



# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

## Parent Newsletter – November 2020



### *'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 entered 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.



#### Prayers for Mrs Lees and family

We are very sad to inform you that Mrs Lees sadly lost her husband after a short battle with cancer earlier this month. We therefore ask you to remember Mrs Lees and all her family in your prayers over the coming days and weeks.

**Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace.  
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, our thoughts turn to Christmas and our celebrations at home and in school. I therefore wanted to give you some news and updates on our plans for the Christmas period in school.

This year will of course be very different to previous years and we will sadly be unable to hold our Carol Concerts and Nativity Plays in the traditional way. We will still however, be trying to make sure that the children are able to enjoy celebrating this special time of year in school and have lots of exciting activities planned to make sure that this is the case. Please turn over for a full breakdown of the dates and events in school this year. Please also note the following information:

**School will close at 1.00pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December for children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and at 1.15pm for children in Key Stage 2**

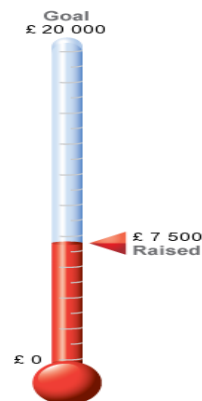
### Autumn Term Reports

Due to current restrictions we are unable to hold a Parents' Evening in school this term. In the absence of this event, your children's class teachers will be sending out a written report at the beginning of next week. These reports will contain an overview of children's progress and attainment so far this year, as well as some key targets for the Spring term. If you wish to discuss the contents of this report you will have the opportunity to request a short telephone consultation with your child's class teacher during week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### School Fund Appeal

Thank you so much to all the families who have already contributed to our School Fund Appeal. We are trying to raise the £20,000 needed to transform our grass area into an all-weather AstroTurf surface which will make a huge difference to the children's playtimes and wider curriculum opportunities for many years to come.

If you would like to make a donation you can donate by using SchoolComms and clicking the 'School Fund' tab. Every penny helps and we will be holding some additional fundraising events in school as the year progresses to help us reach our target as soon as possible.



### Thank You Parents..!

A huge thank you from all of the staff at St Gregory's for the kind donations from parents who have provided coffee and cakes for all of the staff here in school. A very generous and much appreciated boost for all of us after what has been a challenging term in school. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity ☺

### 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.



### Nursery Spaces Available

We still have some afternoon spaces available in our Nursery provision on site. Please contact the school office for more details or to register an interest.

### Corona Virus Guidance

Thank you for your ongoing support in wearing masks on the school grounds when dropping off and collecting children from school.

A reminder as well that your child should not be attending school if they are suffering from any of the main Coronavirus symptoms. Get a test if your child or any other family member has any of these symptoms:

- A new high temperature, where they feel hot to touch on their chest or back.
- A new continuous cough, coughing a lot more for more than an hour or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- Loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste.

Please also remember that if any member of your family is experiencing Coronavirus symptoms, or awaiting the results of a Coronavirus test, your child should not attend school until you have the results of the test.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



## Christmas 2020 – Key Dates

### Date

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

### Event

#### **Advent Retreat in school -**

A chance for children to reflect together in school with a retreat led by Dan and Emily from One Life Music

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Parties in class –**

Children can wear Christmas Jumpers and their own clothes to school. **Please send in £1** which will be donated to St Mary's Hospice.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Christmas Dinner for children in school**

See attached letter for information on ordering Christmas Dinner

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Christmas Movie/Panto Day**

Children will watch a Christmas movie or Online Pantomime with their friends in class

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Christmas Prayer Services in school –**

School closes at 1.00pm for EYFS and Key Stage 1. School closes at 1.15pm for Key Stage 2.

**We will also be sharing our 'Virtual Nativity' with you during the last week of term and more details on this will follow shortly.**

**Please also note that due to the early finish on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December After-School Club will not be running on this date.**

**P.T.O for Christmas Dinner order information**



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. GREGORY'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Part of the St Catherine of Siena Academy



Tel: 0121-429 4609  
Fax: 0121-429 7394

Park Road  
Smethwick,  
B67 5HX

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

**Christmas Dinner in School – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas lunch will be served in school on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This provides us with a lovely way to bring our Autumn term to a close and celebrate Christmas with the children. As in previous years, school staff will act as waiters and waitresses to serve the children and there will be music and crackers to add to the festivities.

Children who normally have a school dinner can continue to select their choice via 'School Grid' in the usual way. However, if your child normally brings a packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner, you will need to order and pay online (£2.30) through Dolce's 'School Grid' (<https://www.live-kitchen.co.uk/>)

If your child is in Reception or KS1 the Christmas lunch is covered by their free school meal so does not need to be paid for but it does still need ordering online beforehand. Please order online as soon as possible in order to assist our kitchen staff with the preparation process.

Best wishes,

Mr T Boodell  
Principal



*'Loving and Learning'*  
www.st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk

