



'Working & learning together with Jesus as one family'

HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER
Friday 22nd September 2017

'How many times should I forgive my brother?'

We reflected on the meaning of Jesus' words in His response to Peter's question. We discussed what it means to forgive and recognized that this is one of the most difficult aspects of being Christ's follower. Pupils shared their thoughts in a positive and insightful manner in our Junior and Infant assemblies.

Our Learning Journeys in the new Year Groups have got off to a flying start!

Year 1 have settled into the more formal routines of class learning with ease and confidently shared outcomes with me as I visited them in class. **Year 2** have stepped up to the challenge of the new curriculum and have impressed their teachers with a positive, pro-active learning attitude.

Our Reception pupils are also beginning to settle – this can be challenge for some of the children who are new to our school! However, under the careful guidance of our Reception staff, tears dry quickly as pupils immerse themselves in the awe and wonder of Early Years!

So what have we been learning?

This week in **Nursery** we have been learning to sit on the carpet on in their 'minibeast' carpet places. We have taken gentle walks around the school, made handprints to take home, completed portraits for the school calendar and are settling into our new routine. Well done to all our youngest pupils!

In **Reception**, most of the children have settled into their classes very well and have followed the routines of the classroom environment. They are delighted with the resources and learning equipment available to them. It is wonderful to see the children making so many positive friendships. The reception teachers have been impressed with how well the children have adapted to their new indoor and outdoor setting. We have already been teaching the children Phonics this week commencing with set one of Phase two. A great learning start!

It has been a very busy start in **Year 1**, exploring our new areas of the school and developing our learning. So far our favourite activities have been exploring our current story of "The Foggy Foggy Forest" and predicting what might happen next.... playing with our friends in the orchard and trying out our climbing skills, solving maths problems and challenges and reading to each other and as a class. We're looking forward to working and learning together as a year group, as well as working towards our individual goals!

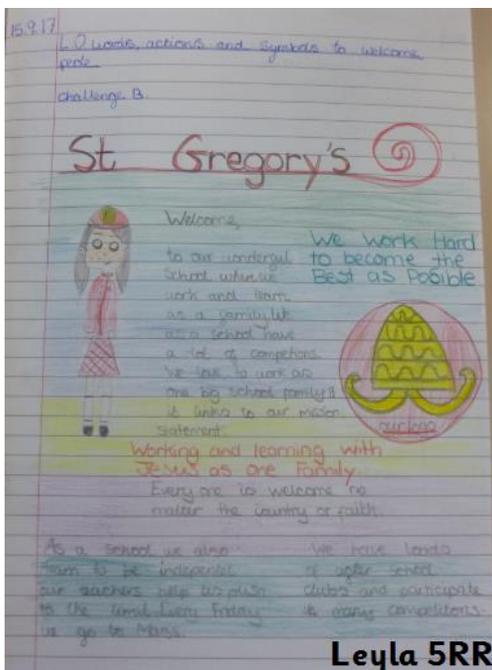
Year 2 have worked hard during these busy first few weeks of term! In English we have been focusing on the features of non-chronological reports and have even wrote our own reports on snails. This links to our science topic this term which is 'Animals including humans'. Every day in maths we have been using practical resources to help secure our understanding of place value and partitioning. Year 2 have also enjoyed learning about Leonardo Da Vinci in History. We have been comparing his inventions to those of the modern day and we have also been looking at his famous paintings and why they are so significant.

Year 3 children have settled in well to their new classes and have enjoyed carrying out their own team building activity in Science with marshmallows and spaghetti. They are collaborating once a week to master problem solving in maths as well as enjoying J2Blast to help learn their times tables.

Year 4 have made a very impressive start to the year! We have been so impressed with their motivation, perseverance and enthusiasm for learning. This week, we started our new topic based on the legend 'Robin Hood' in English. Children are enjoying the book so far and we have focussed on vocabulary, inference skills and debate this week. Year 4 have turned their maths brains on with focuses on Place value and Problem solving. Science has got of to a 'bang' as we have started our new topic on Sound and with songs from the ABBA era a focus in Music, its been an enjoyable start to Year 4 all round! Keep up the good work Year 4!

Year 5 have settled very well into the new year. The children have loved their introduction to our topic about Ancient Egypt and there are many budding historians within the classes. Each child has enjoyed getting to grips with our new Maths 'problem solving' lessons. Having been inspired by the fantastic updates on our school website, the children also enjoyed creating their own brochures for our school, highlighting how we 'live' our mission statement.

