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Description automatically generated with medium confidence

18th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I thought an update on what things have happened and are happening up to half term, would be beneficial.

A very successful meeting was held with parents regarding our Ofsted inspection. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. Any who weren’t, I hope this will help give you an insight into the conversations which took place.

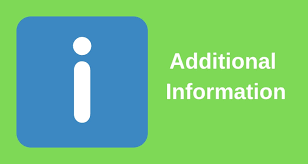
There were 10 families represented, Chair of Governors, Miss Edwards, Mrs Cook-Paine and Mrs Williams.

* The complaint procedure to Ofsted was explained – the school has followed this – to no avail, which is incredibly disappointing
* The school has NOT gone into special measures nor has it got an academy order - immediate academisation
* Another inspection will take place within 24 months
* A monitoring visit to ensure we are taking appropriate action will take place during this period
* Behaviour was not an issue inside or outside on the playground, when the inspector was observing – it definitely became an issue following parent feedback. There is nothing we are able to do about this except – work hard to ensure this does not occur again in the future, further develop our relationships with parents and establish good links through our parent Class Reps and Elly Ridout Parent Liaison lead. It is important that we reflect on this, to enable us to move forward
* Curriculum improvement – Ofsted Inspection is a totally new framework to previous inspections and the depth of what was expected from subject leaders was far more precise and detailed. Staff have discussed this at length at staff meetings, since the inspection and work has already started. We also have an Inspector attending our INSET day in February. I have asked him to join us to give clarity on what it is we are missing. This will ensure that we don’t spend a great deal of time and energy, only for us to be leaving out important aspects.
* We are judged on the same platform as large primary schools, with lots of staff and which is financially strong – in these schools, teachers often are only responsible for leading x1 subject, at St Gregory’s my staff have numerous subjects to lead as well as all their teaching and learning
* As in my letter, I re-explained that due to getting Requires Improvement for Behaviour this means that the Leadership & Management of the school has to be RI as well.
* Parents at the meeting expressed much positivity for the staff and the school
* Parents felt it would be helpful for a breakdown of the processes for discussing behaviour / school issues – this is below
* Staff thanked the parents for their positivity towards the school
* I expressed that we need to move forward from this Inspection, I am proud of what we achieve at St Gregory’s, we are inclusive to all and work hard to enable our children to head out from us into the big wide world with a secure academic foundation, resilience and a positive attitude to cope with what life throws at them

If any parents have a question or issue with anything to do with their child PLEASE………..

1. Speak to the class teacher – if unable to get in contact with them in an acceptable timescale…..
2. Message the school office [office@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) to arrange a meeting with the teacher. Mrs Shea will forward this to the member of staff, who will get in touch
3. If post the teacher/parent meeting, you are still dissatisfied please message Mrs Williams [head@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:head@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) and I will arrange a time to meet and discuss your concerns
4. If following the meeting with myself you feel things needs escalating further contact our Chair of Governors, Mr Nick Chapman [nchapman@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:nchapman@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)

Please remember that emails are picked up in the school day, until the member of staff leaves the setting – there is no expectation for them to check emails in an evening or at a weekend.

After the conclusion of the Ofsted meeting, Elly raised other issues, which parents had asked her to do so:

* Issues surrounding some of our older children waiting outside the gate in the morning and parents are concerned about them being unsupervised Action: DW will ensure that the gate is open from 8.30am (please be understanding if it is a few minutes late – often things arise that need to be dealt with)

Teachers will still come out at 8.40am to take classes in – this is due to teachers requiring time before school officially starts to prepare themselves for the day. The gate will be shut at 8.50am

* Issue raise regarding learning in class Action: Please follow the order of contact as given above – Class teacher firstly
* Very positive feedback given for Pound – children are loving it, request for parent session Action: DW will look into seeing if the Pound teacher would consider doing some taster sessions for parents / staff.

Very pleased to hear that the children are really enjoying the sessions – we are trying to offer some different options in school for physical activity

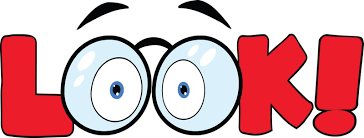
* Request for netball to be started again Action: When looking at clubs we try to deliver them when there is a tournament coming up – therefore the children get the practise. Throughout the year we try to give all the children different experiences. In my new role as PE lead, in light of the comment, I have added a couple of netball sessions into our Sports week. During lunchtimes / playtimes children are able to have the option to practise netball if they are on the playground.

PLEASE keep your ideas coming to Parent Class Reps – it is so important that we hear your views. I really value these meetings and hope that they will continue to foster our relationships with all parents. A questionnaire will be coming your way before half term.



Is our School scheme for French. There are some really good games online for the children to access, therefore we have set up a pupil login. Children can do any of the games they wish. Follow link below, click login, click pupil games and enter the details: <https://www.languageangels.com/schools/index.php/home>

Username: stgregs2023 Password: ALLPUPILS2023

**Fri 27th Jan at 2.40pm – all welcome** **Fri 3rd Feb at 2.45pm**

Date altered from this Friday All parents are invited to see their

see their children’s work

**Fri 3rd Feb**

We will be supporting the NSPCC number day. Please can children wear an item of clothing with a number on and their own clothes. This is a very important charity for us to support and please donate, if you feel able to: [St Gregory's School is fundraising for NSPCC (justgiving.com)](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-gregory-s-schoolnspcc23)

As a school we know how important keeping fit and healthy is to our wellbeing. PE is part of the National Curriculum and unless accompanied by a parent letter or a conversation by a parent to a member of staff – all children are expected to participate in PE lessons.

