



'Working & learning together with Jesus as one family'

HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER
Friday 21st September 2018

**Pupils have got off to a very positive start in learning !
We have some great reports from each of our year groups.**



Nursery have settled in very well on their very first week of school. The children have gone on an Autumn walk and looked for signs of autumn, counted with conkers and painted with carrots. The children are beginning to walk in a line – it is taking a while! Well done nursery on a very busy first week.

In **Reception**, the children have just completed their first full week of school. They have been so excited to make use of the numerous learning activities in the Reception classes and to make so many new friendships. The topic in Reception this half term is "All About Me" which has enabled the children to talk about what they look like, what they like doing and how they can learn together as a class.

What an exciting start **Year One** have had! We began the year with a drama workshop led by Monster Cats. The children were involved in acting out the story of Farmer Duck and they used this exciting experience to do some independent writing in their new English books. We have also been reading The Three Little Pigs in English as part of our 'Big Build' Topic and revising ordering numbers to 30 and basic addition. In Phonics we have been recapping Phase 2 and 3 sounds and introducing the children to CVCC words from Phase 4. We are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Year 1 curriculum meeting on Tuesday 25th September.



Well done to the whole of **Year 2** who have settled in very positively over the past weeks! And what an exciting and busy few weeks it has been! We have studied traditional tales in English, such as 'The Little Red Hen' and 'The Frog Prince'. We used story boards, sequencing and drama activities to help with retelling these tales. In our 'Animals including humans' Science topic we have been exploring at the life cycle of frogs and chickens, investigating what happens at each stage.

Welcome to Year 3! We have had a great start to the new term, children have been settling in well to their new classes. We have been learning about all the new routines and expectations of Year 3, the children have discussed the qualities of a Saint Gregory's Angel. We also learnt about St Gregory, who this saint was and why he was so important. We've had an exciting start to our new English topic, Superheroes, the children have been enthusiastically creating their own characters to be used later in their own story writing. In science the children have been looking in detail at different rocks under the visualiser and finding out that rocks are being used to make and build everyday objects and materials.



In **Year 4**, the children have begun reading Charlotte's Webb which has been helping them to expand their descriptive vocabulary skills. Model farm animals and barns, made by the children, are adorning our classrooms and acting as a visual resource to stimulate writing tasks. In Science, we have started our Sound topic. The children are finding out how sounds are made and transported to our ears through a variety of mediums. World Knowledge is our current Geography topic. The children are learning to locate continents, countries and oceans the world over. We hope they will soon be impressing you with their growing knowledge on Planet Earth!



Over the last two weeks in **Year 5**, we have been learning about Earth and Space. During one of our science lessons we used toilet paper to make a scaled model of the solar system. Mercury was only 1 piece of toilet paper from the sun, the Earth was 3 pieces of toilet paper away but Neptune was 76 pieces of toilet paper away from the sun! This explains why Neptune is - 201°C during the day. Did you know that you could fit Earth into Jupiter 1,320 times? We didn't but do now!



The children have made an excellent start to the year! This week in **year 6** we have been continuing our book study based on 'The Silver Sword'. We developed our drama skills by creating freeze frames, adding action to roleplay what happened when one of the characters escaped a prison camp during the war. We can't wait to use these skills to inspire our writing over the next few days! Meanwhile, in maths, the children have been attempting to break world records by proving Goldbach's Theory, investigating prime numbers. History this week taught us more about how war broke out in 1939, listening to Neville Chamberlain's broadcast to learn more about it.



YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM INFORMATION EVENINGS –

The schedule for our evenings has Teachers will be presenting an overview of what pupils will be learning over the course of the year, in each of our year groups. We strongly urge all parents to attend in order to support your child's learning. **The meeting schedule has been altered following the school's Ofsted Inspection this week. Please see below for new dates.**

Meetings will be held in the school hall. **Please note these are for parents only (pupils should not attend).**

Year 1 Curriculum Information Meeting	Tuesday 25 th September 6pm
Year 4 Curriculum Information Meeting	Wednesday 26 th September 6pm
Year 3 Curriculum Information Meeting	Thursday 27 th September 6pm
Year 5 Curriculum Information Meeting	Tuesday 2 nd October 6pm

Uniform reminders!