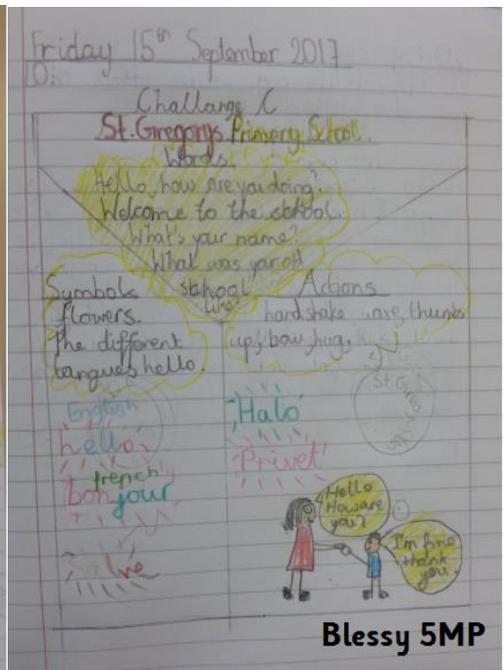
Examples of careful work from Leyla in 5RR, Daniel in 5KP and Blessy in 5MP:



Leyla 5RR



Daniel 5KP



Blessy 5MP

This year's **Year 6** cohort have got off to a flying start! In history, the children have been studying World War Two, with a particular focus on the causes of the war. This learning links with our novel for the half term: the Silver Sword. All classes enjoyed getting into role as some of the characters from the novel as they participated in drama activities earlier this week. In English, the children have begun to plan and write a narrative based on our novel – we are very excited to read their amazing work

YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM INFORMATION EVENINGS – a reminder!

This week we held three meetings (Year 6,5 and 4) – all very well attended – thank you parents!

Please make a note of your child's year group evening and keep the date free in your diary – it is important that parents are involved in pupil learning and aware of the keys skills which are being developed over the course of the academic year.

Meetings will be held in the school hall. **Please note these are for parents only (pupils should not attend as this impacts on seating capacity).**

Year 3 Curriculum Information Meeting	Monday 25 th September 6pm
Year 2 Curriculum Information Meeting	Wednesday 27 th September 6pm
Year 1 Curriculum Information Meeting	Thursday 28 th September 6pm

School Places : we have a small number of vacant pupil places in Years : Reception, 2, 4, 5 & 6. If you know of a family who may be interested in applying for a place at our school, please ask them to contact our school office.

J and C Breakfast and After School Club – School Hall + Grounds

The club is getting a lot of positive feedback from children and parents - providing a wide choice of activities and catering for all tastes and ages. Some of our activities require high energy levels and are proving very popular!

On **Thursday 5th October 08.00 – 08.40** J & C will be hosting an open, free breakfast morning for families to meet the J & C team and experience what the provision offers.

For more information on club activities or to book please use the school link on the school website.

PTA NEWS:

St Gregory's PTA Elect New Officers

At last week's PTA AGM, Claire Taylor, Michelle Mallone and Amanda Martina stood down as Co-Chairs after three extremely successful years and Sarah Thompson Oakley stood down as Treasurer - a position she has held for four years. In total, the PTA has raised £98.7k through events during the last 4 years - 85% of this during the last 3 years. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank these ladies once again for all their hard work. Your new PTA Co-Chairs are Gemma Outten, Chantain Thomas, Enggy Millan and Monica Bryce. Tracy Holland and Aoife Fryatt are the new Co-Treasurers. Emily O'Meara was re-elected Secretary. I wish the new team every success.

New Families Picnic

A picnic will be taking place in the main playground of the school at 3pm, this Saturday (23rd September) to welcome our new families that have started St Gregory's, particularly those that have started in Nursery and Reception. It will be an opportunity to meet your children's new class mates and there will be children's entertainment, face painting and a second hand uniform sale. Please pack a picnic to share with your family.

Ealing Half Marathon

Parents from St Gregory's School will be running in this year's Ealing Half Marathon taking place this Sunday, 24th October. They will be running to raise funds for St Gregory's PTA. If you would like to sponsor them you can do via the following website: www.everyclick.com/stgregoryshalfmarathon. They would also welcome any support along the course - it even runs past the school. Look out for the red hats!

School Calendar 2018

Would you like to advertise your business in our school calendar? Our beautiful calendar is designed by the pupils and incorporates their own individual artwork. It can be spotted in most of our family's homes and raises much needed money for the school. If you would like find out for about advertising in the calendar, please email us at stgregorysealingpta@gmail.com

The next PTA meeting will take place on Thursday 12th October at 8pm in the Coffee Shop located in Ealing Abbey. All welcome!

We are ongoing receiving complaints from our neighbours in respect of parents' inconsiderate parking in front of driveways, overhanging kerbs and dropped pavements.

The **attached photos** show a recent example of poor parking by one of our parents which resulted in a lorry having to reverse back up the road – a dangerous manoeuvre for the driver and others.



If you drive to school, please allow sufficient time to find park safely and with consideration for others !

**Bikes + Scooters – a reminder to parents and pupils that bikes and scooters are not permitted to be used on the school site. Pupils must dismount prior to using the school driveway.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

URGENT LUNCH NOTIFICATION TO ALL PARENTS!

We are experiencing a problem with pipework/plumbing in our school kitchen.

The kitchen has been closed since Thursday and will reopen on Tuesday 26th September.

On Monday, Harrisons Catering will provide sandwiches for pupils in Reception and Years 1 + 2.

Pupils in classes 3-6 are requested to bring a packed lunch to school.

Pupils in receipt of free school meals will receive a sandwich from Harrisons.

Parents of junior pupils will be reimbursed for payments made for Monday.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.