



Dear parent/carer

At the end of a very busy term, I want to congratulate the children on all their successes to this point in the academic year. I thank you all for your continued support to the school, which was evident in all events held over the past four months – especially attendance to Christmas performances.

More recently, the children in Year 6 and those Year 5s who form our Mini Vinnies, successfully raised an estimated £250 for our Advent offering to Birmingham Children's Hospital – well done to all involved.

I hope that the Christmas break gives you all an opportunity to bring Jesus into your lives and share that feeling of love to all around you, both near and far.

Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas
Mr C Hancox

Advent Prayer

Father God,
As our lifelong pilgrimage continues,
may our journey be filled
with prayer, penance, charity and solidarity.
With the help of your Holy Spirit,
may our words and actions make us your witnesses
throughout the world.
We ask this through Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Wednesday Word

Click [here](#) to see Gospel readings for Sundays over the coming weeks and related activities for you to do at home with your children.

Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Gregory the Great

A massive **congratulations to our Year 6 children** who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at the start of the month. A beautiful Mass was held by Bishop Evans.

For **Mass and liturgy times**, including those over the festive period, please click [here](#).

For **news, events, and further updates** in the Parish, please click [here](#).

Eloquent and Truthful

Next half-term we are growing to be eloquent and truthful in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people, and the world.

We are looking to help the children to develop an eloquent language which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.



Attendance

Congratulations to Year 3 on having the highest collective attendance for last half-term - They have also had the highest attendance since returning from the half-term break.

Overall, school attendance was at 94%.

RY	93%
1Y	96%
2Y	92%
Year 3	97%
4Y	96%
Year 5K	91%
Year 5S	93%
6Y	96%



S Gregory's **W**rap **A**round **G**roup

To maintain appropriate levels of staffing to look after the children in our care and ensure that we have purchased the correct amounts of food for all sessions across the week, we politely request that you book your child/children into SWAG in advance and avoid doing so on the day. We understand that sometimes it is a necessity at the last minute to have to book in provision, but where possible could you please do so beforehand. Thank you.

Breakfast Club:

- Early Start (7:30am – 8:45am): £ 6.00
- Standard Start (8:00am - 8:45am): £ 4.00
- Later Start (8:15am - 8:45am): £ 2.00



After School Club:

- Long Session (3:25pm – 6:00pm): £ 9.00
- Mid-Session (3:25pm - 5:30pm): £ 8.00
- Short session (3.25pm – 4.30pm): £ 4.50
- Mini Session (3:00pm - 3:30pm or 3:30pm - 4:00pm): £ 2.00
- After Activity Club top up session (4:30pm - 6:00pm): £4.50

**Extra-curricular Activities
this Half-Term**

Mon	KS1 Fencing	Chess Club	
Tue	Lego Club		
Wed			
Thu	KS2 Dodgeball		
Fri			Irish Dancing

Key Dates

- **INSET Day (School closed to pupils)** – Tuesday 3rd January 2023
- **School Reopens** – Wednesday 4th January 2023
- **Year 4 Swimming begins** – Wednesday 4th January 2023
- **Year 6 SATs Parent Briefing** – Wednesday 4th January 2023 (5pm)
- **Year 2 SATs Parent Briefing** – Wednesday 11th January 2023 (5pm)
- **Parent's Evening** – Wednesday 25th January 2023 (4pm – 7pm)

**Please continue to look out for the weekly newsletter on the website for additional dates and updates*

Friends of St Gregory's - PTA

Thank you to you all for donations that contributed to the estimated £200 raised by the PTA for the provision of refreshments before all Christmas performances. The PTA used some funding in the last week to provide refreshments for class Christmas parties and to ensure all children in school received a small gift from Father Christmas on his visit into school. Thank you to the team for your time, care, and dedication in providing further opportunities for our children.

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

Tel: 0121 429 4609
www.st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mr Chris Hancox