



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Parent Newsletter – September 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 September

Lord God, bless our school.

Bless all the people who are part of our community.

Help us to work and play well together, so that we grow in your love.

Help us to care for each other and the planet you have given us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



A message from Mr Boodell

The children have settled back into school fantastically well after such a long time away and I would like to thank all of our families again for your patience and support with our procedures at the start and end of the school day.

There have understandably been many queries about illness and absences over the last weeks so I once again attach a useful document outlining what families should do in respect to a variety of scenarios involving symptomatic family members in school or at home. Government guidance changes on an almost daily basis so we will be sure to keep you updated on any changes as soon as we are made aware.

Reporting Absence

I also ask for your patience and understanding if attempting to contact school in the morning by telephone to report an absence or get advice. Mrs Duncan is on her own in the office at present and is having to field a large number of telephone and in-person queries each morning. We are attempting to install an answerphone system in school which will make absence reporting more straightforward but in the meantime an email address has been set up which will allow you to report absences over email.

If your child is unwell and not able to attend school you can report it by emailing:

PupilAbsence@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk

You do not need to phone or email on every day of your child's absence but we would ask for an update on the third day of absence if your child is still not well enough to return to school.

Any results of Corona Virus tests should still be reported directly to the school office as soon as possible and you will then be given further advice as to when your child can return to school.



Corona Virus Guidance

We are continuing to monitor updated Government advice and the children's safety and wellbeing remains our top priority

At school, we continue to the advice given to prevent the spread of any viral infection. This includes encouraging the children to maintain good basic hygiene by sanitising & washing their hands regularly and following the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' advice when coughing and sneezing.

You can help minimise risk at school by doing your very best to maintain social distancing in and around the school grounds.



Class E-mail Addresses

I am aware that at the moment it is difficult for you to speak to class teachers in the way you were able to in the past at the start and end of the school day. To solve this issue we have set up new Class Email Addresses for all of our new year groups. This will allow you to share important information and also gives teachers the option of sending out reminders and other useful information on learning activities, homework etc. Class Email addresses are as follows:

Pre-School: PreSchool@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Reception: ReceptionClass@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 1: YearOne@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 2: YearTwo@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 3B: YearThreeB@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 3S: YearThreeS@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 4: YearFour@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 5: YearFive@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Year 6: YearSix@st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk

Names on school uniform/property

We are still experiencing a large number of jumpers, cardigans, coats and other items without children's names on.

Children will often take off their jumper or coat when playing outside and will sometimes forget to pick it up.

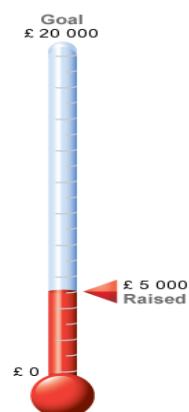
If items of clothing do not have a child's name on them it is extremely difficult to return them to their owner.

Please help save valuable time in school – Put your child's name in anything that could potentially get lost (jumper, cardigan, coat, lunchbox, school bag)

School Fund Appeal

Thank you 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.



Pupil Tutoring – 11+ and more

A former St Gregory's pupil has contacted school to offer her services as a private tutor. Annissa La Touche has been tutoring primary school aged children in Maths and English for over two years now, as well as tailored tutoring for the 11+ with 100% of her students getting into the grammar schools of their choice. Hourly rates are £30/hour and Annissa's contact details are as follows: Tel: 07934374688 e-mail: alatouche57@gmail.com.



School Term Dates 2020/2021

Autumn term 2020

- Tuesday 1 September 2020: (Training Day - School closed to pupils)
- Wednesday 2 September: Start of term – School opens to KS1 and KS2 pupils
- Monday 7th September: School opens to Reception and Pre-school pupils
- Thursday 22 October: School closes for half term.
- Friday 23 October: (Training Day- School closed to pupils)
- **Half-term holiday: Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020**
- Monday 2 November: School opens
- Term ends: Friday 18 December 2020
- **Christmas holiday: Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021**

Spring term 2021

- Monday 4th January: (Training Day- School closed to pupils)
- Term starts: Tuesday 5th January 2021
- **Half-term holiday: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021**
- Term ends: Thursday 1 April 2021
- **Easter Holiday: Friday 2 April to Friday 16 April 2021**

Summer term 2021

- Term starts: Monday 19 April 2021
- Monday 3 May: May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Thursday 6th May: (Training Day- School closed to pupils)
- Friday 28th May: (Training Day- School closed to pupils)
- **Half-term holiday: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021**
- Term ends: Tuesday 20th July
- Wednesday 21 July 2021: (Training Day- School closed to pupils)
- **Summer holiday starts: Thursday 22 July 2021**

Note: * School is used as a polling station for local and general elections so will also be closed to pupils in the event of these elections taking place in 2021



Covid-19 related pupil absence
A quick reference guide for parents and staff (September 2020)

What to do if...	Action Needed	Return to school when...
...my child has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a test if possible - Inform the school immediately about the test result 	...the test comes back negative or a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.
...my child tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days). - Self-isolate the whole household. 	...10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. <i>(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)</i> AND the child feels well.
...my child tests negative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact school to inform us. - Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day). 	...the test comes back negative.
...my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. 	...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
...someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Self-isolate the whole household. - Household member to get a test. - Inform school immediately about test result. 	...the test comes back negative.
...someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days). - Self-isolate the whole household. 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days). 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The household member must self-isolate for 14 days. - Child can continue to attend school. 	...child can continue to attend school
... a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days. - St Gregory's child(ren) can continue to attend. 	...child can continue to attend school

<p>... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is NOT on the exempt list of countries.</p>	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled. - contact school to inform us you are back in the country and we will agree an earliest date for possible return to school. - Self-isolate the whole household. <p>*Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) – for up to date travel information</p>	<p>...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.</p>
<p>... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that IS on the exempt list of countries.</p>	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is NOT needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check the current Exempt countries and territories list to confirm the country you have travelled from or through is on the exempt list. - Ring school to inform us you have returned to the UK and agree a return date to school. 	<p>... you have informed the office of your return to the UK (<i>the office will ask you a few questions about your travel</i>).</p>
<p>...I have travelled from a country that requires us to quarantine (but my child didn't travel).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As long as you do not have / have not had symptoms in the last 14 days, your child can continue to attend school. - The person who has travelled MUST NOT leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs (<i>please contact school if you need support getting your child to school</i>). 	<p>...child can continue to attend school</p>
<p>...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again. 	<p>...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.</p> <p>...you receive medical advice that your child may return to school.</p>
<p>...my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child must not come to school. - Support your child at home with remote education provided by school. - Your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. - Other siblings may continue to attend school. 	<p>...school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.</p>
<p>... I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms</p>	<p><i>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.</i></p>	<p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.</p>