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21st October 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

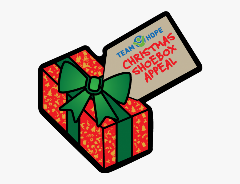
It’s very hard to believe it is half term. What a fantastic start to our year. Well done to our little reception Hedgehogs, who joined us in September – they have been an absolute pleasure to have in school and we are certailny getting to know all their personalities!!

A huge St Gregory’s welcome to some other new children: Jonathan in Year 4, Theo in Year 6 and Alfie in Year 1 (after half term). We hope you will enjoy your time with us, make lots of new friends and create many memories.



**Supply Teachers**

At times teachers do need to be out of class to fulfil their subject leader roles – carrying out observations, speaking with pupils, looking in books and writing action plans or just through illness. Where possible we do try to cover this internally by using existing staff or myself but there are times when we need to use supply teachers. We currently use Mr James Stanford and Mrs Palmer-Smyth (both ex headteachers). If child informs you that they have had a different teacher – this will be the reason why. Obviously, if there is long term illness, we would let you know and keep you updated. When supply teachers take classes, the curriculum is followed.

**CHRISTMAS Shoebox Appeal – with FSCI** [Christmas Box Appeal - FSCI (fscinet.org)](https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/)

It’s that time of year again when we like to support the Christmas box appeal. We would very much like to send as many as possible to support vulnerable children across Europe, who are far less fortunate.

Empty and wrapped shoeboxes **max size 395mm long x 240mm wide x 118mm deep** In addition, FSCI ask for £3 per box to help with shipping and distribution costs. These are being collected week of 21/11/22

Please either bulk buy one or two items or several from the list at the bottom of this newsletter.

**Christmas Cards for Sale**

Very excitingly, the children are designing their own cards which will be professionally printed and available for purchase in a few weeks' time. More information will be sent out after half term.



**Free School Meals**

If your child qualifies for free school meals, not only will they receive a healthy meal on every school day, they’ll also get, access to free holiday clubs, extra money for their school towards more teachers and activities. It’s easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals or telephone 01305 221090

**Pupil Premium**

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, you could get extra £££’s for your school!

Apply for the Pupil Premium at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium

