



**ST GREGORY'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you first of all for your patience whilst we arranged sacrament dates for this year. It was important to us as a school community to ensure that both children who have missed out on sacraments due to Covid and our existing sacrament year groups were able to continue on their journey of faith without any further delay.

I appreciate it has been a long time since being able to give you a definitive date and time for when your child is to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist for the first time. I can confirm that after recent conversations with Father Cownley and supporting priests, that preparation and celebrations of both Sacraments will take place this term.

Dates for the upcoming Sacraments are as follows:

**Reconciliation** – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May

Children will attend Mass at Church on the morning of this day at 10am, followed by confessions. This is to be attended by the children, year group staff and serving priests only.

**First Holy Communion** – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm

All are very welcome to celebrate this occasion, but please be mindful that each child can have only a maximum of 6 members of friends or family in attendance on the evening, ensuring that immediate family and friends can be accommodated to celebrate with us in a safe and comfortable fashion.

If your child is not Catholic but would still like to attend to support their classmates, they are very welcome to join in the celebration and bring parents along with them. **Please speak to myself, Mrs Levack or Miss Stanley if this is your intention** and confirm if you wish for your child to receive a blessing when it comes to the other children receiving Communion.

Whilst celebrating this special occasion looks slightly different to how we've celebrated in previous years, myself and the Senior Leadership Team feel it is imperative that receiving the Sacrament is at the heart of this occasion to bring them closer to Christ. Joining together on a smaller scale with immediate family and friends will support this intimate, happy and holy occasion.

We will continue with our plan of celebrating with the children back at school on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and host a Communion party to mark the occasion as a year group. We ask that the children attend school on this date in the clothes they are wearing for the Sacrament, as we will host a thanksgiving Mass in school and have a small party afterwards. More details will follow, closer to the time.

St Gregory's  
Catholic Primary School,  
Park Road, Smethwick,  
West Midlands, B67 5HX

Tel: 0121 4292609  
[www.st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk)  
Principal: Mr Chris Hancox

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Part of the Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company

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**What to wear**

We will confirm details on this during the parent's meeting as to what the children would usually wear to attend mass for this particular Sacrament. But to give you an idea, traditionally girls wear a white dress but this is not an expectation and boys wear grey/black trousers, white shirt and a red tie.

**Parent's Catechesis Meeting**

On the evening of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, we would like to invite you to join us for a parent's catechesis meeting to give you an overview of the preparation the children will go through in the lead up to First Holy Communion. But it will also be a time for us to share and reflect on our own experiences and how we as parents and staff can support the children in this chapter of their faith development. Mrs Levack will lead on this meeting and it will begin at 5pm. Any materials shared, will be distributed the following day via your child if you cannot be present at the meeting.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We are likely to request that you arrive at church no later than 4.40pm on the evening of your child's First Holy Communion Mass, and drop your child off at the Guild Room before taking your seats in church. I will confirm these arrangements at the parents meeting on the 25.05.2022 and also communicate this to you by email closer to the date of the celebration itself.

Best wishes and God bless,

Mr C Hancox  
Interim Principal

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