on the shelves, we are able to order them in to school for your child to pick up. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Parking reminders

Parents are reminded that the forecourts of the neighbouring buildings (Chestnut Lodge and Stanley Court) are private and should not be used for parking. We have received a number of complaints from residents of Stanley Court who have observed St. Gregory's parents parking cars in reserved spaces. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PTA UPDATES

Countdown to Christmas 2017

Please take time to look at the PTA's 'Countdown to Christmas'. It contains lots of useful dates and information on events taking place in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Print it out and stick it on your fridge so you don't forget any important dates!

PTA Cake Sale: Friday 10th November

A cake sale will take place at pick-up on Friday 10th November in the school hall. Cake donations can be left at drop off in the morning at the school reception entrance and Westmoreland entrance, and again in the hall around 3pm prior to the cake sale.

Karaoke Parent's Social Evening: 7.30pm – 10.30pm on Friday 17th November

Come along and let your hair down at the karaoke parent's social evening taking place 7.30pm – 10.30pm on Friday 17th November in the school hall. You are invited to dress up as your favourite pop star and sing your heart out – but this is optional! It's an opportunity to meet up with the parents in your class and raise money towards the school. Please order tickets using the Karaoke pre-order ticket form. The PTA will also need a couple of helpers on the night so please email Gemma Outten on gemmaoutten@gmail.com if you are able to help out on the night.

Aviva Funding

St Gregory's PTA are looking to raise £1,000 through **Aviva Community Funding** to buy resources to support our school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) staff. We need your help by voting for our school project, which is called **SENCO resources for St Gregory's RC Primary School**

To vote for the project is very simple to do:

- click on the link <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-6082>

- register

- use your allocated 10 votes towards 'SENCO Resources for St Gregory's RC Primary School'.

The more votes we get, the better the chances of us receiving the funding. So please show us your support and encourage your family and friends to get involved and vote for us too. **Voting is now open and closes on Tuesday 21 November 2017.**

Christmas Poster Competition

I am delighted to announce that **this year's winner of the Christmas Poster Competition is**

Nicola Zawisza in class 5MP. Nicola's beautiful poster will be used to advertise this year's Christmas Bonanza. The PTA would like to thank Julia Dobbin, mum of Tom (6MK) and Johnny (3DD) for organising the Christmas Bonanza advert printing and installation at the bus stop shelter on Pitshanger Lane.

2nd Prize: Sebastian Burbidge in class 2SO

Joint 3rd Prize - Sofia Diaz in class 6HD and Kiyana Dearden in Nursery

Christmas Bonanza: 1pm - 4pm on Saturday 2nd December

This year's Christmas Bonanza will take place 1pm - 4pm on Saturday 2nd December. The PTA would be very grateful for raffle prize donations or high donor prize-funding. As an example, we are delighted that Mark and Carmelina Kulasingam, parents of Dante (3CD) and Alessia (RDL), achieved funding from Murrill Construction Ltd for the Santa's Grotto. Many other companies like Sky also have match-funding initiatives. Please get in touch with our Raffle Co-ordinator Anna Sobania on stgregorysptaraffle@gmail.com if you can help donate.

Orchards Promoting the Bonanza

The PTA will be working again with Orchards Estate Agents to promote the Christmas Bonanza. A big thank you to all the families that have agreed to place an Orchard's board on their property to advertise the Bonanza.

Next PTA Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place 8pm on Tuesday 21st November in the Abbey Coffee Shop.