A number of pupils are wearing coloured/patterned coats/jackets. **Please ensure your child has a plain navy jacket as per our uniform requirements.**

Hooped, decorative earrings are not permitted to be worn in school. **Please ensure your child has plain stud earrings.** Any other type of earring/jewellery will be removed in school and sent home.

Rucksacks/book bags – **Pupils in Years 1 + 2 are not permitted to wear rucksacks to schools.** Book bags only please!

The pupils continue to impress us in their smart uniforms !

PTA NEWS UPDATES

Welcome Picnic

The Welcome Picnic for Reception and Nursery children and for new families to the school, will take place on Saturday 22nd September 3pm - 5pm in the main school playground. There will be face-painting, a children's entertainer and a second hand uniform sale (all items £1 each). Teas, coffees and small snacks will be served and you are more than welcome to bring a picnic or items to share. Please remember we are a nut free school, so please do not bring in any items containing nuts.

PTA AGM Meeting

The PTA AGM will take place 8pm - 9pm on Thursday 27th September in the School Hall. PTA Members (all parents and teachers at the school are members!) will be able to 'vote in' the new committee members. We will also be having a few drinks afterwards - so please join us, everyone is welcome! We have the following vacancies, so if you are interested in the role or would like to find out more, please email stgregorysealingpta@gmail.com.

Secretary - This is an office holder position but can be shared between two people. Duties include taking the minutes of the PTA meetings, distributing the agenda and minutes to the members and school office and booking the room for the PTA meeting.

Co-Chairs - This is an office holder position but can be shared between more people. Although Gemma Outten and Chantain Thomas intend to stand again for election, they would very much like additional people to share the role.

Rep Co-ordinators - To manage the PTA communication to the class reps especially coordinating the volunteers for our Christmas Bonanza & Summer Fete.

Buyers - To buy items for our PTA fundraising events eg for the Christmas Bonanza, Summer Fete, Children's Disco etc. To be able to drive and have access to a car is necessary and all items purchased for the events will be refunded.

Raffle Co-ordinator - To seek prizes for our raffle and co-ordinate the distribution of the tickets. The raffle is a key element of our Christmas Bonanza and Summer Fete as it raises thousands of pounds!

Event Co-ordinator - Perhaps you have some amazing ideas for a fundraising event or would like to manage an event - please let us know!

Sponsorship Co-ordinator - A role that would suit a parent working full time - to seek sponsorship opportunities with businesses and put together fundraising bids. Last year we received money from the Co-Op and Aviva and very little time was spent filling in the registration form to apply for their funds!! St Gregory's PTA is a registered charity and there are lots of organisations that allocate money for good causes.

Calendar Advertising

Work has already started on next year's calendar and the children have been busy drawing their portraits! If you have a business, large or small, that would like to advertise in our beautiful calendar, please contact Emily O'Meara at stgregorysealingpta@gmail.com for more details. Advertising is limited and booked on a first come, first serve basis. Already a quarter of the space has been allocated! Deadline for advert artwork is Wednesday 10th October.

£130 for a banner (7 boxes)

£55 for 3 boxes

£40 for 2 boxes

£25 for 1 box

Grotto Sponsor

The team organising Santa's Grotto for this year's Christmas Bonanza are looking for sponsorship to help with the costs of buying the children's presents. The Grotto is the highlight of the Bonanza each year, with it's magical setting where children get to meet Santa, have their photo taken by a professional photographer, and receive a present from the elves! In order to provide the best presents possible for the children, the Grotto team are looking for sponsorship totalling £400. Sponsors will get valuable exposure for their company and a special VIP visit to Santa! If you or someone you know would be able to contribute, can you please email barbaranoya@yahoo.com

Ealing Half Marathon

We have a few parents running this year's Ealing Half Marathon and some children running the Ealing Mini Mile. Please show your support by sponsoring them www.everyclick.com/stgregoryshalfmarathon2018 We wish all the runners the very best of luck!