



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Parent Newsletter – December 2019



'Loving and Learning'

*To love all those with whom we come into contact as taught to us by Jesus through the Gospels.
To learn to the best of our ability using our God given talents.*

A Prayer for December

This weekend we enter the season of Advent we hope that it will be a time of spiritual awakening and renewal for us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Saviour:



God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.



A message from Mr Boodell

As we approach the end of another busy month and the indeed the end of the Church's liturgical year, I would like to say a special thank you and well done to Year 6 who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 19th November. We were blessed and honoured to be joined by Archbishop Bernard who led a beautiful service and was extremely complimentary about the children's preparation, reverence and respect throughout the evening. Many thanks as well to all the parents, families and sponsors who helped make the evening such a calm, prayerful and peaceful occasion.

Thank you also to all the parents and carers who attended our recent Reception Observation workshop and Key Stage 1 reading workshop. We had lots of very positive feedback and look forward to inviting you in for some more chances to work with your children and see more of the learning they do in school as the year progresses. Please do contact the school office or send an email to headteacher@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk if you have any suggestions for future workshops in school.

Finally, I would like to remind you that **school will be closed to pupils on Thursday 12th December** as we are being used as a polling station for the General Election. Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused you and we will be open as usual on Friday 13th. The flu vaccinations that were scheduled to take place on this date will now be taking place on Wednesday 4th December.

Welcome Mrs White

A warm welcome to Mrs White who has joined the St Gregory's family as a member of our office staff. She has thoroughly enjoyed her first couple of weeks with us and is looking forward to getting to know as many names and faces as possible over the coming months. Please continue to welcome and introduce yourselves to her and she will be happy to help with any queries or questions you may have.

November 2019 Attendance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>Y1</u>	<u>Y2M</u>	<u>Y2W</u>	<u>Y3</u>	<u>Y4</u>	<u>Y5</u>	<u>Y6</u>
<u>Attendance</u>	94.0%	95.6%	94.7%	93.9%	96.2%	98.1%	97.3%	94.7%

Congratulations to **Year 4**, who were the winners of the attendance award for the month of November. Our average attendance for this period was **95.6%**.

Our school target for 2019/20 is **97%**.



Smethwick Foodbank Appeal

We will continue to support the foodbank over the coming weeks and months so please add to the basket in the school reception area whenever you are able to. During Advent, the Foodbank staff have asked us to inform you that any donations of mince pies, selection boxes or other Christmas themed food would be gratefully received.

The Sun – Books for Schools

As of Saturday 23rd November, the Sun newspaper will be printing tokens in the paper for schools and parents to collect until Saturday 18th January. We need to collect 3,500 tokens to get a pack of books worth more than £600. If you buy the Sun (or know someone who does) please collect the tokens for us and drop into school.

School Uniform Reminder

A gentle reminder that all children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 should now be wearing school ties as part of their winter uniform.

Please ensure that children are coming to school with a tie from here on in. Should you need to purchase a tie, they are on sale from the school office for £5 and we have both elasticated and traditional ties available.



Peter Pan Theatre Trip and Beauty and the Beast Pantomime

A reminder to please pay the balance for these trips/visits on School Comms if you haven't already done so. The Panto in school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 is on Wednesday 11th December and the visit to Birmingham Rep for Peter Pan for Year 2 - Year 5 is on Thursday 19th December.



Christmas Play tickets and attendance

Reception and Year 1 Play - No tickets are required for this play but we ask that you limit your attendance to no more than 3 family members due to the capacity of the school hall.

Year 2 Play - No tickets are required for this play but we ask that you limit your attendance to no more than 3 family members due to the capacity of the school hall.

Key Stage 2 Play – Attendance through ticket only for these performances. A letter has been sent out for you to request tickets – a maximum of 2 per performance (4 in total)

Christmas Dates

I attach another copy of the Christmas dates sheet for your information. You will be pleased to hear that the Beauty and the Beast pantomime is on at 9.30am on Wednesday 11th December and not 9.30pm as previously stated ☺



Christmas 2019 – Key Dates



Dear parents and carers,

With the end of term fast approaching I wanted to take the opportunity to inform you of as many of our key dates over the Christmas Period as possible. I know this is a very busy time of year and advanced notice will be appreciated when it comes to booking time off work for Christmas Shows etc.:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Tuesday 10 th December	2.00pm	Year 2 Christmas Play
Wednesday 11 th December	9.30am	Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 Beauty & the Beast Pantomime
Friday 13 th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day Bring £1 for 'Save the Children'
Monday 16 th December	9.30am	Reception & Year 1 Christmas Play
Monday 16 th December	2.00pm	Key Stage 2 Christmas Play
Tuesday 17 th December	4.00pm	Key Stage 2 Christmas Play
Thursday 19 th December	Morning	Year 2-5 Peter Pan @ Birmingham Rep
Friday 20 th December	Morning	Mass in School, Christmas Dinner for children, School closes at 1.30pm