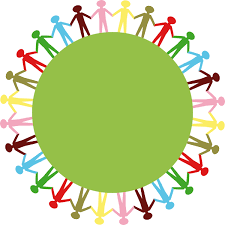
17th September 2021



Dear Parents / Carers

It’s now the end of our second week back. Oh, my goodness what a wonderful group of children we have at St Gregory’s. They are settled, working hard and applying themselves to all the new challenges being given to them. There is an air of enjoyment flowing through the school, with friendships being reformed and new ones forged. Lunchtime in the hall is a pleasure to see with all the children chatting to one another and catching up with others in different classes – some of whom they have never seen!! Outside at playtimes and lunchtimes the children have on offer far more equipment available to them and they are thriving on using the trikes, scooters etc, going around our daily mile track, climbing on the wooden play equipment and of course football!



I must praise our older children who have already shown just in the past two weeks how mature they are in their responsibilities as setting examples to our younger pupils. They have many roles and are extremely conscientious in doing these.

Today some of them are presenting speeches to the whole school to be our Pupil Parliament leaders and Sports Leaders. All children across the school will be voting and the announcement will be on Monday. I am pleased to say that Simon Hoare MP is kindly giving up his time to come and listen to the children and pass comment on what he hears.



Our worship ambassadors who work closely with Rev Gaenor and Mrs Cook-Paine in leading school and church services have already been selected and presented their first service on Wednesday. They were confident, eloquent and a great reflection on our school. Well done!

These children are:

Felicity Payton Grace Wrench Harry Tibbles Chloe Escott

Molly Hopkins Belle Baker Bella Gordge

 **Hello Yellow Children’s Mental health Day Friday 8th October**

We will be supporting this and the children will be covering some activities related to this during the school day. Children may come in anything yellow or a touch of yellow. We will be setting up a just giving site for donations to this charity.

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Please don’t forget our school **Reading Evening on Tuesday 28th September. Reading in all schools is a high priority** and therefore we wanted to deliver information to you this half term. It is an opportunity for everyone to come and hear about reading across the school, Ofsted expectations on schools, why we do what we do, speak with teachers, see our resources and ask any questions you may have. Mike Randall our school educational consultant, will be presenting and also be available for questions.

We are offering childcare, as this event is immediately after pick -up. They will be with members of our team in one of our classes. Any children attending after school club that night will not be charged for the facility. I really hope you can join us.

 **STAY & LEARN: Wednesday 20th October 8.45 – 10.30am.**

We are having an open morning for parents, new parents and members of our community to come and see life at St Gregory’s. Come and join in our Daily mile, visit classes, chat to pupils, chat to members of staff and learn!

More details will follow.



There will be a new communication app which will replace all current email and text services. More information will follow.

**Letter attached**

The new committee has now formed, please see the introductory letter for this school year. We would love you to get involved so please email ptfastgregs@gmail.com

**Mystery Readers**

We are still looking for mystery readers to come in on a Friday afternoon to read a book of their choice to the children. This is only for about 10 minutes and can be a book, poem or tell a story. Please let Laurie in the office know or Miss Edwards

 **Themed School Dinner**

On Thursday 7th October our school meal provider is running a Deep South themed lunch. Please order these on the Chartwells website [Dorset Meal Selector | Home](https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk/) If anyone who doesn’t normally order lunch but would like to on this day, please let Laurie know

**School Uniform**

Thank you for your support with school uniform – all the children are looking smart and wearing their uniform with pride

 **Ladies of Marnhull are you up for a challenge?**

I will be approaching you over the next few weeks to see if you are willing to take part in a fundraising event I am organising to raise funds for Reading books across our school. Posters will be out very soon, giving lots of details but for now I will just say…………24 hour bikeathon, school hall, x5 bikes, ladies in lycra and padded bottoms, lots of fun and oh I forgot to say the challenge is to complete…….Marnhull - London - Paris - Prague - Vienna - Venice – Rome - 2000 miles!

***NEW TIMES, NEW FACES, NEW FRIENDS, NEW BEGINNNIGS***

With my warmest wishes as always

Debbie Field

**What’s To be Done - PTFA 2021-2022**

It has been a challenging 18 months or so for the PTFA’s fundraising efforts, all charities have struggled, and it is worth remembering that we are in fact a charity. Our golden geese events: M12k, Bingo and Quiz nights have all had to be cancelled or deferred. Happily the coffers have not become stagnant, the IOW bike ride, the ongoing contributions from Gianbattista Brocca and his pizza sales as well as several donations from local businesses have also benefited the school and its swimming pool in recent months, thanks once again to those involved. Details of recent donations can be found on the [PTFA](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/ptfa-parents-teachers-friends-association/) page of the school website in the EGM minutes.

And so, to the headline: What is to be done during the next school year? As a committee we are focused on the following key elements, more details on which a little later:

* Fundraising
* Growing the committee
* Benefiting parents
* Retain & further grow ties with the local community
* Support staff

**Fundraising**

The obvious and most indisputable reason for the PTFA’s existence is to be able to give money to Mrs. Field to spend as she see’s fit. We will endeavor to meet all her requests be it through selling a hot chocolate or a raffle ticket to larger events such as the M12k. Each person be they a parent, teacher or friend of the school can help in this endeavor, more on that a little further down…….

**Grow the Committee**

The committee as it stands is made up of eleven parents, most of which have served for several years. We always welcome new people, we value anyone that wants to help and that can be as little or as much as YOU want. All parents and teachers are of course members of the PTFA, being on the committee means you have more of say on what goes on.

**Benefit Parents**

Parents meeting one another is something we hope for more of in the next year. Events are an obvious place for this as are after school cake sales and the like. We often need volunteers and if you would like to dip your toe in the water and help now and then please let a committee member know or email:

<mailto:https://ptfastgregs@gmail.com>.

Ask anyone that has helped; there is always banter and a goodwill that benefits both the volunteer and the school. It’s a chance outside of the daily school run that can be a rushed affair to catch up on chit-chat, compare notes and much more besides.

**Retain & further grow ties with the local community**

Village life is of course wonderful, that’s why we’ve all settled where we have. A large part of that appeal is the community feel, never has this been better illustrated than during the pandemic. The school is and always has been at the centre of any community, it is the hope of the PTFA to make the bonds deeper by hosting events that all members of the community can enjoy. The school relies on so much goodwill from all quarters, and we’d love to give a bit back, allowing the community to enjoy all that St Greg’s school creates.

**Support Staff**

We are very proud of our staff; they offer a great fusion of energy and experience giving our children the best start in their education. The ties between primary school staff and parents are so much stronger than in secondary education. Staff need our support and the PTFA is there to do just that, each class has unique needs, and we can help deliver on those needs.

Finally, and imperatively we appeal to you the parents’ and in many ways the customers, please DO buy that ice cream or that hot chocolate after school, DO please donate a box of chocolates for a raffle, DO please attend some of our events as you are the VIP’s in helping to fund the crucial purchases that the PTFA enable.

Without your charitableness the children will go without.

You will find details of who’s who on the committee on the [PTFA](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/ptfa-parents-teachers-friends-association/) page where you can also keep up to date with historic minutes as well as information on upcoming events.

Thanks for reading

The PTFA Committee

