



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a happy and relaxing holiday and your children are refreshed and ready to start the new school year.

It is with great pleasure I write to welcome you back to St. Gregory's. I am looking forward to meeting you over the next few days and hope you will be able to join us for a range of events due to take place during the term.

I am also very pleased to welcome to the team Mrs Reddy and Mrs Bartlett to Badgers Class, Mr Wolmarans to Hedgehogs and Mr Collen to the lunchtime team. Do visit the school website [St Gregs – Where learning has no limits \(stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk\)](http://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) to find out more about the team and the classes. Specifically [Team St Greg's – St Gregs \(stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk\)](http://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)

This promises to be a very busy term, with a number of significant changes aimed to make your child's time at St Gregs a special one.

Firstly, with the school realigning its class groups, we have taken the opportunity to revamp the curriculum and the way we teach. At the end of last term and at yesterday's INSET Day, the teaching staff were preparing their new 'enquiry' based learning, which is designed so that the children are given more opportunities to ask and answer questions about their learning and where specific outcomes make the learning much more meaningful for them. As part of this, the school will be changing the way it talks about the different subjects so the children will no longer be 'doing geography', they will become Geographers, rather than 'having maths', they will be mathematicians. We hope this will make them even more engaged in their learning and, when you ask them about their history learning, they will tell you how they have been historians or scientists this afternoon. We start with a two-week enquiry all about the school community, at the end of which, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, at 2:45pm, we would like to invite you in to see what they have been up to, and to explain more about how the curriculum will be structured from now on.

We are now going to be visiting the church for our weekly Church Worship on Fridays, aiming to start at 2:55pm with Revd Gaenor. This worship is open to all, so I do hope you will be able to join us for this special time of the week. We will also be using this opportunity to present certificates relating to the school's values. After the worship, the children will return to school to organise their belongings and will be ready for collection on the playground as normal. This term we will also be celebrating Harvest and Christmas, holding a Remembrance Service and welcoming members of the church community into school.

You will also be aware of the plans for St Gregory's School to become a part of a multi-academy trust with a completion date of early December pencilled in. There is a rigid timescale and procedure for the school and trust to follow, and, as the process gears up this term, we will keep you informed and consulted whenever necessary.

We are very grateful to the band of parents who have made sure the swimming pool is ready for more swimming this term. With the wonderful weather forecast, please make sure your child has their swimming kit (including hats) and towels in school every day, plus suitable poolside shoes. Also, full, named PE kits should be in school each day.

At our staff meeting tomorrow, we will be deciding on our after-school activities for the children; a list will be sent home at the end of the week for you to sign up to. Once signed up, please make sure you message the office if your child is not able to make any of the offered sessions.

If you have any questions or queries or would like to volunteer to help in school in any capacity, please do not hesitate to contact the office, or catch me on the playground at the beginning or end of the day.

With best wishes

James Stanford

Interim Headteacher