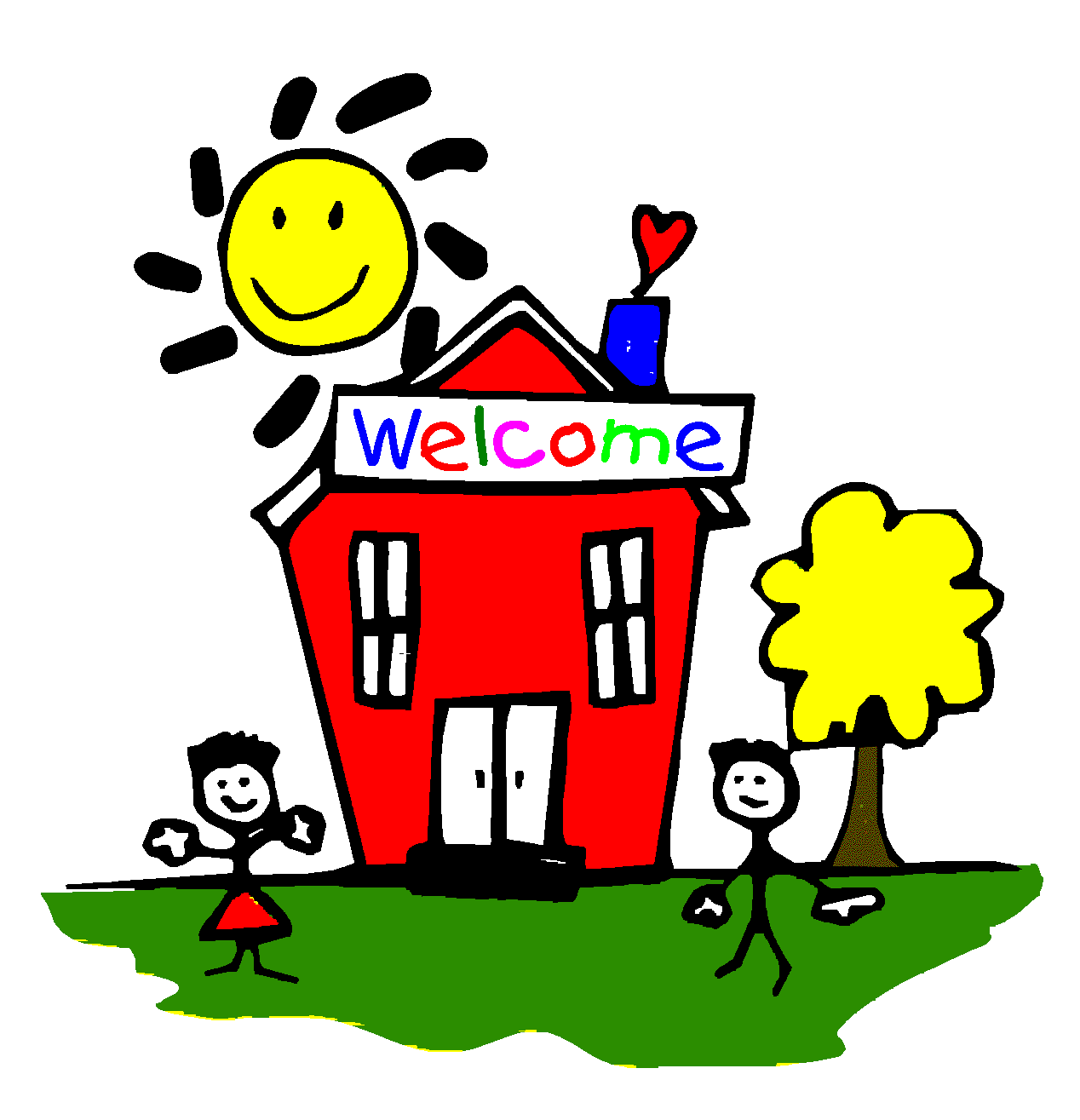


**Lessons – Kindly Provided by the Dorset Cricket Board**

Were enjoyed immensely by our Owls, Badgers and Foxes class this half term. Many thanks for the DCB for giving up their time to work with our children.

**Forest School**

We are hoping to start this fantastic lesson for each class again next half term. More info will follow about times but please do get some waterproof trousers, coats, wellies and warm clothes prepared for this.

**New Starters**

It was wonderful to see some new faces at our Open Morning yesterday. The deadline for applying to Dorset County Council for Reception (Sep 2023) applications is 15th January 2023 [Starting school for the first time - Dorset Council](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-school-for-the-first-time)



**Y5/6 Netball Tournament**

Wow, I am so incredibly proud of our school netball team. Last week they ventured off to Gillingham High school to take part in the Year 5/6 Netball tournament. They were a credit to the school, worked as a team, played fairly and I am pleased to say came 3rd out of 9 schools. This is a great achievement for the girls – **WELL DONE** to Katy, Ruby, Eve, Zoe, Martha, Parker, Lily. Thank you to Mrs Coling for taking the girls in my absence.

**Swimming Gala at Clayesmore School**

A team selected from our Year 2, 3 and 4 went to Clayesmore yesterday for a swimming gala against many other schools. They had a brilliant time and did themselves proud – 3rd in the competition, despite having the fewest swimmers in our team. **WELL DONE** to Rowan, Izzy, Alfie, Jessie, Leila, Neri, Ripley, Karolina!

**Reception & Year 6 Health Checks**

As part of the National Child Measurement Programme all Reception and Year 6 children are checked by NHS School Health Nursery Nurses. Information and the consent form will be sent out on SchoolPing.

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**Schedule of Events for the Year**

**As per the minutes sent out on 11/10/22**

• Autumn 1 – Movie Night for children only

• Autumn 2 – Family quiz at the school, Christmas Gift Shop, Family Christmas movie night

• Spring 1 – Valentine’s Children’s Disco

• Spring 2 – Quiz at the village hall, M12k, family bingo at the school

• Summer 1 – Sponsored event like Bike4Books

• Summer 2 – 2nd Quiz, Schools out for summer



**Non-School Uniform Day - Fri 4th Nov**

Please come in your own clothes and bring in gifts for hampers and also gifts for the Gift Shop (details below – Mon 5th Dec) Raffle tickets for these hampers will be available for sale in early November and winners will be drawn at the Whole School Performance on Tues 13th Dec