We have a programme of PE, which is linked to the PE package events we buy in from the high school eg Rugby in the Autumn term for the Rugby tournament.

If any parents have suggestions for other sports – please do not hesitate to let me know as I will be arranging another sports week in the summer term.

Unfortunately, we have not been able attend any of the inter-school sports events due to lack of numbers. This is disappointing for the children who are keen to go and it’s a great opportunity to meet up with other schools in the area.

**Thurs 9th Feb 9.15 – 11am Mere Primary School**

Since before Christmas my dance group have been working extremely hard on their routine to present at the Dance Festival. It is only a couple of weeks away now. Please can all the girls wear black leggings and black top. I will provide a head band. Trainers can be worn but they will be dancing in bare feet. A snack and drink will be needed.

Unfortunately, parents are unable to watch the performance due to high numbers of schools attending. I would therefore like to offer parents of the group to come in on **Mon 20th Feb at 2.50pm** **to see the performance in our school hall**. A school PING will be sent out regarding transport and meeting times etc.



**6th – 9th Feb** is Mental Health week with a theme of ‘Let’s Connect’, which links in exceptionally well with our sports week and Internet Safety day.

Since taking on the role of PE lead, I think it is essential that children are kept healthy and get active, along with being exposed to different sports – some they may not even be aware of. I have organised this week to encompass some of those and also allow time for Mental Wellbeing and learning about Internet Safety.

Please see below a timetable for activities. Children may come to school in sports wear for the whole week.

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| ***Week 6-9 Feb*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***M*** | **Skipping in hall from 8.15am** – all welcome  **Prime sports** will be doing a variety of different sports across the day, as tasters for the children  **Wellbeing activities** | | | | Football at lunchtime  Yrs 3-6 |
| ***T*** | **Skipping in hall from 8.15am** – all welcome  **Safer Internet Day**  **Kin Ball** - <https://kinball.co.uk/schools> a wonderful experience for our children to try this new sport.  We have purchased a set for school from our PE funding | | | | Football at lunchtime  EYFS + Yrs 1+2 |
| ***W*** | **Skipping in hall from 8.15am** – all welcome  **Skipping 4 Life**  Whole school & Parents demonstration in hall **2.35 – 3.00pm** | | | | Netball at lunchtime  EYFS & Yrs 1+2 |
| ***Th*** | **Skipping in hall from 8.15am** – all welcome  AM Dance club to **Dance Festival** – Mere  **Pound**  **Forest School**  **Hearts and messages of Positivity** | | | | Netball at lunchtime  Yrs 3-6  **Valentine Disco After School** |
| ***F*** | INSET Day then Half Term | | | | |



**Valentine Disco – Thurs 9th Feb 3.30-5pm**

All children welcome, a lovely end to our sports/ wellbeing week. Children can bring in clothes to change into, time will be given for this.  At the end, all children can be collected from the car park entrance.

Poster with details attached to the ping

I love a great snow ball fight and to see the children having fun but it can cause much disruption on the roads. It has been very icy the past few days, with the flutter of snow this week. We do have a system for ‘snow days’ – it will be posted on Dorset Council website after 7 in the morning if the school is closed but also we would send a school PING.

If we are ever in any doubt about the safety of children coming to or leaving school, I would always be in touch. Many staff have to travel some distance to school, at times they are unable to get in for the start of the day – for their own safety I always recommend they travel in daylight and do not come in if they are at risk. Please take this into consideration. Thank you.



**Cleaner Required**

Please contact the office if you would like to apply, even on a temporary basis. From 3.30-5.15pm everyday (Fridays 2-5pm)

**Whole School Spring Concert – An evening in March, date TBC**

You are warmly invited to an evening of musical entertainment. Performances will include the whole school choir as well as our violinists, drummers, guitarists and pianists plus additional instrumentalists.

**Teacher Industrial Action**

The NEU has provided formal confirmation that there will be four days of industrial action on 1 February, 2,15 and 16 March 2023. The reason given is a dispute over the pay award for teachers for 2022/2023 and to influence pay award negotiations for 2023/24.

This is a national dispute, and not a matter of contention locally between the school, the council and the Trade Unions. We will keep you updated as to the effect on St Greg’s that this strike action may have.

**Y6 Residential**

There are plans for a Foxes trip in July. I am attending a meeting to find out the details and a letter will be sent out with the exciting arrangements shortly.

Half term is only a few weeks away and the children have been amazing this term – so much fantastic learning is taking place, which I am sure you will see in their books on your visit. I am so proud of all our children, they all have such individual characters but I wouldn’t change any of them – they are ALL UNIQUE.



*Warmest wishes to you*

*Debbie Williams*