Please sign up on Ping (will be set up the first week back):

**Tuesday 8th November:** Hedgehogs / Badgers 3.30 – 5pm & Owls 3.40 – 4.20pm

**Wednesday 9th November:** Hedgehogs / Badgers 3.30 – 6.30pm & Owls 3.40 – 6pm & Foxes 3.30 – 5.30pm

**Thursday 10th November:** Foxes 3.30 – 6.30pm

**Poppy Appeal / Remembrance Service - Wed 9th Nov** **2.30pm**

We will have items for sale to raise money for this cause. Please send your child in with funds after half term, if you would like to support.

We will also be having our school Remembrance Service, led by Year 6 in St Gregory’s church on. All parents / carers are welcome. **Friday 11th November** we will be holding a minute's silence for the whole school in our playground. Our Year 6 pupils will be attending the community service at the war memorial and laying their own wreath.

**School Photographer – Thurs 10th Nov**

From 8.30am for children with siblings that are not at St Gregs

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**PTFA Parent Reps Meeting – Fri 11th Nov 9am & 2.30pm**

More details about this will follow shortly after half term

**Vaccine Clinic - Fri 11th Nov**

A letter from the NHS has been sent to you on SchoolPing. Please complete the online consent form.

**Family Quiz – Tues 15th Nov – School Hall**

Our Pupil Parliament children have been working extremely closely with the PTFA and are inviting you to attend a Family Quiz night – a fun time for all the family to compete!! There will an opportunity to purchase refreshments – drinks / pizza and snacks. The questions masters will be: Laura, Katy and Martha. They have devised an exciting quiz for all to access. It can be family teams or x2 families together - teams of up to 10. Adults £2.50 Children – Free.

Arrive 4.45pm for refreshments, quiz will commence at 5.30pm, interval 6.00pm (15mins), quiz recommences 6.15pm and ends 6.45pm. I hope you will all support our amazing children and come and have some fun!

**Trick Box – Fri 18th Nov 9-10.30am**

For those parents that started the course last year. A new course will be offered for an evening in the Spring Term and details about this parent support will go out nearer to the time.

**Children In Need – Fri 18th Nov**

We like to engage with this yearly. Children may wear onesies / Pudsey t- shirts / spotty clothes etc. Can we raise £100 plus?? No cash please but give your donation via:

[St Gregory's School is fundraising for BBC Children in Need (justgiving.com)](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-gregory-s-school4)



**Christmas Gift Shop – Mon 5th Dec**

I know that all our children love to choose presents for special people in their lives – this is their opportunity to do so at our PTFA gift shop. We will be asking for donations of gifts and a wonderful group of adults will help the children to wrap and decorate them. The children will need £3 per gift.

**Family Movie Night – Tues 6th Dec 5-7pm**

Come and have a relaxing time with your family at Christmas movie night. Bring your blankets, teddy bears and snuggle in your onesies and pyjamas. There will be one film, played in the school hall. Children £3.00 inc refreshments, Adults free – refreshments available to purchase.

**Dress Rehearsal - Mon 12th Dec 1.30pm**

**Performance - Tues 13th Dec 5.30pm.** Children will need to be in school for 5.15pm.

**Pantomime – Weds 14th Dec**

Thank you for responding the panto-poll. We have now booked Sleeping Beauty at Weymouth Pavillion. A ping with times and payment will be sent out.



**Christmas Jumper Day / Disco - Thurs 15th Dec**

Children can wear Christmas jumpers to raise money for Save The Children. [Our Christmas Jumper Day (savethechildren.org.uk)](https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/st-gregorys-primary-school-christmas-jumper-d)

****We will be having a Christmas buffet style lunch altogether and ask that each class’ parents provides the food below:

**Hedgehogs: crisps / sausage rolls / pork pies / bread sticks**

**Owls: Sandwiches – ham / cheese / cheese and pickle etc/ quiche**

**Badgers: tomatoes / cucumber / sliced carrot / fruit**

**Foxes: cakes & biscuits**

School will provide drink and decorations. In the afternoon the children will have the option of disco in the hall and a film for when they need a rest!!

Have a wonderful half term with your families

Warmest wishes as always

Debbie Williams

